Introduction to Political Science  POS-101-TE

This TECEP® tests concepts taught in a one-semester course in political science. Topics include: political and governmental structures, functions, and processes; political behavior; public law and public policy; and political values or philosophies. (3 s.h.)

- Test format: 100 multiple choice questions (1 point each)
- Passing score: 65%. Your grade will be reported as CR (credit) or NC (no credit).
- Time limit: 2 hours

Topics on the test and their approximate distribution

1. Knowing the Nature of the Political World  (10%)
   1.1 Governance in theory and in practice
   1.2 Political science as a behavioral discipline - why political science is a social science
   1.3 Political beliefs, theory, actions - influences on those beliefs and actions

2. Political Behavior  (10%)
   2.1 Socialization process - political values formed by family, friends, peer groups, work groups, religious groups, education, income, status, etc.
   2.2 Election voting
   2.3 Interest groups

3. Political Systems  (50%)
   3.1 Classical Political Theory: Plato, Aristotle
   Medieval Theory: Augustine, Aquinas
   Renaissance: Machiavelli
   Modern Theories: Constitutionalism (Jefferson; Madison); Classical Liberalism (Hume, Locke, Hobbes, John Stuart Mill, Montesquieu, de Toqueville, Rousseau); Economic Determinism (Marxism, Stalinism, Maoism); Socialism (Communards, Fabianism, Democratic Socialism); Totalitarianism (control of people by the state); American Political Theory (democracy, pragmatism, liberalism, conservatism)
   3.2 Political institutions and traditional political structures: executive, legislative, judicial
   3.3 Political institutions and other political structures: semi-autonomous/quasi-governmental agencies (FCC, SEC, ICC, etc.); metropolitan government; interstate agencies; NGOs
   3.4 Democracies – constitutional and unconstitutional regimes: distribution of power, executive-legislative relations, political party systems
   3.5 Non-democracies: dictatorships, authoritarianism, totalitarianism
   3.6 Political economy: politics and economics; a political-economic framework; ideal-type political economies (mercantilism, capitalism, Marxism), key problems for each ideal-type political economy, mixed economy (i.e., the United States), politics plus political economy (monarchy, capitalism, socialism, Marxism)

4. Political Processes  (10%)
   4.1 Politics as the authoritative allocation of values
   4.2 Political development: achieving political development; organizational dimensions; technological dimensions; cultural dimensions (rationality, secular world view, individualism)
   4.3 Political violence as a mechanism to achieve governance
5. **Politics Among the States: diplomacy and international relations (20%)**

5.1 Developed countries
5.2 Developing countries
5.3 Transitional developed countries
5.4 International organizations - United Nations; World Bank; International Money Fund; World Court, etc.
5.5 Regional organizations - NATO; Organization of American States; NAFTA; European Union; Arab League, etc.
5.6 Diplomacy – discourse among nations

**Outcomes assessed on the test**

- Describe the societal influences that cause people to make their political decisions.
- Discuss the development of governance theories from the early Greek period to present day.
- Explain how government and economy are interconnected and affect each other.
- Identify the main differences among the various forms of national government, and the distribution of power within each form of government.
- Explain the different approaches to political development and how political violence is used in efforts to gain control of, or influence, governments and policy.
- Describe the political, economic and social differences among developed, developing, and transitional developed states.
- Discuss the role played in international relations by nation states, international organizations, and regional organizations.

**Study materials**

Many college-level texts and free online resources in this subject, such as the ones listed below, can help you prepare. The important thing is to make sure you are knowledgeable about the information shown in the topic outline.

Magstadt, Thomas M. *Understanding Politics: Ideas, Institutions and Issues*  

Roskin, Michael G., et al. *Political Science: An Introduction*  

https://learn.saylor.org/course/polsc101

http://freevideolectures.com/Course/2129/Introduction-to-Political-Philosophy

http://2012books.lardbucket.org/books/a-primer-on-politics/

**Sample questions**

1. Which of the following is true of a constitutional democracy?
   a. Majority rule is limited.
   b. All minorities combined must have power equal to that of the majority.
   c. Minorities must have their own representation in the legislature.
   d. Elections are free and fair but held very infrequently.
2. When the military dominates a political system,
   a. the government is always headed by a single individual
   b. it often rules as an institution
   c. there is little chance of a return to civilian rule
   d. large-scale public works projects are often instituted

3. Totalitarian governments see ______________ as their enemies.
   a. specific members of the previous regime
   b. specific members of opposition groups
   c. whole categories of people within the society
   d. whole categories of democratic programs

4. The recent histories of France, Germany, and Japan demonstrate that
   a. democracy will flourish whenever a country is prosperous
   b. strong executives can lead to weak judiciaries
   c. it is possible to provide a stable social environment despite inadequate economic growth
   d. constitutional democracy is highly adaptable

5. Political power in Western Europe and the United States has increasingly shifted to the
   a. legislative branch
   b. judicial system
   c. executive branch
   d. regulatory agencies

6. The principle of utilitarianism states that
   a. government is an institution intended to enforce
   b. rules are meant as guidelines for most but not all
   c. the moral action is one that maximizes well-being
   d. the means justify the ends

7. China’s Great Leap Forward caused serious consequences to
   a. the government’s ability to maintain authoritarianism
   b. the leadership abilities of Mao Zedong
   c. Chinese political and military structures
   d. Chinese economic stability

8. Monoculture, an obstacle facing many developing countries, is the
   a. dominance of one ethnic group
   b. practice of raising one major crop
   c. concentration of power in one political group
   d. lack of diversified populations
9. The United States government has historically viewed terrorism as a ____________ problem.
   a. political
   b. social
   c. military
   d. religious

10. Imperialism refers to
   a. rule by a monarchy
   b. influence by one nation over another
   c. mercantilism
   d. superiority of one race over another

11. How do American political parties meet the definition of a party?
   a. They are centralized.
   b. They ensure cohesion in policymaking.
   c. They control those who run under their label.
   d. They recruit and support candidates for political office.

12. Jean-Jacques Rousseau proposed enlightenment theories that considered
   a. the absolute power of kings
   b. internal political order
   c. equality of citizens
   d. a powerful military presence

13. “Balance of power” in international relations refers to
   a. comparing the policies of European nations
   b. flexibility and stability of states
   c. policies of non-alliance
   d. matching the power of one state against the power of another

14. What is the chief instrument of foreign policy?
   a. Elections
   b. Intelligence
   c. Diplomacy
   d. The United Nations

15. John Locke’s political theories on power centered around the
   a. defense of the divine right of kings
   b. absolutist theory of government
   c. executive power of the laws of the state versus nature
   d. right of making laws and employing the community to execute those laws
16. Thomas Hobbes believed that humankind had to accept a(n) ________ in order to achieve a relatively peaceful society.
   a. social contract
   b. powerful ruler
   c. equitable distribution of resources
   d. binding agreement

17. Plato's *Republic* is an excellent example of political philosophy because he described
   a. the ideal state and its functions
   b. a Kingship and its expectations
   c. the spirit of democratic laws
   d. a study of Athenian constitutions

18. International system analysis concentrates on the interaction, and foreign policy analysis on the
   a. states
   b. actors
   c. external performances
   d. wealth and power of nations

19. Mills' *On Liberty* supports
   a. national self-determination
   b. freedom of expression
   c. the right to bear arms
   d. a fair judicial system

20. Left-wing dictatorships
   a. seek government control of business and the economy
   b. are pro-religion/anti-education
   c. seek to impose free-market institutions on the government
   d. are pro-business/anti-military

Answers to sample questions

1. a  2. b  3. c  4. d  5. c  6. c  7. d  8. b  9. a
19. b  20. a