

# Introduction to American Government and Politics

The First Examination: A Practice Examination  
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This is a practice test for this course. The real examination will be longer than this practice. However, this does offer a good insight into the types of questions I will be asking. Enjoy!

## Section One: Fill-in-the-Blank.

*Fill in the blank with the best word. One point each.*

1. Marx wrote the Communist Manifesto in an era before communism was really understood by the ruling class. He saw communism as historically inevitable because of the fundamental flaws in capitalism, which was much less developed as an economic system in his day than it is today.
2. This Greek defined equality in terms of consideration of interests, not in terms of participation: Aristotle. As a result, he was not concerned with our voice in government, only with the outcomes of government policy.
3. Madison, one of the authors of the US Constitution, created a system of checks and balances to keep the separate branches, created from a separation of powers, from becoming too powerful. This philosophy of limiting government ran counter to that of philosopher Machiavelli, who held that the state should be as powerful as necessary to survive.

**Section Two: Multiple Choice.**

Circle the best answer from among those presented. One point each.

4. Which of the following is **not** a requirement for causation to be shown?
- Correlation
  - Government Funding**
  - Temporal Precedence
  - Theoretical Feasibility
5. Which of the following is a scientific hypothesis?
- The forests should be protected by those who are trained in forest management.
  - Government should promote equality, both natural and economic.
  - Democratic regimes (governments) are involved in fewer wars than other types of regimes.**
  - Knowledge is good.
6. The socialist who believed that the revolution would naturally occur and we should await it was...
- Thomas Hobbes
  - John Locke
  - Karl Marx**
  - J. S. Mill
7. Democracy, equality, and much Christian thought are examples of slave morality according to...
- Aristotle
  - John Locke
  - Niccolò Machiavelli
  - Friedrich Nietzsche**

### Section Three: Philosophers and Philosophies

Here is a list of some of the philosophers we have studied:

- Aristotle
- Burke, Edmund
- Hobbes, Thomas
- Kuhn, Thomas
- Lakatos, Imre
- Locke, John
- Machiavelli, Niccolò
- Madison, James
- Marx, Karl
- Montesquieu
- Plato
- Popper, Karl

Everyone, do both 18 and 19. Also do either 20 or 21. Make sure 20 or 21 are lengthy enough so that I know that you know what both philosophers believed and what their points of agreement and disagreement would be. Use the back of the paper if necessary.

8. Of the philosophers on the above list, two who wrote about their philosophy of science are Lakatos and Kuhn. (also Popper)

9. Of the philosophers on the above list, three that advocated for a very strong state are Hobbes, Machiavelli, and Plato. (also Aristotle)

10. If Aristotle and Madison were to get together over coffee, what would they talk about? What would be their points of agreement and disagreement?

Agree: Equality is a good.

Disagree: Definition of equality. (Of course, you would tell how each would define equality)

11. If John Locke and Thomas Hobbes were to get together over coffee, what would they talk about? What would be their points of agreement and disagreement?

Agree: Social Contract, importance of the state of nature

Disagree: Amount of liberty given to government in exchange for the level of safety is different; man's violence and reason in the state of nature (Of course, you would have to be specific as to how either thought about man in the state of nature)

#### Section Four: The Court Cases

Here is a list of court cases. Using this list, answer the following questions. Please note that more than one answer may be correct (you will need to select all that apply), and none of them may be correct (in which case you would write **NONE**). Make sure you write in capital letters. If I cannot tell positively which letter you are writing, your answer is wrong.

A.	Baker v. Carr	369 U.S. 186 (1962)
B.	Furman v. Georgia	408 U.S. 238 (1972)
C.	Gideon v. Wainwright	372 U.S. 335 (1963)
D.	Gonzales v. Oregon	546 U.S. 243 (2006)
E.	Griswold v. Connecticut	381 U.S. 479 (1965)
F.	Mapp v. Ohio	367 U.S. 643 (1961)
G.	Miranda v. Arizona	384 U.S. 436 (1966)
H.	New Jersey v. T.L.O.	469 U.S. 325 (1985)
I.	Olmstead v. United States	277 U.S. 438 (1928)
J.	Parents v. Seattle SD1	551 U.S. ____ (2007)
K.	Pierce v. Society of Sisters	268 U.S. 510 (1925)
L.	Roe v. Wade	410 U.S. 113 (1973)
M.	Rogers v. Tennessee	532 U.S. 451 (2001)
N.	Texas v. Johnson	491 U.S. 397 (1989)
O.	United States v. Nixon	418 U.S. 683 (1974)
P.	Virginia v. Black	538 U.S. 343 (2003)
Q.	Wisconsin v. Yoder	406 U.S. 205 (1972)

12. Of the above list, which one(s) dealt with burning something?

    N              P          \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

23.     I     In this case, the conviction of a bootlegger was upheld by the Supreme Court, even under questions of constitutionality on both the Fourth and the Fifth Amendments. Mere wiretapping does not constitute a search and seizure under the meaning of the Fourth Amendment. Furthermore, the defendants were not forced to conduct those wiretapped conversations. Instead, the conversations were voluntarily made between the parties and their associates. As such, the conviction was not a violation of the Fifth Amendment.

24.     G     Because of this case, upon arrest, you must be informed of the following rights: You have the right to remain silent. If you give up that right, anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney and to have an attorney present during questioning. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided to you at no cost. During any questioning, you may decide at any time to exercise these rights, not answer any questions, or make any statements.

### Section Five: Short Answers

Answer the following questions fully. Use your best handwriting. Remember: If I cannot read your writing, I cannot mark it correct.

13. Name the five rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom of Press
- Freedom of Assembly
- Freedom to petition for redress of grievances

14. What is the Electoral College? How was it originally to work (intent, not mechanics)? Has it worked like our Founding Fathers intended? Explain.

**Key:** Remember our discussions of why the EC had to have its rule amended in the first two non-Washington elections.

15. In the Constitution, there are four clauses actually named. They are the Elastic Clause, the Interstate Commerce Clause, the Due Process Clause, and the Supremacy Clause. Pick two of these and explain them and their effect on the power of the Federal Government.

**Key:** EC: Congress can do what it needs to do to do its duty; ICC: Only Congress can pass laws regulating interstate commerce; DPC: Everyone is guaranteed equal protection under the Constitution; SC: The Constitution is the absolute law of the land

16. I'm just a bill. Yes, I'm only a bill. I'm stuck up here on Capitol Hill. How do I become a law?

**Key:** Start on one side and trace the path of the bill all the way to the conference committee. Make sure you tell the options for the bill at each of the junctures.

17. A group of your friends are very angry over a decision by Creighton's President Schlegel over student dress (he has mandated uniforms consisting of blue slacks and white oxfords). Your friends are planning to protest at the next Board of Directors meeting, but someone has suggested burning a flag. We know that burning the US flag is legal under certain circumstances, but your friend wishes to burn the Creighton Flag. Under what circumstances, if any, will this act be legal?

**Key:** We know which USSC case holds precedence here, but what are the relevant facts of that case? Do they apply here? Are the differences minor enough to still use Texas v. Johnson?