CHAPTER 2: Political Philosophy and Its Offshoot: Political Science

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Plato was interested mainly in answering _____.
a. abstract, normative questions about how government should work
b. analytic, data-driven questions about how government works in real life
c. abstract, normative questions about how to spread democracy
d. analytic, data-driven questions about the aristocracy's resistance to democracy

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 2.1: Describe the main political ideas of four key figures in ancient political philosophy.
Topic: Political Theory in the Ancient World: Plato, Aristotle, and Contemporaries
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

2. Plato's political commentary centered around _____.
a. categorizing different types of government
b. making a realist analysis of international relations
c. arguing for a particular version of the ideal society
d. understanding the evolution of democratic government

Correct Answer: c
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Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

3. The word politics comes from a word meaning _____.
a. pertaining to the people
b. pertaining to the city
c. pertaining to the country
d. pertaining to freedom

Correct Answer: b
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4. Aristotle would most likely have labeled which of these as "perverted"?

a. A one-party state that allows anyone in society to become a party member
b. A democracy with a high level of competition among different interest groups
c. A socialist government that enacts policies aimed at benefiting the working class
d. A monarchy with a ruler who balances the interests of the various segments of society

Correct Answer: c
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Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

5. Aristotle and Plato would differ most strongly in their answers to which of these questions?
a. Should the rulers of a nation be virtuous or amoral?
b. Should influence in government be balanced across social groups or assigned to certain leaders?
c. Can human beings improve the political system through collective action?
d. Does a tyrannical government serve or undermine the interests of the people?

Correct Answer: b
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Difficulty Level: Difficult
Skill Level: Analyze It

6. According to Plato, a just city would be ruled by _____.
a. gentleman-scholars
b. elected representatives
c. a council of elders
d. philosopher-kings

Correct Answer: d
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Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

7. According to Plato, the vast majority of people in society seek _____.
a. glory
b. liberty
c. money
d. truth

Correct Answer: c

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Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

8. Plato's ideal city would include which of these modern-sounding elements?
a. Universal health care
b. Universal employment
c. Universal suffrage
d. Universal education

Correct Answer: d
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Topic: Political Theory in the Ancient World: Plato, Aristotle, and Contemporaries
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

9. Which of these was a feature of the leadership class in Plato's ideal city?
a. Wealth to prevent internal competition
b. Strict military disciple to keep control over the warrior class
c. Housing with the masses to keep them connected to the people
d. Communal living and shared child-rearing to discourage favoritism

Correct Answer: d
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Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

10. Which statement explains Aristotle's view on why people created cities and governments?
a. People are "political animals" who instinctively want to live together.
b. People are "philosopher-kings" who need rules to create an ideal society.
c. People are "political animals" who need rules to keep them from anarchy.
d. People are "philosopher-kings" who instinctively want to rule over others.

Correct Answer: a
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Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

11. Which pair of questions did Aristotle ask when creating his categories of government types?
a. Who is in charge? How selfishly do they govern?
b. Who is in charge? How fairly are they chosen?
c. How powerful is the state? How are the leaders educated?
d. How powerful is the state? How do leaders maintain order?

Correct Answer: a
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Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

12. For Aristotle, which of these is the **least** desirable form of government?
a. Aristocracy
b. Democracy
c. Kingship
d. Polity

Correct Answer: b
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Difficulty Level: Difficult
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

13. Aristotle believed that the rights a person enjoyed should be in proportion to his _____.
a. virtue
b. honor
c. wisdom
d. generosity

Correct Answer: a
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Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

14. Who did Aristotle believe should have the most influence over the government?
a. People of wealth and noble birth
b. People who represent the masses
c. People with education and property
d. People believed to have divine authority

Correct Answer: c

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Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

15. According to Aristotle, what is likely to happen to an aristocracy?
a. It becomes an oligarchy.
b. It introduces democracy.
c. It dissolves into anarchy.
d. It evolves into a monarchy.

Correct Answer: a
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Difficulty Level: Moderate
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16. Which of these is Aristotle's understanding of tyranny?
a. It results from rule by the military elite.
b. It brings rule by the masses in their uneducated interest.
c. It occurs when the wealthy rule only in the interest of the elite.
d. It is rule by a single person governing only for his own benefit.

Correct Answer: d
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17. What was one reason Aristotle argued for a large, politically powerful middle class?
a. An educated middle class would be virtuous.
b. An educated middle class would accept rule by philosopher-kings.
c. A prosperous middle class would support the efforts of the military to create a strong state.
d. A prosperous middle class would be too busy to need to get involved in the daily business of the state.

Correct Answer: a
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18. Aristotle's philosophy differed from Plato's in which of these ways?
a. Aristotle focused on abstract ideals, while Plato focused more on reality.
b. Aristotle focused on government organization, while Plato focused more on philosophical ideals.
c. Aristotle advocated for good leadership, while Plato mainly warned against the dangers of poor leadership.
d. Aristotle advocated for traditional families, while Plato mainly warned against the dangers of favoritism.

Correct Answer: b
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Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

19. The ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius advocated rule by _____.
a. a virtuous emperor
b. a wise religious leader
c. a prosperous middle class
d. a body of elected representatives

Correct Answer: a
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Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

20. Kautilya argued that leaders should focus on which of these before considering virtue?
a. What is morally ideal
b. What is most popular
c. What is realistic and effective
d. What is in line with divine commands

Correct Answer: c
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Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

21. Which of these is an element of ancient philosophy that **most directly** influenced the development of modern democracy?
a. Kautilya's concept of pragmatic leadership

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b. Confucius' concept of virtuous rulers consulting the good of all
c. Aristotle's concept of representing different groups of society in government
d. Plato's concept of different social classes taking an appropriate role in society

Correct Answer: c
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Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Analyze It

22. Which of these is a similarity between Kautilya and Machiavelli?
a. Both advised powerful rulers.
b. Both began as natural scientists.
c. Both spent their lives ruling a state.
d. Both had an optimistic view of human nature.

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 2.2: Describe the key ideas of Machiavelli and the three strands of social contract theory.
Topic: Political Theory from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment: Machiavelli to Rousseau
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

23. According to Machiavelli, rulers need to do which of these to provide stability and prosperity for their people?
a. Give their personal wealth to the state
b. Act according to their moral intuitions
c. Exercise power without moral constraints
d. Listen to a diversity of well-educated advisors

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 2.2: Describe the key ideas of Machiavelli and the three strands of social contract theory.
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Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

24. Which of these sayings forms the core idea of The Prince?
a. The ends justify the means.
b. Never cut what can be untied.
c. Ask what you can do for your country.
d. You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

Correct Answer: a

Learning Objective: LO 2.2: Describe the key ideas of Machiavelli and the three strands of social contract theory.
Topic: Political Theory from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment' Machiavelli to Rousseau
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

25. Which of the following actions is most likely to be taken by a Machiavellian leader?
a. Conspiring to assassinate a rival
b. Promoting democracy in other nations
c. Sharing wives and children with other rulers
d. Maintaining a small peacekeeping force rather than a full army

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 2.2: Describe the key ideas of Machiavelli and the three strands of social contract theory.
Topic: Political Theory from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment: Machiavelli to Rousseau
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

26. Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau all based their political philosophies on which of these concepts?
a. Civic virtue
b. The state of nature
c. Divine right of kings
d. The balance of power

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 2.2: Describe the key ideas of Machiavelli and the three strands of social contract theory.
Topic: Political Theory from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment: Machiavelli to Rousseau
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

27. Which of these **most strongly** influenced the ideas in Hobbes' *Leviathan* during the English Civil War, which may have informed his vision of "war of all against all"?
a. The Renaissance
b. The Reformation
c. The French Revolution
d. The English Civil War

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 2.2: Describe the key ideas of Machiavelli and the three strands of social contract theory.
Topic: Political Theory from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment: Machiavelli to Rousseau
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

28. Hobbes viewed absolutist monarchy as _____.
a. preferable to chaos
b. a prelude to democracy
c. beneficial to the proletariat
d. equivalent to the state of nature

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 2.2: Describe the key ideas of Machiavelli and the three strands of social contract theory.
Topic: Political Theory from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment: Machiavelli to Rousseau
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

29. According to Hobbes, after a social contract is formed, the "war of all against all" _____.
a. is completely eliminated
b. continues between nations
c. continues among political parties
d. is confined to absolute monarchies

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 2.2: Describe the key ideas of Machiavelli and the three strands of social contract theory.
Topic: Political Theory from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment: Machiavelli to Rousseau
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

30. Which statement describes how John Locke portrayed absolutist monarchy?
a. Its problems were preferable to those of anarchy.
b. It was worse for individuals than the state of nature.
c. It could elevate the economic status of the proletariat.
c. It preserved natural rights to life, liberty, and property.

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 2.2: Describe the key ideas of Machiavelli and the three strands of social contract theory.
Topic: Political Theory from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment: Machiavelli to Rousseau
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

31. What was Rousseau's view on human nature?
a. People are warlike until they are tamed by society.
b. People are naturally good until they are ruined by society.
c. People are non-moral until they have social rules to follow.
d. People are fundamentally sinful even in a highly-regulated society.

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 2.2: Describe the key ideas of Machiavelli and the three strands of social contract theory.
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Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

32. Rousseau believed that government usually promotes and reinforces _____.
a. racial diversity
b. individual liberty
c. nationalist fervor
d. material inequality

Correct Answer: d
Learning Objective: LO 2.2: Describe the key ideas of Machiavelli and the three strands of social contract theory.
Topic: Political Theory from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment: Machiavelli to Rousseau
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

33. Which statement explains why the rights of women and racial minorities were generally left out of political philosophy until the twentieth century?
a. The most influential philosophers were white men who took their privilege for granted.
b. Women and racial minorities had already started their own branch of political philosophy.
c. Absolutist monarchs had banned all advocacy for the rights of women and racial minorities.
d. Enlightenment thinkers had expected that the term "mankind" would be understood to include women and racial minorities.

Correct Answer: a
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Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

34. An explanation of a suicide bombing that focuses on the bomber's motivations and political views would likely be a _____ explanation.
a. institutional or rational-material
b. institutional or psychological
c. ideational or psychological
d. ideational or rational-material

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 2.3: Describe the core concepts of early rational-material, institutional, and ideational theorizing.
Topic: The Emergence of Social Science in the Nineteenth Century

Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

35. Political thinkers in the Enlightenment tended to take a _____ view on society.
a. normative
b. revolutionary
c. rational-material
d. institutional-ideational

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 2.3: Describe the core concepts of early rational-material, institutional, and ideational theorizing.
Topic: The Emergence of Social Science in the Nineteenth Century
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

36. Adam Smith contributed to the development of the classical liberal view by arguing that _____.
a. the social contract does not apply to relations between states
b. wealth had to be evenly distributed for the economy to function optimally
c. self-interested individuals operating in a free market context benefit society with their greed
d. democratic governments have a responsibility to promote democracy in non-democratic nations

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 2.3: Describe the core concepts of early rational-material, institutional, and ideational theorizing.
Topic: The Emergence of Social Science in the Nineteenth Century
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

37. Modernization theory suggests that open markets _____.
a. can be dangerous for fragile industrializing economies
b. lead to prosperity, limited government, and democracy
c. do not usually exist outside of social-democratic nations
d. create economic winners and losers, deepening inequality

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 2.3: Describe the core concepts of early rational-material, institutional, and ideational theorizing.
Topic: The Emergence of Social Science in the Nineteenth Century
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

38. Karl Marx's ideas about the nature and effect of property rights **most closely** resemble those of which other philosopher?

a. Locke
b. Machiavelli
c. Rousseau
d. Smith

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 2.3: Describe the core concepts of early rational-material, institutional, and ideational theorizing.
Topic: The Emergence of Social Science in the Nineteenth Century
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

39. According to Karl Marx, capitalists are morally corrupt because they _____.
a. prefer monarchy over democracy
b. ignore the terms of the social contract
c. make money without doing any real work themselves
d. support the middle class in order to avoid a socialist revolution

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 2.3: Describe the core concepts of early rational-material, institutional, and ideational theorizing.
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Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

40. Match the Enlightenment thinker with the variant of rational-material thought most closely associated with his ideas.
a.   Locke: liberal variant
        Rousseau: Marxist variant
        Hobbes: realist variant

b.   Locke: Marxist variant
        Rousseau: realist variant
        Hobbes: liberal variant

c.   Locke: realist variant
        Rousseau: liberal variant
        Hobbes: Marxist variant

d.   Locke: liberal variant
        Rousseau: realist variant
        Hobbes: Marxist variant

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 2.3: Describe the core concepts of early rational-material, institutional, and ideational theorizing.

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Difficulty Level: Difficult
Skill Level: Analyze It

41. The liberal and Marxist approaches both have narratives about history that are based on _____.
a. movement towards a social revolution
b. the cyclical return of the state of nature
c. the inevitability of social and economic progress
d. the importance of raw power for building a just society

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 2.3: Describe the core concepts of early rational-material, institutional, and ideational theorizing.
Topic: The Emergence of Social Science in the Nineteenth Century
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

42. According to Tocqueville, which American institutions support the maintenance of a democratic system?
a. A weak federal government and a strong state religion
b. A powerful federal government and a generous welfare state
c. A decentralized federal government and a thriving civil society
d. A diverse federal government and a universal education system

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 2.3: Describe the core concepts of early rational-material, institutional, and ideational theorizing.
Topic: The Emergence of Social Science in the Nineteenth Century
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

43. Tocqueville expressed concerns that American society's focus on equality and majority rule would lead to _____.
a. economic upheavals
b. tasteless consumerism
c. ineffective government
d. religious fundamentalism

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 2.3: Describe the core concepts of early rational-material, institutional, and ideational theorizing.
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Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

44. Which statement describes a similarity between the works of Weber and Durkheim?
a. Both applied the principles of institutional analysis to the rise of both capitalism and democracy.
b. Both expressed concerns that Protestants are more likely than Catholics to favor a socialist revolution.
c. Both assumed that cultural norms are more important than the material landscape in shaping human behavior.
d. Both claimed that Protestants' focus on hard work as a path to eternal salvation led to dangerously unregulated capitalism.

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 2.3: Describe the core concepts of early rational-material, institutional, and ideational theorizing.
Topic: The Emergence of Social Science in the Nineteenth Century
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

45. Weber's view of authority was different from the views of previous thinkers because he made _____.
a. an analytic claim that governments need authority to survive in the long term
b. a normative claim that government authority should be used only as a last resort
c. a normative claim that liberal democracy is the ideal form of government authority
d. an analytic claim that raw power is the only effective form of authority in international relations

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 2.3: Describe the core concepts of early rational-material, institutional, and ideational theorizing.
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Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

46. Modernization theory assumes which of the following?
a. Democracy is an unusual outcome of political evolution.
b. Socialism is the best political system for the poorest nations.
c. Economic development will bring greater economic equality.
d. Class warfare will become more common as capitalism spreads.

Correct Answer: c
Learning Objective: LO 2.4: Identify several key shifts that clarified the explanatory alternatives in political science today.
Topic: The Emergence and Diversification of Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

47. The constructivist view is premised on the idea that _____.

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a. collective action is harder to explain than individual action
b. the dominant cultural principles of political society evolve through time
c. human nature provides us with a set of correct normative judgments
d. people have a tendency to disengage from politics when they are doing well financially

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 2.4: Identify several key shifts that clarified the explanatory alternatives in political science today.
Topic: The Emergence and Diversification of Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

48. Which of the following is an example of "groupthink" that might occur in a university setting?
a. The leaders of the student government trying to do what they think is most popular.
b. The members of a fraternity all accepting that athletics are more important than academics.
c. A group of students protesting against an increase in tuition and fees done without student input.
d. The professors largely accepting the idea that their main purpose is to prepare students to think for themselves.

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 2.4: Identify several key shifts that clarified the explanatory alternatives in political science today.
Topic: The Emergence and Diversification of Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

49. Which of these is a major drawback of using rational-choice theory to explain a political situation?
a. Rational choice theory assumes that everyone will make clear and well-reasoned decisions, which is not realistic.
b. Rational choice theory involves the use of complex modeling software, which few political scientists understand.
c. Rational choice theory assumes that everyone has equal resources, which only applies to a limited set of circumstances.
d. Rational choice theory requires putting experimental subjects through a complex simulation, which can be both expensive and time-consuming.

Correct Answer: a
Learning Objective: LO 2.4: Identify several key shifts that clarified the explanatory alternatives in political science today.
Topic: The Emergence and Diversification of Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

50. Suppose that Country Z is developing its economy rapidly and expanding its international trade. Modernization theory would predict which of these outcomes for Country Z?
a. An end to invisible hand outcomes
b. A strengthening of democratic institutions
c. An increase in government regulation of the economy
d. A decline in activism among members of the working class

Correct Answer: b
Learning Objective: LO 2.4: Identify several key shifts that clarified the explanatory alternatives in political science today.
Topic: The Emergence and Diversification of Political Science
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Essay

51. Identify and describe Aristotle's six forms of government, and explain why he considered certain forms positive, certain forms negative, and one form ideal.

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Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

52. Compare and contrast how Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau saw the "state of nature." Be sure to consider how their different views of the state of nature affected their ideas about the social contract and the purpose of government.

Learning Objective: LO 2.2: Describe the key ideas of Machiavelli and the three strands of social contract theory.
Topic: Political Theory from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment: Machiavelli to Rousseau
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

53. Explain how Machiavelli's approach to politics in *The Prince* differed from Plato and Aristotle's writings about politics. Compare and contrast how Plato, Aristotle, and Machiavelli might view the interactions between countries today.

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Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

54. Explain the core logic of a rational-material approach to politics that is based in the thinking of Karl Marx. Be sure to consider why Marx felt that workers could not use democratic elections to improve their position in the material landscape.

Learning Objective: LO 2.3: Describe the core concepts of early rational-material, institutional, and ideational theorizing.
Topic: The Emergence of Social Science in the Nineteenth Century
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

55. How does a thriving civil society support democracy and strong individual freedoms? In your response, include some of Tocqueville's observations from his visit to America.

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Topic: The Emergence of Social Science in the Nineteenth Century
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know