

Name: _____ Date: _____

Silent Rules and Social Ties: An 8th Grade Philosophy Challenge

How does an unwritten agreement hold a nation together? Identify 10 core concepts regarding civic duty and the origins of modern government authority.

1. In a democratic society, what is the primary source of a leader's 'legitimacy' or right to rule?

- A. The size of their military force
- B. The approval and consent of the citizens
- C. Wealth inherited from their ancestors
- D. A direct appointment from a foreign king

2. True or False: Natural rights are privileges that a government gives to its citizens as a reward for good behavior.

- A. True
- B. False

3. The imaginary agreement where people give up some total freedom to live in a safe, organized community is called the Social ____.

- A. Circle
- B. Contract
- C. Network
- D. Justice

4. Which term describes a system where everyone is treated the same by the law, regardless of their status or wealth?

- A. Divine right
- B. Anarchy
- C. Equality before the law
- D. Monarchy

5. True or False: A 'meritocracy' is a system where positions of power are given to people based on their abilities and hard work.

- A. True
- B. False

6. When a government is divided into different branches to prevent one person from having too much power, it is using a system of checks and ____.

- A. Balances
- B. Savings
- C. Taxes
- D. Elections

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7. If you are balancing the 'Common Good' against 'Individual Rights,' what are you trying to decide?

- A. What is best for the whole group vs. what is best for one person
- B. Whether or not to eliminate all taxes
- C. How to choose a new national anthem
- D. Which person should be allowed to vote first

8. A person who is a legal member of a nation and has certain rights and duties is known as a ____.

- A. Subject
- B. Tourist
- C. Citizen
- D. Philosopher

9. Which of these is an example of a 'civic duty'—something a person is expected or required to do to help their society function?

- A. Playing video games
- B. Serving on a jury
- C. Buying a new car
- D. Starting a personal blog

10. True or False: In political philosophy, 'justice' usually refers only to punishing criminals and nothing else.

- A. True
- B. False