

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Sovereignty & Statecraft: Analytical Insights for College Scholars

Scholars deconstruct the ethical foundations of authority and evaluate the tension between institutional power and distributive equity through rigorous case analysis.

1. In the context of the 'Capability Approach' proposed by Martha Nussbaum, what is the primary metric for evaluating a state's political success?

Answer: C) What individuals are actually able to do and be

Nussbaum's Capability Approach shifts the focus from resource distribution to the functional opportunities available to citizens, emphasizing human dignity and flourishing.

2. Frantz Fanon's political philosophy suggests that decolonization is not merely a political transition but a profound psychological transformation of both the colonizer and the colonized.

Answer: A) True

In 'The Wretched of the Earth,' Fanon argues that colonialism is a system of total violence that requires a complete restructuring of the human psyche to overcome.

3. In her analysis of the human condition, _____ distinguished between 'labor,' 'work,' and 'action,' identifying 'action' as the highest realization of political life.

Answer: B) Hannah Arendt

Hannah Arendt's 'The Human Condition' posits that 'action' (the *vita activa*) is the mode through which individuals engage in the public sphere to create something new.

4. Which concept best describes Michel Foucault's theory of power that regulates populations through tracking, statistics, and public health rather than sovereign decree?

Answer: B) Biopower

Foucault used 'biopower' to describe how modern states exercise control by managing the biological lives of the population.

5. Isaiah Berlin's distinction between 'Two Concepts of Liberty' identifies 'Positive Liberty' as which of the following?

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Answer: C) The freedom to act as the result of one's own will and self-mastery

Positive liberty refers to the possibility of acting—or the fact of acting—in such a way as to take control of one's life and realize one's fundamental purposes.

6. The concept of 'Agonism,' which views political conflict as a healthy and necessary part of democracy rather than an obstacle to consensus, is most strongly associated with _____.

Answer: A) Chantal Mouffe

Mouffe argues that a vibrant democracy requires the clash of 'adversaries' rather than the elimination of conflict through technocratic consensus.

7. The 'Difference Principle' suggests that social and economic inequalities are only justified if they result in the greatest benefit to the least advantaged members of society.

Answer: A) True

This is a core pillar of John Rawls's 'Justice as Fairness,' ensuring that inequality serves a functional purpose for the marginalized.

8. In 'The Racial Contract,' Charles Mills critiques traditional social contract theory by arguing that its foundational principles:

Answer: C) Are built upon an unspoken agreement to maintain white supremacy

Mills argues that the political 'contract' is actually a racial one that excludes non-whites from the full status of personhood.

9. Communitarianism argues that the 'unencumbered self' of liberalism is a myth because individuals are always embedded in specific social and historical contexts.

Answer: A) True

Communitarians like Michael Sandel argue that our identities and obligations are shaped by the communities we belong to, challenging the atomistic view of liberalism.

10. The political doctrine of _____ asserts that a state's legitimacy is derived solely from its ability to maximize the total happiness or 'utility' of its population.

Answer: B) Utilitarianism

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Utilitarian thinkers like Bentham and Mill argue that the best political actions are those that produce the greatest good for the greatest number.