

Unit 3 - Absolutism and Constitutionalism

Practice Multiple Choice

Questions 1-3 refer to the following excerpt:

"He, the said Charles Stuart, for accomplishment of such his designs, and for the protection of himself and his adherents in his and their wicked practices, to the same end has traitorously and maliciously levied war against the present Parliament and people therein represented, as with the circumstances of time and place is in the said charge more particularly set forth. He has hereby caused and procured many thousands of the free people of this nation to be slain; and by divisions, parties, and insurrections within this land, by invasions from foreign parts endeavored and procured by him, and by many other evil ways and means, he, the said Charles Stuart, has not only maintained and carried on the said war both by sea and land, but also has renewed, or caused to be renewed, the said war against the Parliament and good people of this nation in this present year 1648 in several counties and places in this kingdom in the charge specified; and he has for that purpose given his commission to his son the prince and others, whereby, besides multitudes of other persons, many such as were by the Parliament entrusted for the safety of this nation, being by him or his agents corrupted to the betraying of their trust, and revolting from the Parliament, have had entertainment and commission for the continuing and renewing of the war and hostility against the said Parliament and people.

"For all which treasons and crimes this court does adjudge that he, the said Charles Stuart, as a tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy to the good people of this nation, shall be put to death by the severing of his head from his body."

Parliament's Sentence of Charles I, 1649

- 1. Charles I's sentence in the passage was a result of the**
 - A. Glorious Revolution
 - B. The Defeat of the Spanish Armada
 - C. The 30 Years War
 - D. The English Civil War
- 2. Based on the document, what did Charles I violate with his actions?**
 - A. The Act of Supremacy
 - B. The Magna Carta
 - C. The English Bill of Rights
 - D. The Peace of Augsburg
- 3. Of the following, who would approve of the actions that Parliament took against Charles I?**
 - A. John Locke
 - B. Thomas Hobbes
 - C. Machiavelli
 - D. Erasmus

Questions 4-5 refer to the following excerpt:

“And so whoever has the legislative or supreme power of any commonwealth, is bound to govern by established standing laws, promulgated and known to the people, and not by extemporary decrees; by indifferent and upright judges, who are to decide controversies by those laws; and to employ the force of the community at home, only in the execution of such laws; or abroad to prevent the redress of foreign injuries, and secure the community from inroads and invasion. And all this to be directed to no other end but the peace, safety, and public good of the people.”

John Locke “The Consent of the Governed,” Second Treatise on Government (1690)

4. Based on what is written in this passage, which of the following would John Locke have supported and approved of?

- A. Louis XIV’s revocation of the Edict of Nantes
- B. Martin Luther’s 95 Theses
- C. Machiavelli’s philosophy in *The Prince*
- D. Charles I’s decision to dismiss Parliament

5. What event is John Locke responding to in this passage?

- A. The English Civil War
- B. The Restoration Period
- C. The Glorious Revolution
- D. The signing of the Magna Carta

Question 6 refers to the following excerpt:

"It is certain that nowhere in the world one can see troops comparable with the Prussians for beauty, cleanliness, and order. Although in drill, training, and marching much is forced and affected, nearly everything is useful and efficient. Besides, it must be admitted that the army and the troops lack nothing that is needed. The soldiers number 70,000, and every regiment has at least a hundred more men than the normal figure. The Arsenal is superabundantly provided with field artillery and siege artillery, and only the teams are missing. Moreover, there is such an enormous store of powder, shot, and shells as if a great war was threatening. In Berlin and all about Brandenburg one sees as many troops moving as one saw in Vienna during the last war against the Turks. All this activity is directed by the King in person, and only by him. Besides, he looks after the whole public administration in all its branches with such care and thoroughness that not a thaler [note: a monetary unit] is spent unless he has given his signature. Those who do not see it cannot believe that there is any man in the world, however intelligent and able he may be, who can settle so many things personally in a single day as Frederick William the First, who works from 3 o'clock in the morning till 10, and spends the rest of the day in looking after and drilling his army...."

Count von Seckendorf: On Frederick William I. Sechedorf was the Austrian Ambassador in Berlin during the reign of Frederick William I (r. 1713 – 1740)

6. Whose philosophy of Government is supported by this passage?

- A. John Locke
- B. Machiavelli
- C. Thomas Hobbes
- D. Thomas More

Questions 7-9 refer to the following excerpt:

It appears from all this that the person of the king is sacred, and that to attack him in any way is sacrilege. God has the kings anointed by his prophets with the holy function in like manner as he has bishops and altars anointed. But even without the external application in thus being anointed, they are by their very office the representatives of the divine majesty deputed by Providence of the execution of his purposes. Accordingly God calls Cyrus his anointed. "Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him." ...Kings should be guarded as holy things, and whosoever neglects to protect them is worthy of death....

...

But kings, although their power comes from on high, as has been said, should not regard themselves as masters of that power to use it at their pleasure...they must employ it with fear and self-restraint, as a thing coming from God and of which God will demand an account. "Hear, O kings, and take heed, understand, judges of the earth, lend your ears, ye who hold the peoples under your sway, and delight to see the multitude that surround you. It is God who gives you the power. Your strength comes from the Most High, who will question your works and penetrate the depths of your thoughts, for, being ministers of his kingdom, ye have not given righteous judgments nor have ye walked according to his will. He will straightway appear to you in a terrible manner, for to those who command is the heaviest punishment reserved. The humble and the weak shall receive mercy, but the mighty shall be mightily tormented. For God fears not the power of any one, because he made both great and small and he has care for both..."

Jacques-Benigne Bossuet, "Politics Drawn from the Very Words of Holy Scripture", 1679

7. Based on this passage, which of the following would Bossuet most likely disagree with?

- A. Machiavelli
- B. Absolutism
- C. Revolution
- D. Gallicanism

8. Which of the following religions would disagree with the government structure that Bossuet is describing in this passage?

- A. Anglican
- B. Calvinist
- C. Catholic
- D. Anabaptist

9. Whose monarchy is Bossuet supporting in this passage?

- A. Elizabeth I
- B. William and Mary
- C. Louis XIV
- D. Frederick William, the Great Elector