

Politics & International Studies: second-round sample tasks

Section 1. Political theory and history of political doctrines

One correct answer is worth two points

1. The author of the theory of rational bureaucracy is
 - a) Immanuel Kant,
 - b) Marcus Tullius Cicero
 - c) Vilfredo Federico Damaso Pareto
 - d) Max Weber**

2. The form of governance that ensures obedience through positive incentives is referred to as
 - a) legitimate power
 - b) reward power**
 - c) coercion power
 - d) referent power

3. Which of the following is not a characteristic of the Consensus Democracy Model?
 - a) proportional representation
 - b) federalism
 - c) two-party system**
 - d) corporatist interest representation system

4. David Easton defines politics as the authoritative distribution of values within a society. What does this interpretation suggest?
 - a) the state determines the amount of income and privileges for different social groups
 - b) allocation of housing on a first-come, first-served basis
 - c) defining the most important social development goals and priorities**
 - d) determining the order of access to the most scarce resources

Section 2. Comparative political science

5. Non-violent transitions tend to:
 - a) fail
 - b) produce an unsustainable democracy
 - c) produce a more liberal democracy**
 - d) be faster

6. Which of the following does NOT characterize a “civic community”?
 - a) horizontal rather than vertical social relations
 - b) high levels of social capital
 - c) relatively high levels of social and political trust
 - d) extensive patron-client ties**

7. According to Gabriel Almond, which of the following is NOT one of the three elements of political culture?
 - a) cognitive orientation

- b) **geographic orientation**
- c) affective orientation
- d) evaluational orientation

Section 3. International relations and international organizations

8. The High Commissioner for Refugees is the representative of
- a) UN
 - b) ILO
 - c) UNESCO
 - d) Russia
9. Which country in this list belongs to the Global North?
- a) Indonesia
 - b) Bangladesh
 - c) **Australia**
 - d) St Kitts and Nevis
10. What kind of organization is ASEAN in geographical terms?
- a) global
 - b) **regional**
 - c) subregional
11. ASEM (Asia–Europe Meeting) is a(n)
- a) United Nations system body
 - b) International non-governmental organization
 - c) one of the APEC institutions
 - d) **non-binding International Consultative Forum**

Section 4. Public management and politics

12. The government intervenes in the economy to
- a) have a source of income
 - b) **compensate for market failures**
 - c) maximize department financing
 - d) build relationships with entrepreneurs
13. A policy paper should include
- a) **political (governance) alternatives**
 - b) a statement of political interest alignment
 - c) acknowledgement to participants
 - d) a list of issues
14. Which stage is missing in the political cycle model?
- a) policy implementation
 - b) **political interest alignment**
 - c) decision-making
 - d) agenda-setting

Section 5. World politics and global problems

15. Who is the author(s) of this definition of sustainable development: “[d]evelopment that meets the needs of present generations while not compromising the ability of future generations to also meet their needs”.

- a) Johan Holmberg and Richard Sandbrook
- b) Richard Gordon
- c) Brundtland Commission**
- d) Stockholm Declaration of 1973

16. What does BRI stand for?

- a) Belt and Road Investment
- b) Belt and Road Initiative**
- c) Bridge and Road Infrastructure
- d) Bridge and Rate Interface

17. What approach is reflected in this abstract: "Conservation of living natural resources is... crucial for development"?

- a) anthropocentrism**
- b) ecocentrism
- c) humanism
- d) gynocentrism

18. Who is the author of the book *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle or Power and Peace*?

- a) Donald Trump
- b) David Easton
- c) Karl Marx
- d) Hans Morgenthau**

Section 1. Political theory and history of political doctrines

Each correctly completed task is from 2 to 5 points.

19. What is the subject of political science?

- a) society;
- b) political relations;**
- c) classes and social groups;**
- d) political authority;**
- e) political institutions;**
- f) political ideologies;**
- g) types of social action;
- h) human rights;
- i) inequality;
- j) the state;**
- k) the power distribution process of values in society;**
- l) social conflicts;
- m) evolution of social relations.

20. Match the terms with the definitions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ruling elite b) Lobbyism c) Interest groups d) Corporatism e) Co-optation f) Elite recruitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Groups of individuals united by common interests, aiming to exert influence or pressure on governmental institutions to secure favorable decisions for themselves 2) A diverse social group or multiple groups that hold a privileged status in society, possessing power and the capacity to shape society 3) A diverse social group or multiple groups that occupy a privileged position in society, wielding power and capable of impacting society 4) The process of elite formation 5) The intentional exertion of influence by interest groups on authorities to attain specific objectives and further their interests 6) The administrative process of recruiting new members into the elite
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Answer key: a2, b5, c1, d3, e6, f4

Section 2. Comparative political science

21. Electoral democracy is a means for the people to choose their political leaders and to replace their leaders in _____, _____, _____, and _____ elections.

- a) **regular**
- b) closed
- c) **fair**
- d) **free**
- e) **meaningful**

Section 3. International relations and international organizations

22. Select three member states of the European Union:

- a) **Czech Republic**
- b) Switzerland
- c) **Greece**
- d) Macedonia
- e) **The Netherlands**
- f) Albania

23. Match the names of the authors with the ideological and theoretical movements they represent:

- a) Barry Buzan
- b) Karl Deutsch
- c) Ernst Haas
- d) Samuel Huntington

- 1) communication theory

- 2) regional security complex theory
- 3) civilizational approach
- 4) functionalism theory

Answer:

a2, b1, c4, d3

Section 4. Public management and politics

24. The model of principal-agency relations is based on the following provisions:

- a) joint activities of participants to achieve a common goal
- b) information asymmetry**
- c) power asymmetry**
- d) difference of interests of actors**

25. The latest approaches to public administration are:

- a) smart governance
- b) new public management**
- c) good governance**
- d) smart regulation**

Section 5. World politics and global problems

26. Which countries are members of SAARC?

- a) Sri Lanka**
- b) Thailand
- c) Maldives**
- d) Indonesia
- e) Bhutan**

27. Which countries are members of ASEAN?

- a) Indonesia**
- b) Australia
- c) Thailand**
- d) China
- e) Myanmar**

Section 2. Comparative political science

**28. You will have to analyze a case or the causes of a political event (group of events).
The maximum score is 14 points.**

In political science, the simple majority electoral system is credited with the ability to maintain bipartisanship. **Question: What is the reason for this effect of the simple majority system on the penetration of parties into parliament? Which political scientists contributed to the identification of this regularity and what terms did they use to describe it?**

Answer:

Maurice Duverger was the first researcher to highlight this pattern, referring to it as the "fundamental sociological law" and a "mechanical effect." Later, Douglas Rae emphasized the correlation between the simple majority electoral system and a reduction in the number of politically viable parties. In a simple majority electoral system, the strongest parties, often limited to two, succeed in single-member constituencies, while others, despite amassing a significant number of votes, lose the opportunity to secure parliamentary representation. As this scenario repeats itself, supporters of consistently unsuccessful parties realize that it is impractical to continue voting for them and, instead, direct their preferences toward one of the two dominant parties.

Evaluation criteria:

C1. Identification of the political science approaches, concepts, ideological and political trends corresponding to the concepts, phenomena and processes considered in the text

You have effectively defined the research approaches and concepts, accurately identifying the ideological and political trends (from 3 to 5 points).

You have applied the terminology pertinent to the discussed research approaches and concepts but with some inaccuracies (from 1 to 3 points).

You have not identified the research approaches, concepts, ideological and political trends (0 points).

C2. Quality of argumentation

In your exploration of the topic, you give consistent arguments in favor of your position. Your argumentation is convincing and sufficient to justify your position (from 3 to 5 points).

When exploring the topic, you have given consistent arguments in favor of your position. Your argumentation, while containing minor inconsistencies, is overall convincing and effectively supports the defended position (1-3 points).

You have failed to justify your position, limiting yourself to expounding general ideas (0 points).

C3. Language

Your answer accurately expresses your thoughts, using appropriate vocabulary and grammar (from 3 to 4 points).

Your answer accurately expresses your thoughts, using appropriate vocabulary, but contains some grammatical errors.

OR

Your answer accurately expresses your thoughts, using appropriate grammar, but with a limited vocabulary (from 1 to 2 points).

Your answer is vaguely formulated, with poor grammar and vocabulary (0 points).

Section 3. International relations and international organizations

29. Essay

What events started the radical transformation of international relations in the Greater Middle East in the 21st century? Substantiate your point of view.

Assessment criteria:

1. The ability to formulate an original problem (set a research question) based on the information given in the text

- You have correctly framed the research question in alignment with the current state of knowledge. Your essay is well-structured, and you have chosen a convincing approach to substantiate your point. Your communicative intent has been clearly expressed (8–6 points).
- You have formulated a research question that has an indirect connection to the topic (5–3 points).
- You have provided superficial coverage of the topic, and the research question has not been clearly defined. The communicative intent is ambiguous (1–2 points).
- Your essay does not align with the topic, and/or the communicative intent of the essay is not clear (0 points).

2. Argumentation

- You have consistently defended your position by presenting advanced theses and arguments, using value-driven selection of arguments, employing logical reasoning, or utilizing rhetorical argumentation techniques, etc. Your argumentation is convincing and sufficient to comprehensively address the topic (9–12 points).
- You have consistently defended your position by presenting advanced theses and arguments, using value-driven selection of arguments, employing logical reasoning, or utilizing rhetorical argumentation techniques, etc. Although fewer than half of the theses have been proven, your argumentation is consistently convincing and sufficient to comprehensively address the topic (4-8 points).
- You have not defended your position, offering only general considerations (0 points).

3. Research concepts and factual material

- You have effectively applied theoretical models, referencing the authors of the concepts. You have gathered relevant factual material from the literature, media, historical and philosophical sources, as well as anecdotal evidence. Your argumentation is persuasive and comprehensive, offering a complete account of the topic (3-4 points).
- The theoretical models and factual materials you utilize provide a somewhat incomplete or one-sided view of the topic, and/or you have made 1-3 factual errors (1-2 points).
- You have not established a theoretical framework, and/or there are at least four theoretical and factual errors in your text (0 points).

4. Text structure

- Your text is well-structured and logical. Its sections have appropriate lengths, and there are no unnecessary repetitions. The semantic parts of the text are interconnected effectively (2-3 points).
- Your text possesses a structure, but the semantic sections are not seamlessly interconnected. You may have repeated your theses or failed to develop them fully. Additionally, you have made 1-3 logical errors (1 point).
- The lack of logical coherence makes your text challenging to comprehend. There are at least four logical errors, and/or the section containing your thesis and arguments is either missing or unconvincing (0 points).

5. Language

- Your ideas are expressed clearly, and your language is both rich and compelling (2-3 points).
- Your ideas are expressed clearly, but your language may be monotonous, or your language is rich and compelling, but the text lacks clarity (1 point).
- Your language is monotonous, and the text lacks clarity (0 points).

Section 5. World politics and global problems

30. Case

In March 2021, the ship Evergrande ran aground in the Suez Canal, leading to the disruption of global supply chains. Name several "bottlenecks" in the global economy that could similarly affect global logistics. Summarize the results.

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