

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: A Quest for the Sovereign: 9th Grade Political Philosophy Challenge

Scholars synthesize complex theories on legitimacy and the common good by analyzing perspectives from Hannah Arendt to Mencius.

1. In her analysis of revolutionary spirits, Hannah Arendt distinguishes between 'liberation' and 'liberty.' Which scenario best illustrates her concept of 'liberty'?

Answer: B) Citizens engaging in public deliberation to establish a new constitution.

Arendt argued that true liberty is the 'public freedom' to participate in government and collective action, rather than just being free from oppression (liberation).

2. The Chinese philosopher _____ argued that a ruler's legitimacy is tied to the 'Mandate of Heaven,' and that the people have a right to revolt if the ruler becomes tyrannical.

Answer: C) Mencius

Mencius (Mengzi) believed that the people's welfare was the ultimate test of a ruler's legitimacy, a significant precursor to democratic accountability.

3. According to the perspective of Legalism (as advocated by Han Feizi), a stable society is best maintained through the ruler's personal charisma and moral example rather than strict laws.

Answer: B) False

Legalism posits that human nature is selfish and that order must be maintained through clear, strict laws and harsh punishments, not the moral character of the leader.

4. Which concept best describes Mary Wollstonecraft's argument in 'A Vindication of the Rights of Woman' regarding the political status of women?

Answer: C) Social and political inequality stems from an engineered lack of education.

Wollstonecraft argued that women appeared inferior only because they were denied the same educational and rational development opportunities as men.

5. In 'The Wretched of the Earth,' Frantz Fanon explores the psychological and political necessity of _____ in the process of decolonization.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Answer: D) Violence

Fanon argued that because colonialism was established through force, the colonized must use violence to reclaim their humanity and political sovereignty.

6. Edmund Burke, often considered the father of modern conservatism, believed that society should be viewed as a partnership between the living, the dead, and those yet to be born.

Answer: A) True

Burke emphasized tradition and incremental change, viewing society as a continuous contract across generations rather than a temporary agreement.

7. The concept of 'Agonistic Pluralism,' championed by Chantal Mouffe, suggests that a healthy democracy requires:

Answer: C) Harnessing conflict into a respectful 'adversarial' relationship rather than 'enemy' status.

Mouffe argues that conflict is inherent to politics; the goal is to transform 'antagonism' (enemies) into 'agonism' (adversaries who respect rules).

8. The idea that the state should remain neutral between different 'conceptions of the good' is a cornerstone of ____ philosophy.

Answer: C) Liberal

Political liberalism suggests that because citizens have diverse beliefs, the state should provide a neutral framework rather than imposing one specific way of life.

9. Michel Foucault's concept of 'Biopower' refers primarily to the physical strength required for a nation to defend itself against foreign invaders.

Answer: B) False

Biopower refers to the state's practice of regulating and managing the life, health, and bodies of its population through administrative and social controls.

10. How does Iris Marion Young's 'Five Faces of Oppression' differ from traditional views of injustice which focus solely on legal rights?

Answer: B) It analyzes systemic issues like marginalization, powerlessness, and cultural imperialism.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Young expanded the definition of injustice to include structural disadvantages that are embedded in the everyday practices of a well-intentioned society.