

# POL170 Political Science

Overview (09/09)

## General Information:

|                       |  |   |  |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|
| Exam Title:           | Political Science  | Policies and Procedures:                      | <a href="http://www.uexceltest.com/regguide">www.uexceltest.com/regguide</a> |
| Admin Code:           | POL170   | Exam Prerequisites:                           | None   |
| Exam Format:          | Multiple-Choice  | Additional Exam Requirements/Recommendations: | None   |
| Exam Length:          | 2 Hours, 120 Questions   |   |  |
| Exam Credit Hrs:      | 3 Semester Hrs - Lower Level   |   |  |
| Exam Texts:           | <a href="http://www.uexceltest.com/bookstore">www.uexceltest.com/bookstore</a> |   |  |
| Additional Materials: | Content Guide, Practice Exam   |   |  |

**Exam Description:** The UExcel examination in Political Science measures knowledge and understanding of the material typically taught in a one-semester, three-credit, lower-level course in political science. The content of the examination corresponds with introductory course offerings such as introduction to political science, comparative law, and international relations. The examination tests for a knowledge of facts and terminology, an understanding of concepts and theories, and the student's ability to apply this knowledge and understanding in an analysis of politics, government, and world affairs.

## Exam Outcomes:

After you have successfully worked your way through the recommended study materials, you should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the difference between politics and political science
- recognize the common theories and ideologies used in political science
- differentiate the concepts of nation, state, country, and government
- differentiate the concepts of democracy, totalitarianism, and authoritarianism and relate them to governmental regimes
- demonstrate an understanding of political culture and its relationship to the institutions of government
- recognize how political and legal processes and institutions differ among nation-states
- demonstrate an understanding of the basic workings of the international political system
- demonstrate an understanding of how unconventional political activity, including violence and terrorism, is exercised

## Exam Content Areas:

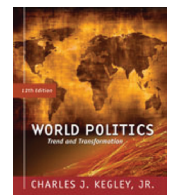
1. Basic Terms and Concepts of Political Science (10%)
2. Political Theories and Ideologies (15%)
3. Comparative Government (30%)
4. Comparative Law and Policy (20%)
5. International Relations (25%)

## Recommended Resources:

Roskin, M., et al. (2008). *Political science: An introduction* (10th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. ISBN-13: 9780132425766

Shively, W.P. (2008). *Power and choice: An introduction to political science* (11th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN-13: 9780073403915

Kegley, C.W. Jr. (2009). *World politics: Trend and transformation* (12th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth CENGAGE Learning. ISBN-13: 9780495500193



UExcel Practice Exam for Political Science  
(visit [www.uexceltest.com/resources](http://www.uexceltest.com/resources))

## Sample Questions

1. What differentiates a state from a nation?

A state:

- is not a legal entity
- is not defined by territory
- possesses a common language
- can contain more than one ethnic group

2. Which term refers to attitudes about government that are widely shared by a country's citizenry?

- authority
- pluralism
- political culture
- political socialization

3. What do classical conservatives value most highly?

- order
- pluralism
- political culture
- political socialization

4. What is the primary goal of socialism?

- nation-building
- economic growth
- economic equality
- interracial harmony

5. What is the most common outcome of proportional representation?

- multi-party systems
- mixed-member systems
- non-ideological parties
- winner-take-all elections

6. Which government actions violate due process?

Government actions that are:

- arbitrary
- inefficient
- inflexible
- radical

7. How does English common law (case law) differ from the continental European (Napoleonic) code law?

English common law:

- presumes guilt
- is based on statutes
- relies on judge-made precedent
- is derived from specific religious principles

8. What do market mechanisms typically avoid considering?

- externalities
- consumption
- personal choice
- resource scarcity

9. What is an indicator of globalization?

- political balkanization
- strengthening of traditions
- strengthening of sovereignty
- growth of multinational corporations

10. Which type of polarity best describes the international system during the Cold War?

- nonpolar
- unipolar
- bipolar
- multipolar