

Power, Protest, and the Polis: A Junior's Guide to Political Thought

Synthesize the tension between state authority and individual agency across 10 demanding challenges that move beyond simple definitions into systemic analysis.

1. In her analysis of the 'banality of evil,' Hannah Arendt suggests that totalizing political systems succeed primarily because:

- A. Citizens lose the capacity for independent thought and moral judgment.
- B. The state uses constant physical violence to ensure absolute compliance.
- C. The economic benefits of the regime outweigh the cost of lost liberty.
- D. Leaders possess a supernatural or charismatic authority over the masses.

2. The concept of _____, popularized by Antonio Gramsci, describes how a ruling class maintains power by shaping the cultural common sense of society rather than through force.

- A. Pluralism
- B. Hegemony
- C. Utilitarianism
- D. Authoritarianism

3. True or False: Frantz Fanon argued that for a colonized people, the use of violence can be a psychologically liberating act that restores their humanity.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Which political philosopher would most likely support the 'Panopticon' model of surveillance as a metaphor for how modern states discipline their citizens?

- A. Jeremy Bentham
- B. Michel Foucault
- C. Edmund Burke
- D. Thomas Paine

5. Isaiah Berlin's concept of _____ liberty refers to the presence of possibilities and the freedom from external constraints on one's actions.

- A. Positive
- B. Negative
- C. Absolute
- D. Relative

6. True or False: Mikhail Bakunin, a leading anarchist, argued that the state is an inherently oppressive structure that must be abolished to allow for voluntary associations.

- A. True

Name: _____

Date: _____

B. False

7. In his 'Letter from Birmingham Jail,' Martin Luther King Jr. distinguishes between just and unjust laws by arguing that an unjust law is one that:

- A. Is not voted on by at least two-thirds of the population.
- B. Causes economic disruption or financial loss to the state.
- C. Is out of harmony with the moral law or the law of God.
- D. Has been in effect for more than fifty years without revision.

8. The political doctrine of _____, championed by thinkers like Edmund Burke, emphasizes the value of tradition and the organic development of society over radical change.

- A. Liberalism
- B. Conservatism
- C. Libertarianism
- D. Communitarianism

9. Judith Butler's political contributions suggest that the state regulates citizens not just through laws, but by defining which lives are considered 'grievable' or valuable. This is a core component of:

- A. Biopolitics
- B. Social Darwinism
- C. Legal Positivism
- D. Mercantilism

10. True or False: Martha Nussbaum's 'Capabilities Approach' argues that justice should be measured by the actual opportunities available to people, rather than just their total wealth.

- A. True
- B. False