Chapter 1: Politics and Political Science

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The statement "Man is by nature a political animal" is attributed to _____.

a. Niccolò Machiavelli
b. Max Weber
c. Karl Marx
d. Aristotle

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

2. Voting for someone who is charismatic but whose policies might not benefit you would be considered _____ behavior.

a. irrational
b. rational
c. legitimate
d. selfish

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Analyze It

3. Although they seized _____, the Taliban regime in Afghanistan lacked _____.

a. authority; power
b. control; power
c. power; legitimacy
d. control; authority

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

4. Which philosopher discussed the difference between concepts and percepts?

a. Kant
b. Aristotle
c. Locke
d. Hobbes

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

5. Which of the following approaches to political analysis might consider the degree to which people are tolerant of other ideas and religions?

a. one focused on rationality
b. one focused on control
c. one focused on authority
d. one focused on culture

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

6. _____ often try to win elections by focusing on the values of religion, family, and self-reliance.

a. Libertarians
b. Democrats
c. Republicans
d. Socialists

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

7. Aristotle's view that, like herd animals, humans naturally live in groups is most related to which kind of explanation for political power?

a. biological
b. psychological
c. cultural
d. economic

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

8. The phenomenon of "groupthink" is a form of _____ power in which leaders spend so much time together that they all believe the same things to be true.

a. psychological
b. biological
c. cultural
d. anthropological

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

9. Rationality is based on which of the following?

a. reason
b. myth
c. culture
d. biology

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

10. When people base their political views on beliefs that may not be based in reality, they are behaving _____.

a. irrationally
b. rationally
c. empirically
d. legitimately

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

11. The ability to shape others' behavior is known as _____.

a. legitimacy
b. control
c. authority
d. power

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

12. Numerical analysis is useful for reviewing poll results, but not for analyzing negotiations between world powers. In other words, political science must involve both _____ and _____ data.

a. hypothetical; historical
b. empirical; imagined
c. quantitative; qualitative
d. speculative; qualitative

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

13. The famous Milgram study that asked subjects to administer electrical shocks is associated with what kind of power?

a. biological
b. psychological
c. cultural
d. rational

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

14. Which of the following statements is true of 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 see long-term consequences.

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

15. Potential explanations that a scientist tests are known as _____.

a. ideologies
b. biases
c. qualitative data
d. hypotheses

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

16. If it can be measured using numbers, it can be _____.

a. quantified
b. qualified
c. hypothesized
d. theorized

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

17. Political scientists use _____ data to look for patterns and eventually form theories.

a. anecdotal
b. empirical
c. rhetorical
d. clinical

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

18. What kind of research findings did Max Weber think should be discarded?

a. findings that supported one ideological viewpoint
b. findings that were too empirical
c. findings by political scientists, who he did not consider real scientists
d. findings that support the researcher's own opinion

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: Is Politics a Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

19. The term *polis* originated in _____.

a. Italy
b. the United States
c. Great Britain
d. Greece

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

20. Which of the following statements is true of most political scientists?

a. They seek accuracy and respond to groups.
b. They seek popularity and are skeptical of power.
c. They offer single causes and think abstractly.
d. They are skeptical of power and see long-term consequences.

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

21. The observation that politicians tend to think practically and political scientists think abstractly is indicative of which of the following?

a. Political scientists often train politicians.
b. Politicians often train political scientists.
c. Political scientists study politicians.
d. Political scientists and politicians are often indistinguishable.

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

22. Which of the following statements about Hitler's rise to power would best reflect the views of German philosopher Hegel, who lived hundreds of years earlier?

a. Hitler's rise to power was an inexplicable fluke of history.
b. German voters in the 1930s must have been crazy to support Hitler.
c. Certain conditions in Germany led to Hitler's popularity.
d. Hitler's rise to power was an unlucky coincidence.

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

23. Although political scientists must have some natural interest in their subjects, proper _____ is not biased.

a. legitimacy
b. discipline
c. scholarship
d. advocacy

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

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24. 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 somewhat more reluctant to generalize, while political scientists look for generalizations.
c. Historians are much more likely to look for comparisons than political scientists are.
d. Historians tend to focus on nature-based explanations, while political scientists focus on nurture-based explanations.

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

25. Politics could be considered the "master science" because it _____.

a. predates the other social sciences
b. is more rigorous than other social sciences
c. is more commonly studied than other social sciences
d. relates to other social sciences

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

26. Which of the following would you expect to have the most direct influence on a country's political culture?

a. the size of its army
b. its universities' political science programs
c. its dominant religious beliefs
d. its weather conditions

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

27. Lasswell's question, "Who gets what?" applies best to the social science of _____.

a. economics
b. geography
c. psychology
d. anthropology

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

28. _____ is a subfield of political science.

a. Public administration
b. Anthropology
c. Psychology
d. Sociology

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

29. The subfield of _____studies major thinkers and attempts to define the good polity.

a. public administration
b. comparative politics
c. public policy
d. political theory

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

30. The subfield of international relations most directly includes the study of _____.

a. diplomacy and political philosophers
b. diplomacy and public opinion
c. conflict and the Constitution
d. conflict and international law

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

31. A political scientist who studies the politics of several Eastern European countries following the fall of the Soviet Union would, most specifically, be considered an expert in the subfield of _____.

a. political science
b. public policy
c. political theory
d. comparative politics

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

32. Which of the following examples most clearly illustrates an application of anthropology to political science?

a. People are born with predispositions toward 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.

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Difficult
Skill Level: Analyze It

33. The fact that the United States has different tax rates for different levels of income relates to which of the following phrases?

a. Politics is "the master science."
b. The Constitution is "the crown jewel of the Enlightenment."
c. "Man is by nature a political animal."
d. Politics is the study of "who gets what."

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

34. Political scientists _____ data, as scientists do in the natural sciences.

a. balance
b. misrepresent
c. rationalize
d. quantify

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

35. Reason and theory pertain to which of the following?

a. balance
b. power
c. scholarship
d. bureaucracy

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

36. When scholars consider various approaches to studying a given topic, they are most concerned with _____.

a. prestige
b. balance
c. predictive capacity
d. popularity

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

37. Political scientists build _____ by making connections among empirical data.

a. evidence
b. theories
c. power
d. culture

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

38. Description of political phenomena often lacks _____.

a. rationality
b. reasoning
c. theory
d. balance

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

39. Which of the following is the best example of theory?

a. People join groups because of an innate desire to be with others who have similar views.
b. Democratic governments last longer than non-Democratic governments.
c. Republicans are older, on average, than Democrats.
d. Corruption is rampant in government.

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

40. Max Weber would most likely advocate which of the following approaches?

a. utilizing theory when conducting research
b. limiting bias when conducting research
c. using quantitative rather than qualitative data
d. using qualitative data instead of quantitative data

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

41. Which of the following is a subfield of political science that studies the interface of politics and economics?

a. public administration
b. public policy
c. comparative politics
d. political theory

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

42. Which of the following concepts 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

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 1.4: Contrast normative theories of politics to political science.
Topic: "Political Theory" Versus Theory in Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

43. Which thinker gave us the concept of the social contract?

a. Locke
b. Rousseau
c. Machiavelli
d. Hobbes

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 1.4: Contrast normative theories of politics to political science.
Topic: "Political Theory" Versus Theory in Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

44. As a _____, Machiavelli argued that leaders needed power to achieve any of their goals.

a. tyrant
b. politician
c. idealist
d. realist

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 1.4: Contrast normative theories of politics to political science.
Topic: "Political Theory" Versus Theory in Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

45. Which thinker had a dark view of human nature, believing that humanity without a civil society would be "war of all against all"?

a. Machiavelli
b. Hobbes
c. Locke
d. Rousseau

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 1.4: Contrast normative theories of politics to political science.
Topic: "Political Theory" Versus Theory in Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

46. The Founding Fathers particularly embraced Locke's idea of the right to _____, which Locke felt was a primary reason why humans created civil society.

a. freedom of religion
b. private property
c. free speech
d. assembly

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 1.4: Contrast normative theories of politics to political science.
Topic: "Political Theory" Versus Theory in Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

47. Some political scientists have inferred totalitarian themes in Rousseau's idea of _____.

a. the general will
b. the social contract
c. the glory of the state
d. Marxist revolution

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 1.4: Contrast normative theories of politics to political science.
Topic: "Political Theory" Versus Theory in Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

48. Which of the following is one reason why Marx believed the capitalist system would eventually collapse?

a. Capitalists would completely strip the world of its natural resources.
b. The bourgeois would rise up in revolution.
c. A severe economic depression was inevitable.
d. The global financial system would become too integrated.

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 1.4: Contrast normative theories of politics to political science.
Topic: "Political Theory" Versus Theory in Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

49. While the application of Marxism in the Soviet Union was disastrous, Marx's focus on the role of _____ in politics has been very insightful.

a. social democracy
b. the state of nature
c. social class
d. the social contract

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 1.4: Contrast normative theories of politics to political science.
Topic: "Political Theory" Versus Theory in Political Science
Difficulty Level: Difficult
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

50. Which of the following thinkers would be most likely to accept an aggressive king?

a. Hobbes and Machiavelli
b. Hobbes and Rousseau
c. Rousseau and Machiavelli
d. Locke and Machiavelli

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 1.4: Contrast normative theories of politics to political science.
Topic: "Political Theory" Versus Theory in Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

True/False Questions

51. Human behavior that is inherited is referred to as culture.

Correct Answer: FALSE
Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

52. Generally speaking, political scientists are skeptical of power.

Correct Answer: TRUE
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

53. Conflict and diplomacy are the primary areas of interest within the subfield of comparative politics.

Correct Answer: FALSE
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

54. Politicians often see more causes for political phenomena than political scientists do.

Correct Answer: FALSE
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

55. Harold Lasswell argued that politics is the study of "who gets what."

Correct Answer: TRUE
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

56. An empirical approach to political science is unable to coincide with the application of a theory.

Correct Answer: FALSE
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

57. Biological explanations of political power focus on learned behaviors.

Correct Answer: FALSE
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

58. If a political leader convinces the public to support legislation that is against its own interests, the public is behaving irrationally.

Correct Answer: TRUE
Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

59. Rousseau had a more optimistic view of the "state of nature" than Locke and Hobbes did.

Correct Answer: TRUE
Learning Objective: LO 1.4: Contrast normative theories of politics to political science.
Topic: "Political Theory" Versus Theory in Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

60. Like other political philosophers, Karl Marx was concerned with how the government ought to be structured, and he did not consider real-life economic or historical conditions.
Correct Answer: FALSE
Learning Objective: LO 1.4: Contrast normative theories of politics to political science.
Topic: "Political Theory" Versus Theory in Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Essay Questions

61. Why is culture important to political scientists?

Correct 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.

Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

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

Correct 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 fulfillment of 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 even worth the time and effort for most average people to follow politics?

Learning Objective: LO 1.1: Evaluate the several explanations of political power.
Topic: What Is Politics?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Analyze It

63. How is political science an interdisciplinary major?

Correct 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, and so on.
f. discuss how anthropology is useful for its focus on culture.
g. discuss how psychology is relevant for its contributions to attitudes and motivations behind political behaviors.

Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

64. How can politics be treated as a science?

Correct Answer. An ideal response will:
a. include a discussion of how some political scientists have tried to become more like natural scientists.
b. discuss how political scientists attempt to quantify data, manipulate data statistically, and validate hypotheses.
c. explain how political science is an empirical discipline.
d. discuss how political scientists build scholarship based on reason, balance, and supporting evidence, and that much of this scholarship is based on theory.

Learning Objective: LO 1.2: Justify the claim that political science may be considered a science.
Topic: What Is Political Science?
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

65. Explain how Marxism integrates Marx's political theory with his ideas about economics and history.

Correct Answer. An ideal response will:
a. include an understanding of Marx's belief that capitalism inherently exploits the proletariat.
b. discuss Marx's ideas about social class.
c. discuss Marx's explanation for the French Revolution and other inevitable revolutions against the ruling classes.
d. describe how these ideas build on each other.

Learning Objective: LO 1.4: Contrast normative theories of politics to political science.
Topic: "Political Theory" Versus Theory in Political Science
Difficulty Level: Difficult
Skill Level: Analyze It