

Tutorial Letter 001/3/2021

PLC1501

Politics as a Social Activity

Semester 1 and 2

Department of Political Sciences

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please register on myUnisa, activate your myLife e-mail account and make sure that you have regular access to the myUnisa module website, PLC1501-2021-S1/S2, as well as your group website

BARCODE

CONTENTS

Page

1	ASSESSMENT	3
1.1	Assessment criteria	3
1.2	Assessment plan	3
1.3	Assignment numbers	4
1.3.1	General assignment numbers	4
1.3.2	Unique assignment numbers	4
1.4	Assignment due dates	4
1.5	Submission of assignments	4
1.6	The assignments	5
1.7	Other assessment methods	15
1.8	The examination	15

Dear Student

1 ASSESSMENT

Due to the ministerial request to extend the 2021 registration dates, Unisa had to revise both the tuition periods and the assessment arrangements for the 2021 academic year.

The purpose of this TL001 is to inform you of the new assessment requirements for module PLC1501 for students registered for both semester periods.

Important! Note that there was a change to the assignment questions that was provided in Tutorial letter 101. The assignments below should be completed by ALL students registered for PLC1501 – hence the students from semester 1 and 2.

Be informed that the lecturer for this module also changed. The lecturer's contact information is provided below.

1.1 Assessment criteria

There are two compulsory assignments for this module. Both are compulsory for purposes of admission to the examination and a semester mark. They should be submitted on or before the due dates. In order to be admitted to the examination you have to submit assignment 01 in good time. Assignments 01 and 02 will jointly contribute towards a semester mark that counts 20% towards your final mark. Your semester mark will be calculated on the basis of the marks you have obtained in each of the two assignments. The semester mark (20%), together with your examination mark (80%) will thus be used to calculate your final mark for this module. It is important to submit the assignments on time. See section 8.2 for the due dates and the unique numbers of assignments. Unfortunately, no extension for late submissions can be granted. This is due to requirements from the Department of Higher Education and Training that have to be met.

1.2 Assessment plan

Two compulsory assignments must be completed for marking. These will determine your admission to the examination, as well as your year mark. Please be aware of the changes of the submission dates. Both assignments consist of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and all answers can be found in the study guide.

Summative assessment – the examination dates have also changed. Please note that the examination is no longer a written portfolio, but a Multiple Choice Question examination. Further communication regarding the examination will follow closer to the examinations.

1.3 Assignment numbers

1.3.1 General assignment numbers

Assignment 1 – Multiple Choice Questions formative assessment

Assignment 2 – Multiple Choice Questions formative assessment

Assignment 3 – Multiple Choice Questions summative assessment

1.3.2 Unique assignment numbers

Assignment 1 – 539995

Assignment 2 – 651681

Assignment 3 – Multiple Choice Questions – **No longer a written portfolio**

1.4 Assignment due dates

Please note that assignment dates have changed.

Assignment 1 – 30 April 2021

Assignment 2 – 2 July 2021

Assignment 3 – To be confirmed.

1.5 Submission of assignments

For detailed information and requirements as far as assignments are concerned, see *Study @ Unisa*, which you have received with your tutorial matter.

Please submit your assignments electronically via myUnisa by adhering to the following instructions:

- Go to myUnisa.
- Log in with your student number and password.
- Select the module from the 'module bar'.
- Click on assignments in the left menu.
- Click on the assignment number you wish to submit.
- Follow the instructions.

If you should experience any trouble with submitting your assignment, please contact the lecturer. Alternative arrangements will then be arranged.

1.6 The assignments**COMPULSORY ASSIGNMENTS
ASSIGNMENT 01****Unique Numbers****Closing Dates****539995/797218****06 April 2021**

Question 1**Complete the following sentence by selecting the correct option.**

A _____ is a set of identifiable and interdependent units interacting with each other.

1. society
2. system
3. political party
4. government

Question 2**Select the correct option.**

The procedures for making political decisions involves three kinds of decisions. These are...

1. All decisions that are made are authoritative decisions.
2. Consultative decisions, authoritative decisions, participative decisions.
3. Authoritarian decisions, participative decisions, political decisions.
4. Participative decisions, authoritarian decisions, consultative decisions.

Question 3**Select the correct option to complete the following statement.**

Political decisions have the highest status in society because _____

1. they are not subordinate to other decisions.
2. they cannot be enforced.
3. they are the law.
4. they only apply to a part of society.

Question 4

Indicate which of the following is INCORRECT.

For a state to exist, it requires_____

1. authorities.
2. a demarcated territory.
3. a democratic system.
4. a permanent population.

Question 5

Indicate which of the following concerning the origin of politics is the most applicable to the following statement:

Politics resulted from the strong dominating the weak.

1. Supernaturalistic explanation
2. Rationalistic explanation
3. Supernaturalistic and rationalistic explanation
4. Naturalistic explanation

Question 6

Select the correct option that is applicable to the stände state.

1. The stände state is a specific relationship where feudal units were linked to a variety of groupings in Middle Age cities.
2. The stände state is not a state but a political and socio-economic arrangement in Europe.
3. The stände state saw the centralisation of power by the monarch.
4. The stände state caused the state-building phase to be completed.

Question 7

Indicate which of the following options are incorrect.

Regulating society_____

1. is a policy matter to which government have decided to pay attention.
2. entails all the do's and don'ts of the individuals in a society.
3. is government enforcing policies on society and disregarding society's freedoms.
4. includes requirements that births, marriages and deaths have to be registered.

Question 8**Indicate the correct option.**

Which of the following theories regard politics as the result of people's dependency on society for their existence?

1. Naturalistic theory – according to Jean-Jacques Rousseau, a person can only be a person through other people.
2. Naturalistic theory – according to Thomas Hobbes, people are social beings, and therefore, society existed before the individual.
3. Naturalistic theory – according to Aristotle, people are social beings, and therefore society existed before the individual.
4. Naturalistic theory – according to Karl Marx, a person can only be a person through other people.

Question 9**Select the incorrect option.**

Which of the following statements regarding the state is incorrect?

1. The object 'state' can be viewed from different theoretical points of view.
2. The word 'state' has different meanings; therefore, it is important to ascertain the context wherein it is used.
3. The state has a permanent character, while authorities come and go.
4. The concept 'state' can be used interchangeable with government.

Question 10**True or false?**

A variation of the rationalistic explanation regards politics as a result of the strong dominating the weak.

1. True
2. False

Question 11**True or false?**

The constitution of the United States of America can be regarded as an example of a social contract.

1. True
2. False

Question 12

Select the correct option.

Which of the following statements refer to a political decision?

1. The Minister of Police gets his child charged and arrested for drunken driving.
2. The Chairperson of the Premier Soccer League has announced that because of the threat of COVID-19, domestic football matches will now be played without supporters.
3. The SABC had decided to increase television licence fees.
4. The President of the Republic of South Africa has announced that South African Airways will be financially rescued because of the role it plays in nation branding.

Question 13

Select the correct option.

Which of the following statements on the relationship between the state and nation is correct?

1. The majority of states in the world today are composed of homogenous nations.
2. Solidarity amongst nations living in a demarcated territory is a precondition for the existence of a state.
3. Any nation occupying a demarcated territory is obligated to the state.
4. The Khoisan are an example of a nation in the larger South African state.

Question 14

Select the correct option.

Political decision makers obtain _____ by means of legitimacy.

1. power
2. competency
3. authority
4. respect

Question 15

True or False?

Political decisions are made according to specific procedures for a part of society.

1. True
2. False

Question 16

Select the correct option.

The expression, “without interference from other authorities”, refers to_____

1. government
2. authority
3. absolutism
4. sovereignty

Question 17

True or False?

In a totalitarian society, there are few aspects of a person's life that are not regulated by political decisions.

1. True
2. False

Question 18

Select the correct option.

1. An apolitical society can be described as those who pursue positions of power and authority in society.
2. The powerful can be described as those who pursue positions of power and authority in society.
3. The power-seekers can be described as those who pursue positions of power and authority in society.
4. Politicians can be described as those who pursue positions of power and authority in society.

Question 19

Select the correct option.

The significance of the Treaty of Westphalia is_____

1. that it caused the beginning of the Thirty-Year War.
2. that it signalled the end of domination of the Holy Roman Empire.
3. that it increased the influence of religion in society.
4. Both a and b are correct.

Question 20

True or False?

The development of states in the world is still not complete – new states are still being created for a variety reasons.

1. True
2. False

COMPULSORY ASSIGNMENTS ASSIGNMENT 02

Unique Numbers

Closing Dates

651681/809652

02 July 2021

Question 1

Complete the following sentence by selecting the correct option.

Competency is _____

1. the legalised power given to authorities.
2. The opinion of members of society that persons with authority are entitled to obedience.
3. The power to make someone else do something he/she would otherwise not do.
4. The empowerment of persons to make authoritative decisions.

Question 2

Select the correct option.

To which view of the state would the following statement refer?

“A state’s role cannot be limited to that of neutral referee but as a role-player in society as well”.

1. Neo-classical view.
2. Pluralistic view.
3. Minimalistic view.
4. Utopian view.

Question 3

Select the correct option to complete the following statement.

A democracy is rule by _____

1. philosopher kings.
2. the people.
3. people who only seek power.
4. people who seek ambitious wealth.

Question 4

Indicate which of the following statements is INCORRECT.

1. 'Government' refers to the role players who authoritatively assign values to society.
2. A traditional form of government refers to a person or persons who allocate scarce resources to a group, family or tribe.
3. The legislative, executive and judicial branches of government already existed, in one form or another, in traditional forms of government.
4. A traditional form of government refers to a person or persons who exercise authority on behalf of a group family or tribe.

Question 5

Indicate which of the following concerning the origin of politics is the most applicable to the following statement:

Politics resulted from the strong dominating the weak.

5. Supernaturalistic explanation
6. Rationalistic explanation
7. Supernaturalistic and rationalistic explanation
8. Naturalistic explanation

Question 6

True or false?

Politics has to do with decisions that authorities make for an entire society, according to specific procedures and on a variety of matters.

1. True
2. False

Question 7

Select the correct option.

Which of the following options represents a liberal tradition of decision-making?

1. Individuals in a society can make few decisions themselves.
2. Aspects of individual life are fully regulated by political decisions.
3. Individuals have a great deal of freedom to decide on matters for themselves.
4. Individuals are never consulted when decisions are made on aspects that affect their lives.

Question 8

True or false?

A definition is a sentence explaining what a certain concept entails, or how a specific term is used.

1. True
2. False

Question 9

Select the correct option to complete the sentence.

The part of the coastline, continental shelves and part of the sea up to the distance of 12 nautical miles is called the _____ of the state.

1. inner tidal area
2. near coastal area
3. exclusive fishing zone
4. territorial waters

Question 10

Select the correct option.

A democratic system is an essential criterion for the existence of a state.

1. False, because in the absence of democracy the risk of state instability is lower.
2. False, all a state requires to exist is a demarcated territory and sovereignty since authority is less significant.
3. False, because some authoritarian states are administratively functional and are recognised within international platforms like the United Nations.
4. False, since a democratic state does not belong to the international community of states needed to maintain global peace.

Question 11

Select the correct option to complete the following statement.

The _____ and the _____ carry out political decisions.

1. executive authority and the legislature
2. executive authority and the government
3. executive authority and the bureaucracy
4. legislature and the bureaucracy

Question 12

True or false?

A theocracy is known to be a religious form of government.

1. True
2. False

Question 13

Select the incorrect option.

Which of the following statements concerning theocracies are incorrect?

1. Very few states are governed essentially as religious entities in the modern era.
2. Religion provides the ideological glue for keeping the state and its institutions together.
3. The ancient kingdom of Tibet was a theocracy until 1965.
4. It is not possible for smaller theocracies to occur in nation states.

Question 14

Select the incorrect option.

Which of the following statements regarding the nature of politics is incorrect?

1. Political decisions are the highest decisions in a particular society.
2. Political decisions on a sub-society level have the same or higher status than decisions made on national level.
3. Political decisions are made according to specific procedures for society as a whole.
4. Political decisions are made for and affect society as a whole.

Question 15

Indicate the incorrect options.

Which of the following statements about revolutions is incorrect?

1. The overthrow of authorities through revolutions can lead to new states.
2. The development of states through revolutionary means can result in the establishment of a new government.
3. Revolutions occur when authorities are overthrown through non-violent means.
4. Revolutions can be created by extensive unrest amongst groups in certain pockets of society.

Question 16

Select the incorrect option.

Which of the following statements on power, legitimacy and authority is incorrect?

1. A legitimate political authority has the right to exercise power over a particular society.
2. A political authority may have legitimacy, but not necessarily possess the power.
3. The exercise of power is not bounded by the legitimacy of a political authority.
4. For a political authority to have legitimacy, it must possess power.

Question 17

Select the correct option.

The following statement describes one criterion for the existence of a state.

“Before Namibia became independent, it was not a state because it was under the control of the South African government”.

1. The existence of a state as a protectorate.
2. The existence of a state through treaties.
3. The existence of a state through revolution.
4. The existence of state through the abolishment of colonialism.

Question 18

Indicate the correct option to complete the following statement.

Power is _____

1. defined as legalised and legitimate competency.
2. the ability to make and enforce decisions.
3. implies empowering a person to carry out a specific action.
4. society accepting a government's exercise of power and competency.

Question 19

True or false?

When international or national events lead to political changes in a country, it sometimes happens that certain regions obtain their independence in this way, as what occurred with the Ukraine.

1. True
2. False

Question 20

Select the correct option.

Ultimately, for whom are political decisions taken?

1. The executive authority of a country.
2. Parastatal companies
3. The National Council of Provinces (NCOP)
4. The members of the South African citizenry.

1.7 Other assessment methods

There are no other assessment methods linked to this module.

1.8 The examination

The examination will be a Multiple Choice Question examination. Further information regarding the examination will follow.

In closing, if there are any further enquiries about the module contents, please contact me.

Kind regards,

Alexandra Claassen

Email: classap@unisa.ac.za

Tel: 012 429 6433