

Searing Statecraft: A 10th Grade Political Philosophy Flash-Quiz

Go beyond surface-level definitions to analyze structural power dynamics and ethical governance through complex situational reasoning.

1. In Han Feizi's 'Legalist' philosophy, what is the primary justification for a ruler's absolute authority over their subjects?

- A. The ruler's inherent moral superiority and 'Mandate of Heaven'.
- B. The belief that human nature is inherently selfish and requires strict laws to maintain order.
- C. A social contract where citizens vote on the specific laws they follow.
- D. The protection of individual property rights against foreign invasion.

2. Frantz Fanon's 'The Wretched of the Earth' argues that the legitimacy of a colonial state is maintained not by consent, but through ____.

- A. Economic incentives
- B. Democratic elections
- C. Systemic violence
- D. Cultural exchange

3. Iris Marion Young's 'Politics of Difference' suggests that justice requires treating all social groups identically, regardless of their historical disadvantages.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Consider a 'polycentric' governance model. How does this differ from the classic Westphalian model of state sovereignty?

- A. It concentrates all power in a single, central monarch.
- B. It removes the need for any laws or regulations entirely.
- C. It involves multiple, overlapping centers of authority rather than one central government.
- D. It mandates that only philosophers are allowed to participate in local government.

5. Michel Foucault's concept of 'Biopower' refers to how modern states exercise control over the ____ of their citizens.

- A. Religious beliefs
- B. Biological lives (bodies and health)
- C. International trade routes
- D. Nuclear energy production

6. In Martha Nussbaum's 'Capabilities Approach,' a government's success is measured primarily by its Total Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

- A. True

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B. False

7. Mikhail Bakunin's critique of the state hinges on the belief that ____.

- A. A worker-led state is the final stage of human evolution.
- B. Any form of state power, regardless of who runs it, naturally leads to oppression.
- C. Governments should be run only by highly educated scientists.
- D. Divine right is the only legitimate basis for political authority.

8. The concept of 'Negative Liberty' (as described by Isaiah Berlin) is best defined as ____.

- A. The freedom to fulfill one's true potential
- B. The right to harm others without consequence
- C. Freedom from interference by other people or the state
- D. The mandatory duty to vote in every election

9. Critical Race Theory in political philosophy examines how legal systems and political structures can maintain racial hierarchies even without explicit mentions of race.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Which of these concepts describes a society where power is held by people based on their technical expertise and knowledge rather than wealth or popularity?

- A. Oligarchy
- B. Technocracy
- C. Plutocracy
- D. Timocracy