

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

The nature of political science, with emphasis on political and governmental structures, functions, and processes; political behavior; public law and public policy; and political values or philosophies. (3 s.h.)
POS-101-TE

This is a two-hour examination in which you must answer 100 multiple-choice questions (worth 1 point each). A passing score is **60** out of 100 points.

Here are the major topics covered and their approximate importance on the test:

- I. KNOWING THE NATURE OF THE POLITICAL WORLD (10%)
 - A. Governance in theory and in practice
 - B. Political science as a behavioral discipline - why political science is a social science
 - C. Political beliefs, theory, actions - influences on those beliefs and actions

- II. POLITICAL BEHAVIOR (10%)
 - A. Socialization process - political values formed by family, friends, peer groups, work groups, religious groups, education, income, status, etc.
 - B. Election voting
 - C. Interest groups

- III. POLITICAL SYSTEMS (50%)
 - A. Theory - States and Nations
 - 1. Plato's Republic – The Just City; philosopher king
 - 2. Aristotle – The city based on empirical evidence
 - 3. Medieval Thought
 - a. Augustine – City of God; temporal and spiritual worlds
 - b. Machiavelli – Practical politics
 - 4. Renaissance/Rationality
 - a. Francis Bacon's New Atlantic – Science is the answer
 - 5. Modern Theories
 - a. Constitutionalism – Jefferson; Madison
 - b. Classical Liberalism
 - 1. English Liberals – Hume; Locke; Hobbes; John Stuart Mill
 - 2. Continental Liberals – Montesquieu; de Tocqueville; Rousseau
 - c. Economic Determinism – Marxism; Stalinism; Maoism
 - d. Socialism – Communards; Fabianism; Democratic Socialism
 - e. Totalitarianism – Control of people by the state
 - f. American Political Theory
 - 1. Democracy; republicanism (representation)
 - 2. Pragmatism (whatever works)
 - 3. Liberalism (welfare state)
 - 4. Conservatism (economic laissez faire)
 - B. Political institutions - traditional political structures
 - 1. Executive
 - 2. Legislative
 - 3. Judicial

- C. Political institutions - other political structures
 1. Semi-autonomous/quasi-governmental agencies - FCC, SEC, ICC, etc.; metropolitan government; interstate agencies
- D. Democracies – constitutional and unconstitutional regimes
 1. Distribution of power
 2. Executive-legislative relations
 3. Political party systems
- E. Non-democracies
 1. Dictatorships
 2. Authoritarianism
 3. Totalitarianism
- F. Political economy
 1. Politics and economics
 2. A political-economic framework
 3. Ideal-type political economies - Mercantilism, Capitalism, Marxism
 4. Key problems for each ideal-type political economy
 5. Mixed economy (i.e., the United States)
 6. Politics plus political economy - Monarchy, Capitalism, Socialism, Marxism

IV. POLITICAL PROCESSES (10%)

- A. Politics as the authoritative allocation of values
- B. Political development
 1. Achieving political development
 2. Organizational dimensions
 3. Technological dimensions
 4. Cultural dimensions - rationality, secular world view, individualism, etc.
- C. Political violence as a mechanism to achieve governance

V. POLITICS AMONG THE STATES: DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (20%)

- A. Developed countries
- B. Developing countries
- C. Transitional developed countries
- D. International organizations - United Nations; World Bank; International Money Fund; World Court, etc.
- E. Regional organizations - NATO; Organization of American States; NAFTA; European Union; Arab League, etc.
- F. Diplomacy – discourse among nations

A textbook to help you prepare:

Magstadt, Thomas M. *Understanding Politics: Ideas, Institutions and Issues*.
Current edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. In a constitutional democracy
 - a. majority rule is limited
 - b. all minorities together must have power equal to that of the majority
 - c. minorities must have their own representation in the legislature
 - d. all of the above

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 clearly 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 tended to shift increasingly to the
 - a. legislative branch
 - b. courts
 - c. executive branch
 - d. regulatory agencies

6. The Utilitarian theory of the justification of punishment states that
 - a. natural law will determine an appropriate punishment
 - b. the punishment should fit the crime
 - c. punishment is intended to make the criminal pay for the crime
 - d. three strikes and you're out

7. The cultural revolution in China had serious consequences for
 - a. government authoritarianism
 - b. the leadership of Mao
 - c. Chinese political and military officers
 - d. Chinese economic stability

8. Monoculture, an obstacle facing many developing countries, is the
 - a. dominance of only one ethnic group
 - b. practice of raising only one major crop
 - c. concentration of power in one political group
 - d. lack of diversified populations

9. The United States government has always viewed terrorism as a
 - a. political problem
 - b. social problem
 - c. military problem
 - d. religious problem

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 discussed
 - 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
- defense of the divine right of kings
 - absolutist theory of government
 - executive power of the laws of the state versus nature
 - right of making laws and employing the community to execute those laws
16. In Thomas Hobbes' ideal state, what conditions would be met?
- Peace and security through natural right
 - The following of natural law
 - The equality of all men
 - The natural rights of the monarch would be paramount
17. Plato's *Republic* is an excellent example of political philosophy because he described
- the ideal state and its functions
 - a Kingship and its expectations
 - the spirit of democratic laws
 - a study of Athenian constitutions
18. International system analysis concentrates on the interaction, and foreign policy analysis on the
- states
 - actors
 - external performances
 - wealth and power of nations
19. Mills' *On Liberty* supports
- national self-determination
 - freedom of expression
 - the right to bear arms
 - a fair judicial system
20. Left-wing dictatorships
- seek to insure universal literacy and education
 - are usually friendly with the United States
 - often attempt to impose free-market institutions
 - are anti-military/pro-business

ANSWERS TO SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. **a** 2. **b** 3. **c** 4. **d** 5. **c** 6. **c** 7. **d** 8. **b** 9. **a** 10. **b**
11. **d** 12. **c** 13. **d** 14. **c** 15. **d** 16. **a** 17. **a** 18. **b** 19. **b** 20. **a**