

# ILTS Social Science (163) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. Which economic term describes the resources used or accumulated in a business?**
  - A. Labor**
  - B. Capital**
  - C. Land**
  - D. Entrepreneurship**
- 2. What does supply-side economics primarily advocate?**
  - A. Increasing government spending on social programs**
  - B. Lowering taxes and decreasing regulations**
  - C. Expanding public ownership of industries**
  - D. Reducing international trade barriers**
- 3. Which principle of government allows one branch to limit another branch's power?**
  - A. Separation of powers**
  - B. Popular sovereignty**
  - C. Judicial review**
  - D. Checks and balances**
- 4. What does the term "political spectrum" refer to?**
  - A. A system of classifying different political positions or ideologies**
  - B. A measure of economic performance in a nation**
  - C. The voting patterns of citizens in an election**
  - D. The process of drafting new laws**
- 5. What political theory is known for advocating class war and leads to a society where all property is publicly owned?**
  - A. Socialism**
  - B. Communism**
  - C. Fascism**
  - D. Dictatorship**

- 6. Which system of government features independent legislative and executive branches?**
- A. Presidential System**
  - B. Parliamentary System**
  - C. Dictatorship**
  - D. Monarchy**
- 7. Which amendment addresses the right to a collective defense in a militia?**
- A. First Amendment**
  - B. Second Amendment**
  - C. Third Amendment**
  - D. Fourth Amendment**
- 8. What key societal change occurred during the industrial revolution that impacts population dynamics?**
- A. Decrease in migration**
  - B. Urbanization**
  - C. Reduction in birth rates**
  - D. Rural community growth**
- 9. What impact did the Magna Carta have on future democratic systems?**
- A. It eliminated monarchies in Europe**
  - B. It paved the way for the concept of rule of law**
  - C. It granted land to common citizens**
  - D. It focused solely on the rights of the nobility**
- 10. What type of political system allows citizens to elect their leaders through a voting process?**
- A. Monarchy**
  - B. Dictatorship**
  - C. Fascism**
  - D. Democracy**

## **Answers**

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- 1. B**
- 2. B**
- 3. D**
- 4. A**
- 5. B**
- 6. A**
- 7. B**
- 8. B**
- 9. B**
- 10. D**

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which economic term describes the resources used or accumulated in a business?**

**A. Labor**

**B. Capital**

**C. Land**

**D. Entrepreneurship**

The term that describes the resources used or accumulated in a business is capital. In economics, capital refers to the financial assets or physical goods that are used to produce goods and services. This includes machinery, buildings, tools, and any other resources that can facilitate the production process. Capital is essential for a business's operation and growth, as it represents the investments made to enhance productivity and profitability. While labor, land, and entrepreneurship are also important components of economic production, they refer to different concepts. Labor is the human effort used in the production process, land encompasses the natural resources and physical space utilized for production, and entrepreneurship relates to the ability to innovate and manage business ventures effectively. Capital is distinct in that it specifically pertains to the resources that are utilized or accumulated for generating profits and expanding business capabilities.

**2. What does supply-side economics primarily advocate?**

**A. Increasing government spending on social programs**

**B. Lowering taxes and decreasing regulations**

**C. Expanding public ownership of industries**

**D. Reducing international trade barriers**

Supply-side economics primarily advocates for lowering taxes and decreasing regulations. The fundamental belief of this economic theory is that reducing tax rates, particularly for businesses and high-income earners, incentivizes investment, increases production, and boosts overall economic growth. By allowing individuals and corporations to retain more of their earnings, supply-side economics posits that they will invest in their businesses, create jobs, and drive innovation. Decreased regulations are also a key aspect, as proponents argue that excessive regulation can stifle economic growth and entrepreneurship. By streamlining or relying less on regulatory frameworks, supply-side economics seeks to foster a more favorable business environment that encourages economic expansion. This approach contrasts with other economic theories that might focus on demand-side strategies, like increasing government spending for social programs or enhancing public ownership, which typically emphasize boosting consumer demand to stimulate the economy.

**3. Which principle of government allows one branch to limit another branch's power?**

- A. Separation of powers**
- B. Popular sovereignty**
- C. Judicial review**
- D. Checks and balances**

The principle that enables one branch of government to limit another branch's power is checks and balances. This system ensures that no single branch—executive, legislative, or judicial—can dominate or abuse its authority. Each branch has specific powers and responsibilities, and there are mechanisms in place for them to supervise and restrain each other. For example, the legislative branch can create laws, but the president has the power to veto legislation, and the courts can interpret laws and rule them unconstitutional. This framework promotes accountability and prevents tyranny by ensuring that power is not concentrated in just one branch. In contrast, separation of powers, while related, refers to the distribution of power among the branches rather than the interactivity and controls between them. Popular sovereignty expresses the principle that government derives its authority from the consent of the governed, while judicial review is the power of courts to evaluate the constitutionality of legislative and executive actions. Thus, checks and balances is the principle that specifically addresses the limits imposed by one branch on another.

**4. What does the term "political spectrum" refer to?**

- A. A system of classifying different political positions or ideologies**
- B. A measure of economic performance in a nation**
- C. The voting patterns of citizens in an election**
- D. The process of drafting new laws**

The term "political spectrum" refers to a system of classifying different political positions or ideologies, which is why this choice is the correct answer. The political spectrum typically ranges from left to right, representing a variety of political beliefs, ideologies, and policies. On the left, you might find ideologies that emphasize social equality and government intervention in the economy, while the right often focuses on individual freedoms, market solutions, and limited government involvement. Understanding the political spectrum is crucial for analyzing political discourse, party platforms, and voter behavior, as it provides a framework for discussing where individuals and parties stand on various issues. This context allows for better comprehension of political debates and the motivations behind different policies. Other options, while relevant to politics, do not accurately define the political spectrum. Economic performance measures, voting patterns, and the legislative process each pertain to specific aspects of political science but do not encompass the classification of political beliefs and ideologies that the political spectrum does.

**5. What political theory is known for advocating class war and leads to a society where all property is publicly owned?**

**A. Socialism**

**B. Communism**

**C. Fascism**

**D. Dictatorship**

The political theory that advocates for class struggle and envisions a society where all property is publicly owned is communism. This ideology, largely influenced by the works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, suggests that through the process of class conflict, the working class (proletariat) will rise against the ruling class (bourgeoisie) to abolish private property and establish a classless society. In this theoretical framework, the means of production would be collectively owned, eliminating the concept of private ownership and ensuring that resources and wealth are distributed based on need rather than personal or familial advantage. Communism's focus on the elimination of class distinctions and private property creates a potential for a more equitable society, grounded in collective ownership and cooperation. The foundations laid out in "The Communist Manifesto" call for a revolutionary change, emphasizing that only through this class struggle can true equality be achieved. Other options represent different political ideologies that do not share the same core principles of collective ownership and class struggle. Socialism, for example, encompasses a range of economic and political systems that advocate for social ownership but allows for some degree of private property and markets. Fascism is a totalitarian ideology focused on authoritarian power, nationalism, and often militarism, which does not advocate

**6. Which system of government features independent legislative and executive branches?**

**A. Presidential System**

**B. Parliamentary System**

**C. Dictatorship**

**D. Monarchy**

The presidential system is characterized by a clear separation of powers among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. In this system, the president serves as both the head of state and the head of government, independently elected from the legislative branch. This distinction allows for a system of checks and balances, where each branch has distinct powers and responsibilities. Legislative bodies can create laws, while the president has the authority to enforce them, ensuring that no single entity has overarching control. In contrast, parliamentary systems feature a fusion of the legislative and executive branches, where the executive branch derives its legitimacy from the legislative branch and is directly accountable to it. In dictatorships, power is typically concentrated in a single leader or ruling party, often bypassing or undermining independent branches of government. Monarchies can take various forms, but many do not maintain the same level of independence among branches as seen in a presidential system, especially if the monarchy holds significant power over the legislative processes.

**7. Which amendment addresses the right to a collective defense in a militia?**

- A. First Amendment**
- B. Second Amendment**
- C. Third Amendment**
- D. Fourth Amendment**

The Second Amendment is fundamentally linked to the right of citizens to maintain a militia for collective defense. It states: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." This amendment underscores the importance of a militia in the context of national defense and emphasizes the collective right of citizens to engage in such defense. It was inspired by the historical context of the Founding Fathers, who sought to ensure that the populace could protect itself against tyranny and maintain a free state. In contrast, the other amendments listed do not focus on collective defense or militias. The First Amendment primarily addresses freedoms concerning speech, religion, assembly, press, and petitioning the government. The Third Amendment deals with the quartering of soldiers in private homes, reflecting concerns from the colonial experience, while the Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures, emphasizing the right to privacy and security of one's belongings. Hence, the Second Amendment stands out as the one explicitly mentioning the notion of militias and the right to bear arms as part of a collective defense.

**8. What key societal change occurred during the industrial revolution that impacts population dynamics?**

- A. Decrease in migration**
- B. Urbanization**
- C. Reduction in birth rates**
- D. Rural community growth**

The significant societal change that occurred during the Industrial Revolution, which had a profound impact on population dynamics, is urbanization. As industrialization progressed, factories and industries began to emerge, leading to the rapid development of cities. People migrated from rural areas to urban centers in search of job opportunities and better living conditions. This shift significantly altered demographic patterns, leading to a concentration of populations in cities as they became hubs of economic activity. Urbanization also brought about changes in lifestyle and social structure, affecting family dynamics, health, and education. The rapid influx of people into urban areas often led to overcrowded living conditions, which posed various challenges, such as public health issues and the need for improved infrastructure. In contrast to urbanization, the other options do not represent the key changes attributed to the Industrial Revolution. Decrease in migration, reduction in birth rates, and rural community growth are not primary outcomes of this era; rather, the movement of populations toward urban centers is what distinctly characterized the period and influenced subsequent social, economic, and environmental developments.

**9. What impact did the Magna Carta have on future democratic systems?**

- A. It eliminated monarchies in Europe**
- B. It paved the way for the concept of rule of law**
- C. It granted land to common citizens**
- D. It focused solely on the rights of the nobility**

The Magna Carta, signed in 1215, is significant in shaping future democratic systems primarily because it established the principle of the rule of law. This concept asserts that everyone, including those in power, must adhere to the law, thereby limiting arbitrary authority. The document introduced key ideas such as the right to a fair trial, due process, and the idea that no individual is above the law, which are foundational elements in modern democratic governance. By laying down these principles, the Magna Carta influenced the development of parliamentary systems and the notion of constitutional government. It set a precedent for later documents such as the English Bill of Rights and, ultimately, the U.S. Constitution, both of which reflect similar values concerning individual rights and checks on governmental power. Other options either misrepresent the historical context or the document's significance. For instance, while it was significant for the nobility, the Magna Carta did not eliminate monarchies or grant land to common citizens, which contradicts the historical details of its content and effects.

**10. What type of political system allows citizens to elect their leaders through a voting process?**

- A. Monarchy**
- B. Dictatorship**
- C. Fascism**
- D. Democracy**

Democracy is characterized by a political system in which citizens have the opportunity to participate in decision-making, primarily through the election of their leaders. In a democratic system, elections are held at regular intervals, giving individuals the right to vote for representatives who will make decisions on their behalf. This participation is fundamental to the functioning of democracy, as it relies on the principle of popular sovereignty—the idea that government power is derived from the consent of the governed. In contrast, a monarchy typically involves rule by a king or queen, often based on hereditary succession, where citizens do not have a direct voice in selecting their leaders. Dictatorship is marked by the concentration of power in the hands of a single authority or a small group, with little to no input from the general populace regarding leadership. Fascism encompasses an authoritarian regime where the state holds significant control over aspects of life, often suppressing dissent and limiting political pluralism, further distancing the populace from the electoral process. Thus, the essence of democracy lies in the empowerment of citizens to engage in governance through elections, making it the correct answer to the question.