Chapter 1 - Politics and Political Science

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Which political science subfield studies the interface of politics and economics?
   A) Public administration
   B) Public policy
   C) Comparative politics
   D) Political theory

2. __________ is a subfield of political science.
   A) Public administration
   B) Anthropology
   C) Biology
   D) Sociology

3. The subfield __________ studies major thinkers and attempts to define the good polity.
   A) public administration
   B) comparative politics
   C) public policy
   D) political theory

4. Which are both true for most politicians?
   A) They think practically and are skeptical of power
   B) They seek popularity and hold firm views
   C) They offer single causes and think abstractly
   D) They seek accuracy and offer long term consequences

5. Which are both true for most political scientists?
   A) They think practically and seek accuracy
   B) They seek popularity and are skeptical of power
   C) They offer single causes and think abstractly
   D) They are skeptical of power and offer long term consequences

6. Foreign policy falls under the subfield of __________.
   A) European Politics
   B) Comparative Politics
   C) Political theory
   D) International Relations

7. Which of the following statements would best reflect the views of German Philosopher Hegel?
   A) Sometimes elections are impossible to predict.
   B) Politicians behave in an irrational manner.
   C) Political Science can be useful in explaining why people vote a certain way.
   D) Predicting political outcomes is usually random.
8. The term, *polis* originated in _________.
A) Italy  
B) The United States  
C) Great Britain  
D) Greece

9. Which best explains the differences between historians and political scientists?
A) Historians look for generalizations, while political scientists are reluctant to generalize.  
B) Historians are reluctant to generalize, while political scientists look for generalizations.  
C) Historians are more likely to look for comparisons than political scientists.  
D) Historians tend to focus on nature-based explanations, while political scientists focus on nurture-based explanations.

10. Politics could be referred to the “master science” because politics _________.
A) predates the other social sciences  
B) is more rigorous compared to other social sciences  
C) is more difficult to study than other social sciences  
D) relates to other social sciences

11. Anthropology applies most to political science based on which example?
A) People are born with predispositions towards conservative or liberal views.  
B) People join groups because they have innate desires to be with others.  
C) Many ruling families maintained power by passing down their authority from one generation to the next.  
D) Power typically ends up with those with the most resources.

12. Which of the following did Machiavelli contribute to the study of politics?
A) Social contract theory  
B) The role of power in politics  
C) The role of wealth in society  
D) The connection between race and politics

13. The statement, “Man is by nature a political animal” is attributed to _________.
A) Niccolo’ Machiavelli  
B) Seymour Martin Lipset  
C) Mao Zedong  
D) Aristotle

14. Machiavelli is associated with the concept of _________.
A) culture  
B) sovereignty  
C) rationality  
D) power

15. Rationality is based on which of the following?
16. When people base their views on beliefs that may not be based in reality, they are behaving __________.
A) irrationally
B) rationally
C) politically
D) legitimately

17. A political leaders’ ability to command respect and exercise power is known as __________.
A) sovereignty
B) corruption
C) authority
D) legitimacy

18. __________ is the use of public office for private gain.
A) Sovereignty
B) Corruption
C) Authority
D) Legitimacy

19. The notion that we acknowledge the rightful roles of our leaders or our laws is known as __________.
A) sovereignty
B) authority
C) legitimacy
D) monarchy

20. Political scientists __________ data which makes the discipline more like the natural sciences.
A) balance
B) reason
C) rationalize
D) quantify

TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS
1. Generally speaking, political scientists are skeptical of power.
Answer: True

2. Conflict and diplomacy are the primary areas of interest within the subfield of comparative politics.
Answer: False
3. Harold Lasswell argued that politics is the study of “who gets what.”
Answer: TRUE
4. Biological explanations of political power focus on learned behaviors.
Answer: FALSE
5. If Iraq and Iran argue over control of land area, this debate deals with sovereignty.
Answer: TRUE

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK QUESTIONS
1. Aristotle, the founder of the __________, called politics “the master science.”
Answer: discipline
2. Tom Paine’s __________ discussed why America should separate from Britain.
Answer: Common Sense
3. A leader is said to have __________ when he or she can get others to obey them.
Answer: authority
4. __________ undermines legitimacy, such as when crooked officials are part of government.
Answer: Corruption
5. When __________ is low, police may be necessary to coerce the people into maintaining order.
Answer: legitimacy

ESSAY QUESTIONS
1. How is political science an interdisciplinary major?
Answer: An ideal response will:
a. Discuss how political science relates to history, human, geography, economics, sociology, anthropology, and psychology.
b. Discuss how history, for example, allows for comparisons across nations and time periods. These can be compared to current political regimes.
c. Discuss how human geography is relevant because it allows us to look at how people exist within territories.
d. Discuss how economics and politics influence each other.
e. Discuss how sociology is relevant because it allows us to examine political views of various groups based on religion, class, gender, age, etc.
f. Discuss how anthropology is useful for its focus on culture.
g. Discuss how psychology is relevant for its contributions on attitudes and motivations behind political behaviors.

2. Why is culture important to political scientists?
Answer: An ideal response will:
a. Include a discussion of the nature versus nurture debate. The answer should indicate that culture deals with what is learned.
b. Indicate that communities are formed and maintained because of cultural values which are transmitted by parents, schools, churches, and the media.
c. Discuss the relevance of political culture in elections. For example, people may vote based on their beliefs in equality, tolerance, or limited government.
d. Discuss how culture may affect politics and economics.

3. Is the public rational? How might the public utilize rationality today?

**Answer: An ideal response will:**

a. Include an understanding that rationality assumes that people know what they want and act in a way to maximize their desires.
b. Include an understanding that rationality assumes reason.
c. Discuss whether or not people behave rationally. Do they vote based on their own interests? Is it worth the time and effort to follow politics?

4. How are Legitimacy, Sovereignty, and Authority related?

**Answer: An ideal response will:**

a. Include an understanding of legitimacy, sovereignty, and authority. Legitimacy is the mass feeling that the government’s rule is rightful and should be obeyed. Sovereignty deals with the national government having control over its own territory. Authority deals with political leaders having the ability to command respect to exercise power.
b. Discuss how these often go together. Sovereignty may lead to legitimacy and authority, for example. Having one of these may increase the others.
c. Discuss how lacking one of the three may lead to erosion in the others. For example, lacking legitimacy, make authority difficult without coercion.

5. How can Politics be treated as a science?

**Answer: An ideal response will:**

a. Include a discussion of how some political scientists have tried to become more like natural sciences.
b. Discuss how political scientists attempt to quantify data, manipulate data statistically, and attempt to validate hypotheses.
c. Discuss how political science is an empirical discipline.
d. Discuss how political scientists build scholarship based on reason, balance, supporting evidence, and that much of this scholarship is based on theory.
Chapter 2  Theories

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS
1. __________ wrote Republic.
   A) Aristotle  
   B) Plato  
   C) Hans J. Morgenthau  
   D) Niccolo Machiavelli  

2. Aristotle argued that the best political communities would be __________.
   A) dominated by wealthy citizens  
   B) oligarchies  
   C) formed by elites  
   D) formed by citizens of the middle class  

3. Which of the following would be consistent with Confucius’s vision of government?
   A) Immoral behavior by rulers  
   B) Participation of the masses  
   C) Moral behavior by rulers  
   D) Limits on family ties  

4. Which statement best reflects a descriptive statement?
   A) The Bosnia and Herzegovina has a higher infant mortality rate than Turkey.  
   B) The Bosnia and Herzegovina should do more to help the poor.  
   C) The Bosnia and Herzegovina would benefit from lower taxes.  
   D) The Bosnia and Herzegovina would benefit from building more prisons.  

5. Which statement best reflects a normative description?
   A) The Turkey has higher taxes than most European democracies.  
   B) The Turkey has lower taxes than most European democracies.  
   C) The Turkey has a federal income tax.  
   D) The Turkey has tax rates that are too low.  

6. Aristotle and John Locke might agree on which point?
   A) The importance of voting rights for all citizens  
   B) The importance of property rights  
   C) The importance of changing paradigms  
   D) The importance of the scientific method  

7. Thomas Hobbes wrote that “the life of man [is] solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and __________.”
   A) endless  
   B) tiring  
   C) short  
   D) depressing
8. Which of the following is most consistent with the idea of a social contract?
   A) Government should be limited to ensure individual freedom.  
   B) Individuals join and stay in civil society.  
   C) Citizens prefer solitary lives to living in groups.  
   D) Citizens are more concerned with their own social situation than the community.

9. Which of the following was of greatest concern to John Locke?
   A) Freedom of speech for all  
   B) Power resided with the proletariat  
   C) The right to property  
   D) Voting rights

10. Social contracts, the state of nature, and civil society are phrases that are best associated with _________. 
    A) the contractualists  
    B) Marxists  
    C) behavioralism  
    D) systems theory

11. Which of the following is most consistent with the concept of the “general will” according to Rousseau?
    A) Creating a park for the citizens to enjoy  
    B) Using public dollars so that some citizens can attend private schools  
    C) Offering tax breaks to one auto manufacturing plant  
    D) Low turnout in elections

12. Karl Marx used the term __________ to refer to everything built on top of the economy. 
    A) the social contract  
    B) institutions  
    C) behavioralism  
    D) superstructure

13. Which of the following would most likely be supported by the bourgeoisie? 
    A) Equality for all  
    B) A revolt by the proletariat  
    C) Minority rights  
    D) Conflict for economic gain

14. According to Karl Marx, what would likely replace capitalism? 
    A) Communism  
    B) Socialism  
    C) Feudalism  
    D) Conservatism

15. Which of the following is a criticism of behavioralism?
    A) Behavioralism is not value-free.
B) Behavioralism has never been used in the United States.
C) Natural science methods cannot be applied to the social sciences.
D) Behavioralism focuses too much on the big picture.

16. David Easton is most associated with which of the following?
   A) Behavioralism
   B) Marxism
   C) **Systems Theory**
   D) Modernization Theory

17. Hegel is most associated with which theory?
   A) Marxism
   B) **Modernization**
   C) Positivism
   D) Rational-Choice

18. Seymour Martin Lipset wrote __________.
   A) *The Prince*
   B) *Arthashastra*
   C) *Social Contract*
   D) **Political Man**

19. Rational-Choice Theory is most related to which of the following?
   A) Behavioralism
   B) Modernization Theory
   C) **Game Theory**
   D) Contractualism

20. Rational-Choice theory became popular among political scientists during what time period?
   A) Prior to World War I
   B) Prior to World War II
   C) The 1950s
   D) **The 1970s**

**TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS**

1. Realists focus on the world as it should be.
   **Answer:** FALSE

2. Political theory was limited to Europe until the 20th Century.
   **Answer:** FALSE

3. Thomas Hobbes’s work might be useful in examining Rwandan genocides.
   **Answer:** TRUE

4. Karl Marx called the ruling class the proletariat.
   **Answer:** FALSE
5. Rational-choice theorists argue that behavior cannot be predicted.

Answer: FALSE

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK QUESTIONS

1. Niccolo Machiavelli’s _________ was about getting and using political _________.
   Answer: The Prince; power

2. The German term _________ refers to the spirit of the times.
   Answer: Zeitgeist

3. Formal structures of government, like the presidency or the courts, are referred to as _________.
   Answer: institutions

4. _________ theory would likely predict that democracy might follow a nation once it becomes wealthy.
   Answer: Modernization

5. Rational-Choice theorists might employ _________ theory to study how political actors might behave.
   Answer: game

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Explain Confucius’ vision for a good, stable government. Could this apply to your state?
   Answer: An ideal response will:
   a. Discuss how Confucius’s vision for good, stable government was based on the family and correct, moral behavior instilled in rulers and ruled alike.
   b. Include some discussion of whether family plays an important role in politics in your state. For example, the answer could discuss how people learn political beliefs from parents.
   c. Include a discussion of how citizens often look to leaders for guidance. For example, in times of war, conflict, etc.
   d. The answer could also discuss lack of moral leadership in your state. For example, politicians have been caught in scandals that may undermine what Confucius suggested.

2. Contrast the Contractualists’ state of nature and the consequences of each vision.
   Answer: An ideal response will:
   a. Discuss that the “state of nature” existed before civilization.
   b. Discuss how Hobbes viewed the state of nature as incredibly harsh.
   c. Discuss how Locke’s views were less pessimistic, though civilization would be necessary to secure property rights.
   d. Discuss how Rousseau was more optimistic about individuals, but it was society that corrupted them. He discussed the general will, which was what the community wanted.
   e. Indicate how all of these theorists acknowledge that people enter into contracts to create a civil society.

3. What are the weaknesses in Marxist Theory?
   Answer: An ideal response will:
   1. Discuss how in some places, like the Soviet Union, Marxism led to tyranny.
   2. Discuss how contrary to Marx’s predictions, capitalism has not collapsed. Marx, for example, did not predict the adaptive ability of capitalism.
3. Discuss how capitalism is not a single system, but instead is multiple systems. The United States, France, Singapore, and Japan all have somewhat different capitalist systems.

4. What were the advantages and disadvantages of the behavioral approach to studying politics? Evaluate some problems with this approach.

**Answer: An ideal response will:**

a. Discuss how behaviorists focus on actual behaviors.
b. Behaviorists made significant contributions on attitudes, values of citizens, and on voting behavior.
c. Discuss how critics of behaviorists noted that this view was static, conservative, and not value-free. These studies may ignore change and the role of time. Further, behaviorists often focus on stable democratic systems, rather than conflict areas, so many areas may be understudied. Critics also noted that behaviorism focuses on narrow topics, ignoring the big picture. The answer should discuss how this narrow focus might be problematic.

5. Evaluate the biological analogy at the heart of systems theory. Analyze the utility of this analogy.

**Answer: An ideal response will:**

a. Discuss how David Easton suggested that the political systems were analogous to a biological system that contained a feedback loop.
b. Discuss how citizen demands, which are inputs, are acknowledged by government decision makers who process them into authoritative decision or outputs. This is similar to how a biological organism functions.
c. Discuss the utility of this theory. For example, the answer might discuss how feedback may alter decision making. For example, President Nixon ended the military draft after the Vietnam war became unpopular. The answer could also include modern examples of how feedback alters government decisions and how this compares to biological systems.