Political Science Essentials

Political Science · Practice Test · 18 Questions

1. What is the document that outlines the fundamental principles and laws by which a country is governed?

A) A treaty
B) A constitution
C) A manifesto
D) A statute

2. In a direct democracy, who makes the decisions on public policy?

A) The monarch
B) The citizens themselves
C) A group of judges
D) A military leader

3. Which branch of government is responsible for making and passing laws?

A) Judicial
B) Executive
C) Legislative
D) Administrative

4. What is the head of the executive branch in many parliamentary systems called?

A) Chief Justice
B) Prime Minister
C) Governor
D) Speaker of the House

5. What is the primary role of the judicial branch of government?

A) Enforcing laws
B) Interpreting laws
C) Proposing new taxes
D) Declaring war

6. What term describes a government where power is held by a single person with absolute authority?

A) Autocracy
B) Democracy
C) Republic
D) Federation

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7. Who is the person that acts as the formal head of state in a constitutional monarchy?

A) The Prime Minister
B) The President
C) The Monarch
D) The Cabinet Secretary

8. What is a system of government where power is divided between a central government and local state governments?

A) Unitary system
B) Confederation
C) Federalism
D) Dictatorship

9. Which document is often considered the primary source of basic rights for citizens in a democratic nation?

A) The Budget
B) The Bill of Rights
C) The Census
D) The Trade Agreement

10. What is the process called when citizens select representatives to make decisions on their behalf?

A) An election
B) A referendum
C) A boycott
D) A petition

11. In a presidential system, which branch of government usually oversees the enforcement of laws?

A) Legislative
B) Judicial
C) Executive
D) Parliamentary

12. What is a common term for an organized group of people who share similar political views and work to win elections?

A) Political party
B) Special interest group
C) Non-profit organization
D) Jury

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13. What is the function of an 'opposition' party in a democratic parliament?

A) To abolish the government
B) To scrutinize and challenge government policy
C) To write the national anthem
D) To control the military

14. What is the term for the right to vote in public, political elections?

A) Suffrage
B) Naturalization
C) Sovereignty
D) Legislation

15. Which level of government typically handles local issues like waste management and local parks?

A) National
B) Federal
C) State
D) Local or Municipal

16. What is an act of 'civil disobedience' most commonly described as?

A) Voting in an election
B) Refusing to obey certain laws to protest peacefully
C) Serving on a jury
D) Running for public office

17. What defines a 'sovereign' state?

A) A state with no laws
B) A state that governs itself independently
C) A state that is part of another country
D) A state ruled by a foreign power

18. What are the specific requirements for a person to be eligible to vote called?

A) Voter qualifications
B) Executive orders
C) Constitutional amendments
D) Political platforms

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