

Political Thought, Final Exam Study Guide – Spring 2012

The final exam will contain **20 definitions** and **6 short answers**. Do *not* answer more than the requested amount, as I'll only grade the first ones I read. Everything on the test will be drawn directly from class notes, discussions, and videos.

I will provide you with a list of 25 definitions and 10 short answers on the midterm from which you can choose the terms and questions to which you want to respond. All of the questions will be drawn from the list below. Whenever possible, use illustrative examples (whether hypothetical, historical, or personal), and be as specific as you can.

Definition bank (1 sentence each, but a 3-point answer will be a full sentence) (50%)

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| 1. Socratic method | 19. speciesism | 36. sexual division of labor |
| 2. myth of the metals | 20. argument from marginal cases | 37. Global South |
| 3. Thrasymachus | 21. New Lanark | 38. anti-globalization movement |
| 4. the Lydian ring | 22. bourgeoisie | 39. green revolution |
| 5. teleology | 23. proletariat | 40. Vandana Shiva |
| 6. Great Chain of Being | 24. historical materialism | 41. the end of history |
| 7. doctrine of the mean | 25. economic base | 42. the clash of civilizations |
| 8. eudaimonia | 26. alienation | 43. CSR |
| 9. the lion and the fox | 27. distributive justice | 44. Milton Friedman |
| 10. state of nature | 28. justice as fairness | 45. objectivism |
| 11. tacit consent | 29. veil of ignorance | 46. global food crisis |
| 12. natural inequality | 30. the difference principle | 47. green revolution |
| 13. relative inequality | 31. Robert Nozick | 48. net neutrality |
| 14. Edmund Burke | 32. equality feminism | 49. jus in bello |
| 15. social engineering | 33. difference feminism | 50. ballot structure |
| 16. consequentialism | 34. ethic of care | |
| 17. negative utilitarianism | 35. patriarchy | |
| 18. instrumental value | | |

Short Answer (3-4 sentences each) (50%)

1. What distinguishes descriptive statements from normative statements? Give examples of each, and explain how the two can sometimes be confused or intermingled.
2. How does the myth of the metals constitute a 'noble lie' in Plato's *Republic*, and how does it contribute to his vision of a just society? What are some modern examples of noble lies?
3. Why do people sometimes argue that Aristotelean virtue ethics provides a 'middle path' between Kantian deontology and utilitarian consequentialism?
4. How does Aristotle define good citizenship? How would you define it? Be specific.
5. Why is it often argued that Machiavelli is the founder of modern political theory? Provide

multiple reasons, and specific examples.

6. Why does Hobbes argue that “natural liberty and equality are just not compatible with commodious and peaceful living”? Do you agree?
7. Explain and evaluate Locke's theory of property.
8. Why does Edmund Burke argue that the French Revolution was likely to cause more harm than good? Explain your answer in the context of his understanding of conservatism.
9. Explain the difference between act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism. Use examples.
10. How does J.S. Mill defend free speech in his essay “On Liberty”? Explain how most speech can be defended even on purely utilitarian grounds.
11. Explain the case of the drowning child in Peter Singer's “Famine, Affluence, and Morality” and how it relates to his argument about donating to charity.
12. Using examples from both Tom Regan and Peter Singer, explain the difference between animal rights and animal welfare.
13. Explain what Robert Owen means when he says that human nature is “without exception universally plastic”. How does such a view of human nature have broad policy implications?
14. Using at least two specific scenarios, explain Marx's view that human nature varies according to the economic base and its corresponding ideological/institutional superstructure.
15. Explain John Rawls' defense of liberal capitalist democracy with reference to justice as fairness, the original position, and the veil of ignorance.
16. Explain Nozick's argument that “the minimal state provides the maximum liberty” - reference his entitlement theory.
17. Explain two ways in which Okin's equality feminism is like Gilligan/Tronto's difference feminism, and two ways in which they are different.
18. Why does Vandana Shiva say that economic globalization has lead to “maldevelopment”?
19. Trace Huntington's argument that history has progressed from a conflict of nations to a conflict of ideologies to a conflict of civilizations.
20. Emma Goldman argued that the three enemies of anarchism are “religion, [which dominates] the human mind; property, [which dominates] human needs; and government, [which dominates] human conduct.” Provide specific examples of each.