

Answer one from each section:

HISTORY

1. Compare the views of two thinkers in the history of political theory (Plato, Hobbes, Goldman, Nietzsche, Wollstonecraft, etc.) on a political issue central to their writings (equality, citizenship, morality, education, freedom, etc.). Pick theorists who make for interesting comparisons, and who you are not using in other sections. Describe and explain the common ground and the differences between them, considering the issue as thoroughly as you are able. Conclude with some thoughts on how significant you think the similarities vs. the differences are.
2. Discuss briefly **two** of the following core concepts in Marx's political theory:
 - (a) the new features and changes that capitalism brings about as it radically transforms the traditional European feudal society, here including capitalism's achievements and limitations, as Marx develops them in the *Communist Manifesto* (1848),
 - (b) the four forms of alienation, as seen in his famous 1844 essay "Alienated Labor,"
 - (c) the somewhat related notion of commodity fetishism from chapter one of *Capital*,
 - (d) the theory of value, also in *Capital*, including the concepts of use value, exchange value, and surplus value,
 - (e) the model of a new (socialist) society that he envisions in "The Civil War in France" (1871), his sketch of the Paris Commune.

EPISTEMOLOGY

1. According to Freud's *Civilization and Its Discontents*, there are two basic psychological drives that govern human behavior. What are they and how do they manifest themselves at the conscious level of everyday life? Also, why and how does civilization repress them, and what are the consequences of this repression? Describe the following key Freudian concepts: (a) the reality principle, (b) the pleasure principle, (c) sublimation, and (d) love as our source of greatest pleasure and also greatest pain. Be sure to relate each of them not only to the individual but also to society. What is Freud's overall estimate of the future of humanity?
2. Critically explore the debate about a "canon" in political theory. What purpose(s) does a canon serve? On what grounds have thinkers been included and excluded? On what grounds might someone challenge these criteria? Use examples of specific theoretical writings to illustrate your arguments.
3. A student who is majoring in international relations is considering a minor field in political theory. What can you tell this student about the importance of political theory to the study of international relations, both historically and today? Use examples of specific political theorists to illustrate your arguments.

CONTEMPORARY

1. Summarize and discuss **two** of the following sets of writings by Foucault.
 - a. In his 1980s interview “Truth and Power,” Foucault attacks two notions commonly held in radical social theory, repression and ideology. How does he do so? How does power connect to truth, according to Foucault?
 - b. His analysis of the rise of the modern mental institution, including some of the historical stages leading to this.
 - c. His analysis of the rise of disciplinary power in the prison, the military, and the school, including how these exemplify the “microphysics of power.” How do issues such as “docile bodies,” the “gaze,” medical and scientific knowledge, and normalizing judgment, come in here?
 - d. His analysis of modern sexuality and sexual repression. What is the “repressive hypothesis” and why does he try to refute it? How do prohibitions on sex also serve to sexualize? How does medicalization of homosexuality relate to the concept of the “normal”?

2. Pick a theme that received considerable and distinctive treatment in the last century (the body, ideology, identity, peace, power, etc.). Compare the views of two contemporary political theorists on this subject, choosing two from different political traditions (postmodernism, feminism, neo-Marxism, critical theory, etc.).