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SKU: 9781453384596-TEST-BANK

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Published by:
FlatWorld

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Chapter 2
Ideologies and Isms: The Foundations of Politics

True/False Questions

1. Political theory tells us what to do, just not how to do it.
   False

2. A political theory is more difficult to test than other scientific theories.
   True

3. Positive theory attempts to explain why things happen the way they do; a normative theory says how things ought to be.
   True

4. In his writings, Plato often uses the voice of Socrates to get his points across.
   True

5. The excesses of the Athenian state, including the execution of Socrates, led Plato to reject democracy as a form of government.
   True

6. Plato's system of government was most like the Soviet Union and the medieval Catholic Church.
   True

7. The Romans contributed more to the practice of government than they did to political theory.
   True

8. Early medieval Moslem philosophers advocated for a philosopher king who was bound by the law, even though he made it.
   True

9. Thomas Aquinas said that the church was subservient to the state.
   False

10. Niccolo Machivelli is considered the first modern political philosopher.
    True

11. John Locke said that government exists to preserve people's rights to life, liberty and property.
    True

12. The French philosopher Montesquieu argued against the separation of powers in government.
    False

13. Rousseau said that sovereignty rests with the people.
    True

14. James Madison was the lead author of the U.S. Constitution.
    True

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15. Edmund Burke argued for a conservative approach to government because he didn't like taxes.
False

16. John Stuart Mill said that government exists for the benefit of the individual.
True

17. Karl Marx developed communism as a response to the excesses of capitalism.
True

18. Marx predicted that communism would first occur in poor, rural states.
False

19. Institutionalism studies the institutions of the state to try to understand people's political behavior.
True

20. Critical theory ties people's political problems to communication problems.
True

21. Ideology is a way of thinking about and explaining the world.
True

22. Classical liberalism argues for democratic institutions and a reliance of markets for economic decision-making.
True

23. Adam Smith approved of the exploitation of East Indians by the British.
False

24. One of the criticisms of classical liberalism is that it may lead to widely unequal distribution of wealth.
True

25. American liberalism sees no role for the state in economic management.
False

26. American conservatism tends to view poverty as a moral failing.
True

27. Max Weber tied the rise of capitalism to the Protestant ethic of working hard but living simply.
True

28. Populists claim to represent the interests of the common people as opposed to those of the rich and powerful.
True

29. Libertarians believe in the least amount of government possible.
True

30. Socialism is an economic and political system.
False

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31. Before the state withers away, the early stages of communism feature socialism and dictatorship.
True

32. Anarchism argues for decentralized, local control of the institutions of political and economic life.
True

33. Fascism and Nazism lack a coherent set of beliefs other than an appeal to nationalism.
True

34. Fascism tends to occur in states where people are most concerned about security, both physical and economic.
True

35. Feminism argues, in part, that women should be treated equally to men in all walks of life.
True

36. World War II set back the cause of equal rights for all because women and people of color didn't perform as well during the war.
False

Multiple Choice Questions

1. According to the text, which of the following is not one of the three basic models of politics:
   a. The democratic model
   b. The authoritarian model
   c. The encyclopaedic model
   d. The anarchic model

c.

2. Plato's concept of justice is:
   a. Having the state treat everyone the same.
   b. Having free and fair elections
   c. Having people do the things they most want to do.
   d. Having people do the things for which they are best suited.

d.

3. Aristotle's ideal and bad forms of government include all of the following except:
   a. Comedy and tragedy
   b. Monarch and tyranny
   c. Polity and democracy
   d. Aristocracy and oligarchy

a.

4. The Confucian concept of government called for all of the following except:
   a. Order
   b. Morality

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c. Respect for tradition
d. Proper ceremony

d.

5. Thomas Hobbes based his theory of government as a contract between the people and the sovereign as an antidote to:
a. The state
b. The state of nature
c. Natural law
d. Monarchy

b.

6. Under Hobbes' theory, the sovereign is bound by:
a. The law
b. Guilt
c. Self-interest
d. Other states

c.

7. John Locke is considered to be the father of:
a. The classics
b. Democracy
c. Capitalism
d. Classical liberalism

d.

8. James Madison said that factions could be prevented from ruining government by:
a. Outlawing them.
b. Licensing them.
c. Encouraging them.
d. Taxing them.

c.

9. Marx's theory of dialectial materialism argued that:
a. Material things are what matter most in life.
b. Productive relations determine social relations.
c. Property is theft.
d. Money is the root of all evil.

b.

10. Post-modern variation of political theory include all of the following except:
a. Feminism
b. Critical theory
c. Reconstructionism
d. Rational choice theory

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e. Behavioralism

c.

11. Classical liberalism includes all of the following except:
    a. A reliance on markets
    b. Democratic institutions
    c. Appreciation of classical forms
    d. Mercantilism
    e. Capitalism

c.

12. Progressivism was a reaction to all of the following except:
    a. The power of large businesses.
    b. Machine politics.
    c. The power of political parties.
    d. The Industrial Revolution

d.

13. Conservatism includes all of the following except:
    a. The rule of law.
    b. Private property.
    c. Representative government
    d. Courts that bend to the will of the people.

d.

14. American conservatism professes belief in all of the following except:
    a. Conservation of resources.
    b. Less regulation
    c. A balanced budget
    d. Lower taxes

a.

15. A mixed economy features elements of:
    a. Capitalism and democracy.
    b. Capitalism and monarchy.
    c. Socialism and communism.
    d. Capitalism and socialism.

d.

16. Potential problems with communism include all of the following except:
    a. No check on the power of the state.
    b. Lack of pensions for workers.
    c. Substandard and insufficient consumer goods.
    d. Lack of meaningful political participation.

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b.

17. Remaining communist states include all of the following except:
    a. China
    b. North Korea
    c. Cuba
    d. Yugoslavia

d.

18. Post-modern political ideologies include all of the following except:
    a. Feminism
    b. Autonomy theory
    c. Environmentalism
    d. Post-modernism

b.

Short Answer Questions

1. What is different between the approach to politics of Plato and Aristotle?
   Plato believed that not everyone was fit to rule, and prescribed a lengthy system by which just rulers could be chosen. Aristotle had little more faith in the common people than did Plato, but believed that a mixed constitution combining elements of democracy (polity), aristocracy and monarchy would produced the best government.

2. What is the problem of modernity? How does this affect politics?
   Modernity is the demystification of the world, so that we cannot ascribe the events of everyday life to supernatural forces. This can limit the role of religion in political life; it can change the nature of the legitimacy of the state; it also can empower people to make choices for themselves.

3. What should be the trade-off between order and liberty? Which is more important in daily life? What would you be willing to give up on either side?
   Answers will vary.

4. What are the differences between classical liberalism and American liberalism? Between traditional conservatism, neo-conservatism and Christian conservatism?
   Classical liberalism features a reliance on democratic institutions for political decisions and markets for economic decisions. American liberalism argues that the state has a limited but positive role in the economy. Traditional conservatism argues for less government in all walks of life; neo-conservatives believe in less government involvement in the economy, a broader social agenda, free trade, and an activist foreign policy. Christian conservatives believe government has a role to play in enforcing moral values.

5. Does government make us worse off or better off?
   Government implies a trade-off of liberty for security and predictability. Government establishes rules for behavior among large groups of people. Such rules could be established by custom, tradition and kinship, as with the Tiv of Nigeria, but this is does not appear to be a common experience. Once government is established, however, some people will try to use it as instrument of power to get what they want, which can mean some people get less. Government is, at best, imperfect, like the people who work in it and live under it.

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6. Why did it take so long for society to begin to grant equal rights to women and people of color? Has this question been addressed or does more need to be done?
Answers will vary.

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