

Name: _____ Date: _____

Ruling Minds: Ancient Polities and Modern Choices for 6th Grade

Students design a hypothetical island government while debating the delicate balance between absolute authority and the collective voice of the people.

1. In the ancient Maurya Empire, the 'Arthashastra' suggested that a leader's primary duty is the welfare of the people, yet they must maintain a vast spy network to ensure stability. This highlights the tension between which two concepts?

- A. Absolute freedom and total anarchy
- B. Public well-being and state security
- C. Religious law and scientific logic
- D. Isolationism and global trade

2. The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy's Great Law of Peace influenced democratic thinkers by demonstrating that different nations could unite under a single constitution while keeping local control.

- A. True
- B. False

3. Imagine a classroom where the teacher allows students to vote on every rule, but if a rule harms a minority of students, it is discarded. This framework most closely resembles _____.

- A. A military dictatorship
- B. Constitutional protection of rights
- C. A traditional monarchy
- D. A strictly capitalist economy

4. Mozi, an ancient Chinese philosopher, argued for 'Universal Love,' suggesting that leaders should care for all people equally rather than favoring their own family. Which political challenge was he trying to solve?

- A. Technological lag
- B. Environmental pollution
- C. Partiality and nepotism
- D. Currency inflation

5. In a meritocratic system, political power and resources are distributed based on a person's birthright and family wealth rather than their skills or contributions.

- A. True
- B. False

6. Baron de Montesquieu argued that to prevent tyranny, the power of government should be divided into different branches. This concept is fundamentally known as _____.

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- A. The Divine Right of Kings
- B. Separation of Powers
- C. Direct Democracy
- D. Socialism

7. If a society decides that every citizen must serve in the military or perform community service for two years to benefit the whole group, they are prioritizing:

- A. Individualism over the state
- B. The common good over individual liberty
- C. Economic profit over human rights
- D. Anarchy over organized society

8. The concept of 'Cosmopolitanism' suggests that all human beings, regardless of their political affiliation or nation, belong to a single community based on shared ethics.

- A. True
- B. False

9. Hannah Arendt, a 20th-century thinker, emphasized the 'vita activa' or the importance of citizens engaging in public discussion. She argued that political freedom is found in _____.

- A. Silent obedience to laws
- B. Accumulating personal wealth
- C. Action and speech with others
- D. Living alone in nature

10. In the 'Allegory of the Chariot' (often attributed to discussions on the soul and state), the driver must control two different horses. In political terms, this represents a leader's need to balance:

- A. Revenue and taxes
- B. War and peace
- C. Emotion and reason
- D. Education and sports