

TECEP® Test Description for POS-1010-TE

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

This exam assesses students' knowledge and understanding of concepts 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 credits)

- **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
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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.
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TOPICS ON THE TEST AND THEIR APPROXIMATE DISTRIBUTION

The table below indicates the main topics covered by this exam and the approximate percentage of the exam devoted to each main topic. Under the main topic heading is a list of related—but more



specific–topics. It is important to review these topics to determine how much prior knowledge you have and/or how much additional study is necessary.

Knowing the Nature of the Political World (10%)	
Topics	
Governance in theory and in practice	
Political science as a behavioral discipline (why political science is a social science)	
Political beliefs, theory, actions (influences on those beliefs and actions)	
Political Behavior (10%)	
Topics	
Socialization process (political values formed by family, friends, peer groups, work groups, religious groups, education, income, status, etc.)	
Election voting	
Interest groups	
Political Systems (50%)	
Topics	
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 Tocqueville ◦ 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

Political institutions and traditional political structures:

- Executive
- Legislative
- Judicial

Political institutions and other political structures:

- Semi-autonomous/quasi-governmental agencies (FCC, SEC, ICC, etc.)
- Metropolitan government
- Interstate agencies
- NGOs

Democracies – constitutional and unconstitutional regimes:

- Distribution of power
- Executive-legislative relations
- Political party systems

Non-democracies:

- Dictatorships
- Authoritarianism
- Totalitarianism

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



Political Processes (10%)	
Topics	
Politics as the authoritative allocation of values	
Political development:	
• Achieving political development • Organizational dimensions • Technological dimensions • Cultural dimensions ○ Rationality ○ Secular worldview ○ Individualism	
Political violence as a mechanism to achieve governance	
Politics Among the States: Diplomacy and International Relations (20%)	
Topics	
Developed countries	
Developing countries	
Transitional developed countries	
International organizations:	
• United Nations • World Bank • International Money Fund • World Court (etc.)	
Regional organizations	
• NATO • Organization of American States • NAFTA • European Union • Arab League (etc.)	
Diplomacy – discourse among nations	

STUDY MATERIALS

Below is a list of recommended study materials to help prepare you for your exam. Most textbooks in this subject include the topics listed above and will prepare you for the test. If you choose another text, be sure to compare its table of contents against the topic list to make sure all topics are covered.



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Title
Magstadt, Thomas M. <i>Understanding Politics: Ideas, Institutions and Issues</i> (current edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage.
Roskin, Michael G., et al. <i>Political Science: An Introduction</i> (current edition). New York, NY: Pearson.

Additionally, you may wish to review the following resources. We encourage you to explore these resources to make sure that you are familiar with multiple perspectives on the topics above. All of these resources are openly licensed, which means that they are free to be [revised, remixed, reused, redistributed, and retained](#), so long as their unique terms are followed. You can learn more about open licensing [here](#).

Resource Licensing Guide	
Title	License
POLSC101: Introduction to Political Science [Saylor course]. Washington, D.C.: Saylor Academy.	See terms
Smith, S. B. (2006). Introduction to Political Philosophy . New Haven, CT: Yale University.	See terms
Sell, T. M. (2012). A Primer on Politics (v. 0.0). 2012 Book Archive.	CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

Please Note: In order to provide no-cost study materials for students taking this TECEPs we use Saylor Academy's open, online courses as study resources. Saylor Academy is a nonprofit organization that offers free and open online courses for students. Although these courses are free, students must register and enroll in the courses to access the study materials. Registering and enrolling for the courses is free and requires only an email or social media (Google, Facebook, LinkedIn, or Microsoft) account. Please see Saylor's [Getting Started Guide](#) for more information.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The questions below are designed to help you study for your TECEP. Answering these questions does not guarantee a passing score on your exam.

Please note that the questions below **will not** appear on your exam.

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.



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- 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
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ANSWERS TO SAMPLE QUESTIONS

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

