

Unit 1 Study Guide

Vocabulary

Civics:

State:

Nation:

Consensus:

Government:

Sovereignty:

State of Nature:

Natural Rights/Natural Law:

Theory:

Origin:

I. What is a state?

Many words we use to discuss government come from ancient _____ and Rome. For example, the word state comes from the Romans' word for "to _____." A state has a political community that occupies a definite _____ and an organized _____ with the power to make and enforce laws without approval from any higher authority. The United States is one of almost 200 states that exist today. (**However, by definition Florida, New York, and Georgia are _____ considered states.) A _____ is a group of people who share the same race, language, customs, traditions, and, sometimes, religion. Additionally, _____, country, and _____ all mean the same and can be used interchangeably.

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II. The Four Essential Features of a State

1. Population

- a. This is the _____ living in the state.
- b. States are most stable when their people share a political and social _____, or agreement about basic beliefs.
- c. Population also affects a state through _____. For example, since people in the United States are mobile, political power readily shifts from one area to another.

2. Territory

- a. This means a state has _____.
- b. Its territorial boundaries may _____ as a result of _____, _____, or _____.

3. Sovereignty

- a. A sovereign state has complete power to make _____, shape foreign _____, and determine its own course of _____.
- b. Every state is considered to have supreme authority within its territorial boundaries, and every state is equal, at least in _____.

4. Government

- a. Every state has some form of _____.
- b. The government maintains social _____, provides public _____, and enforces its _____ that are binding on all people living within the state.

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III. Theories About the Origin of a State

1. Evolutionary Theory

- a. Some scholars believe that the state evolved from the family.
- b. This theory states that the head of the _____ family was the _____ that served as the government.
- c. An _____ family might include hundreds of people. Government emerged gradually as the extended families needed more _____.

2. Force Theory

- a. This theory holds that government emerged when all the people in an area were _____ to accept the _____ of one person or _____.

3. Divine Right Theory

- a. Many civilizations believed that rulers were either _____ of gods or _____ by gods.
- b. According to this theory, God _____ the state and chose those who were born to _____ to govern it.

4. Social Contract Theory

- a. According to certain political thinkers, the _____ of the state government came about when people agreed to a social contract.
- b. The people gave the state the _____ needed to maintain _____.
- c. The state, in turn, agreed to _____ its citizens.

❖ On which theory is the government of the United States based?

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IV. Social Contract Theory

1. Thomas Hobbes

- a. He theorized about how the social contract began. He wrote that in a “state of _____” no government _____.
- b. Without an authority to protect one person from another life was “_____, brutish, and _____.”

2. John Locke

- a. When the British Parliament forced King James II to flee and replaced him with William and Mary of Orange, John Locke defended Parliament’s actions.
- b. He thought that people were naturally endowed with the same three rights: _____, _____, and _____.
 - i. _____ means people want to and will fight to survive.
 - ii. _____ means that people want to be as free as possible to make their own decisions about how to live.
 - iii. _____ means that people want to own things that will help them survive.

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V. Purposes of Government

1. Governments serve several major purposes for the state. In carrying out these purposes, government must make _____ that are binding to all citizens of the state.
2. Government has the authority to require all individuals to obey these decisions and the power to _____ those who do not obey them.
3. Governments derive their authority from two sources--- their _____ and their ability to use _____ force.

a. _____ means the willingness of citizens to obey the government. In democratic countries _____ is based on the consent of the people. Americans understand that if their elected officials fail to respond to the interests of the people, they can be _____ out of office.

b. _____ force, comes from the police, _____, and military institutions of government. Government can force people to pay _____ and can _____ offenders by fines or _____.

4. Maintaining Social Order

- a. This means government provides ways to settle disagreements among citizens.
- b. For example, it provides courts to help people resolve their differences in an orderly manner.

5. Providing Public Services

- a. Government provides _____ needed to make community life possible and to promote the general _____.

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- b. For example, government inspectors check _____ and _____ to prevent the _____ of spoiled food.

6. Providing National Security

- a. A government _____ its people against attacks from other _____ or from _____ threats, such as terrorism.
- b. The government also handles dealings, such as trade _____, with other countries.

7. Making Economic Decisions

- a. Nations vary in their ability to provide their citizens with economic _____ or _____. Although no government provides its citizens with _____ they need and want. A government passes the _____ that determine and control the economic environment.
- b. For instance, it provides the nation's _____, or money, and helps to distribute _____ and services.
- c. Additionally, the United States government makes _____ to farmers who raise certain crops and offers _____ advantages to certain industries.
- d. Governments do not limit their economic decisions to only domestic necessities. A government might also intervene in the _____ affairs of another nation by providing _____.