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Date: _____

Answer Key: Sovereignty in the Scalpel: 9th Grade Political Anatomy Quiz

Evaluate the tension between individual agency and state power by analyzing the works of Montesquieu, Wollstonecraft, and Fanon.

1. Baron de Montesquieu's theory of 'Separation of Powers' in 'The Spirit of the Laws' was primarily designed to prevent which political outcome?

Answer: B) The accumulation of arbitrary power leading to tyranny

Montesquieu argued that by dividing executive, legislative, and judicial functions, no single entity could exercise absolute power, thereby protecting political liberty.

2. In 'A Vindication of the Rights of Woman,' Mary Wollstonecraft argues that women's perceived social inferiority is not natural, but rather a result of a lack of _____.

Answer: C) Access to education

Wollstonecraft was a pioneer in political philosophy who argued that women appear inferior only because they are denied the same educational opportunities as men.

3. Frantz Fanon's political philosophy suggests that the psychological effects of colonization can be undone through purely peaceful, legal reforms within the colonial system.

Answer: B) False

In 'The Wretched of the Earth,' Fanon argues that colonization is inherently violent and that decolonization often requires a radical, sometimes violent, break to restore the agency of the oppressed.

4. Unlike the traditional Social Contract theorists, the concept of 'Ubuntu' in African political philosophy defines the individual's rights through:

Answer: B) Their relationship and interconnectedness with the community

Ubuntu (often translated as 'I am because we are') posits that personhood and rights are found through communal harmony rather than isolated individualism.

5. In Han Feizi's Legalism, the 'Two Handles' of government refer to the use of 'reward' and 'punishment' to maintain social order.

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Answer: A) True

Legalism focuses on the strict application of law and the state's power to control human behavior through clear incentives and deterrents.

6. Hannah Arendt's analysis of 'The Banality of Evil' suggests that the greatest political crimes are often committed not by 'monsters,' but by ordinary people who _____.

Answer: B) Fail to think or question the orders of the state

Arendt observed that totalitarianism thrives when individuals abandon their critical thinking and moral judgment to follow bureaucratic rules.

7. According to Thomas Paine's 'Common Sense,' what is the fundamental difference between 'society' and 'government'?

Answer: A) Society is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness

Paine argued that society is a positive blessing that unites us, while government is a 'necessary evil' required to restrain our vices.

8. Sun Yat-sen's 'Three Principles of the People'—Nationalism, Democracy, and Livelihood—were designed to modernize which nation's political structure?

Answer: B) China

Sun Yat-sen's philosophy was foundational to the Republic of China, attempting to blend Western democratic ideals with Chinese social needs.

9. The concept of 'Civil Disobedience,' as championed by Henry David Thoreau, argues that an individual has a moral duty to follow every law, even if it is unjust, to ensure stability.

Answer: B) False

Thoreau argued that conscience should outweigh the law and that individuals should break unjust laws to withdraw their support from an immoral government.

10. Scenario: A nation decides to restrict internet access to prevent the spread of misinformation during an election. Using the perspective of Isaiah Berlin's 'Positive Liberty,' this action is justified because:

Answer: B) The state is protecting the people's ability to make 'rational' choices free from manipulation

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Positive liberty involves the fulfillment of one's potential and can be used to justify state intervention if the state believes it is helping citizens act according to their 'higher' or 'rational' selves.