

Leviathans and Lawmakers: 12th Grade Political Philosophy Quest

Evaluate the friction between sovereign power and natural law through complex scenarios involving de Beauvoir, Fanon, and Grotius.

1. In the context of 'The Wretched of the Earth,' Frantz Fanon argues that decolonization is inherently a violent process because it is a 'substitution of one species of mankind by another.' This perspective radicalizes which political concept?

- A. Bentham's Utilitarian Calculus
- B. The Hegelian Master-Slave Dialectic
- C. Burke's Traditionalist Conservatism
- D. The Kantian Categorical Imperative

2. Hugo Grotius, often considered the father of international law, argued in 'De Jure Belli ac Pacis' that natural law would still be valid even if God did not exist.

- A. True
- B. False

3. Simone de Beauvoir's political philosophy emphasizes that because humans are 'situated' beings, freedom requires the active liberation of others. This framework is best described as ____.

- A. The Ethics of Ambiguity
- B. The Veil of Ignorance
- C. The Principle of Utility
- D. The Panopticon Effect

4. A nation-state faces a resource crisis and implements a policy where 'merit' is defined solely by one's contribution to technological advancement. Which philosopher's critique of instrumental reason would most strongly oppose this technocratic approach?

- A. Herbert Marcuse
- B. John Stuart Mill
- C. Robert Nozick
- D. Thomas Hobbes

5. The political concept of 'Agonism,' championed by thinkers like Chantal Mouffe, suggests that democracy should not aim for consensus but should instead provide a framework for ____.

- A. Totalitarian control
- B. Productive conflict
- C. Technocratic rule
- D. Passive compliance

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6. Judith Butler's political philosophy suggests that 'gender performativity' is purely an individual choice and has no connection to state power or societal regulation.

- A. True
- B. False

7. If a government uses 'Biopower'—concentrating on the regulation of biological processes like birth rates and public health—to control its population, it is exercising a form of power most famously analyzed by:

- A. Michel Foucault
- B. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- C. Niccolò Machiavelli
- D. Edmund Burke

8. In 'The Human Condition,' Hannah Arendt distinguishes between 'Labor,' 'Work,' and 'Action.' She argues that true political life occurs only in the realm of ____.

- A. Private Labor
- B. Economic Work
- C. Public Action
- D. Legislative Work

9. Charles Mills' 'The Racial Contract' argues that the traditional social contract is actually an exclusionary agreement that secures white supremacy.

- A. True
- B. False

10. A society decides to abolish all inheritance taxes, arguing that any state seizure of property at death violates 'self-ownership.' This policy aligns most closely with the philosophy of:

- A. Michael Walzer
- B. Mikhail Bakunin
- C. Murray Rothbard
- D. Thomas Paine