

School of Politics and Governance - Faculty of Social Sciences - HSE University



HSE GLOBAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION - 2021

'MODERN POLITICS':

TIPS TO PREPARE FOR THE COMPETITION



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QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS:

- 1) General issues.
- 2) Types of competition tasks. Giving some clues on how to deal with that.
- 3) A brief analysis of the examples.
- 4) Basic literature to prepare for the competition. Some technical issues.



GENERAL ISSUES

1. Competition is competition:

1.1. Be prepared (to achieve success it is needed to know **more** than any regular school could give you)

1.2. Be responsible (it takes time and energy to prepare)

1.3. Be honest (no cheating)

2. Beyond the competition:

2.1. Living in Russia

2.2. Meeting HSE University rules and values

2.3. Language and learning



USEFUL LINKS

1. Competition official web-site – Political Science major:

<https://olymp.hse.ru/en/inter/politics#pagetop>

2. Also there: Undergraduate Enrollment Opportunities:

<https://olymp.hse.ru/en/inter/opportunities>

3. Preparatory Programme:

<https://olymp.hse.ru/en/inter/opportunities>; <https://preparatory.hse.ru/en/>



TYPES OF TASKS

5 TYPES:

1. The canvas of the task is a regular situation. The text contains an episode described in *terms of political science*. Some of these notions are *misused*. You should point out these mistakes and ground your position (saying what the mistake is and why it is a mistake).
2. Several concepts are enlisted. You are to indicate an *extra one* and justify your choice.
3. Some elements are given (e.g. : a name of a politician, a political slogan, a date, an event, etc.), you need to correctly *match them* with each other.



TYPES OF TASKS

5 TYPES:

4. A graphic object (a symbol, a picture or any other) is shown. You are to identify it and answer the questions contextually related to this graphic element.

5. A fictional judgment of a famous political philosopher is given as a tweet in Twitter. You are encouraged to take the position of another philosopher and critically respond to the original post (also in Twitter format).



TASK № 1. NOTIONS AND ITS MISUSE

1. As a rule, this task is aimed to check out your skills to mark the differences between X and Y, where X and Y belong to the same type of categories such as forms of government, electoral systems, political regimes, ideologies, etc.
2. It is important to know not only abstract political categories, but deal with the examples of their implementation in practice as well.
3. Historical background could be important (e.g. democracy now and democracy in Ancient Greece and so on)

EXAMPLE. TASK №1

A student writes an article about a concept of the modern state to a magazine that popularize science. He writes *“The modern state had different forms: in Europe, it manifested itself both as the Hanseatic League, and as a community of all Christians headed by the Pope, and as Italian city-states, and before them - as Greek city-states... But most of all, such forms of the modern state as the empire and the nation-state are heard; the latter, in its essence, is a gigantic organization, the backbone of which is a colossal administrative and bureaucratic apparatus that permeates the entire society”*. His sister corrects him. And the student agrees.

- What is the most sufficient mistake?
- How to define ‘modern state’? What characteristics are used?
- Give few example of ‘classical’ empires and city-states. What Italian city-states are mentioned? When did they flourish?



TASK № 2. CHOOSE AND REMOVE AN EXTRA WORD

- 1) Pay attention to general idea – what concept unites all the notions.
- 2) Just one word is an extra notion. So test and try various combinations.
- 3) Don't forget to ground your final choice.
- 4) Textbooks (e.g. A. Heywood) provide lists of notions clarifying it.
- 5) Worth knowing basic classifications and typologies given in textbooks and other sources.

EXAMPLE: **input, decisions, support, pressure, feedback, environment**



TASK № 3. MATCHING

1. Knowledge of (world) history is likely to be required;
2. It is useful to know when and how different systems of ideas (ideologies) were embodied in political practice;
3. It is useful to know the most significant political symbols and slogans and keep in mind the historical context in which they were used;

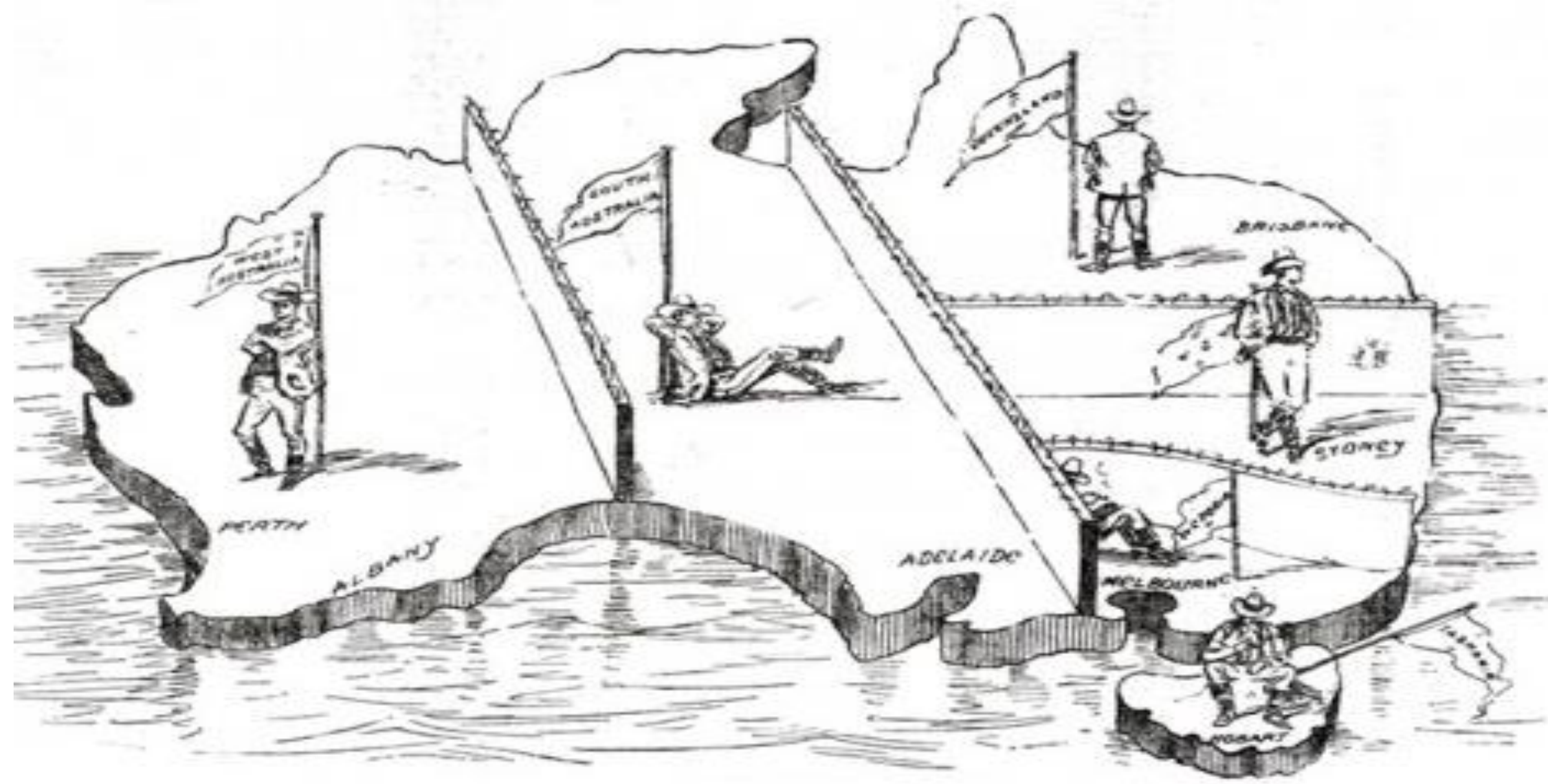
EXAMPLE. TASK №3

- Slogan	- Country	- Period	- Ideology
- ¡Cuba — sí! ¡Yankee — no!	- China	- 1983	- anticommunism
- Evil empire;	- USSR	- 1953	- communism
- Let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend;	- Cuba	- 1957	- pluralism
- The people and the party are one	- USA	- 1959	- antiamericanism



TASK № 4. ANALYZING A GRAPHIC FIGURE

1. It is important to know the most significant political symbols and the historical context of its use;
2. Probably (but not necessarily) the figure will be somehow connected with modern political events or processes: keep yourself informed of the most important events over the past two or three years;
3. Picture will be black and white;





TASK № 4. ANALYZING A GRAPHIC FIGURE

Questions related to the task:

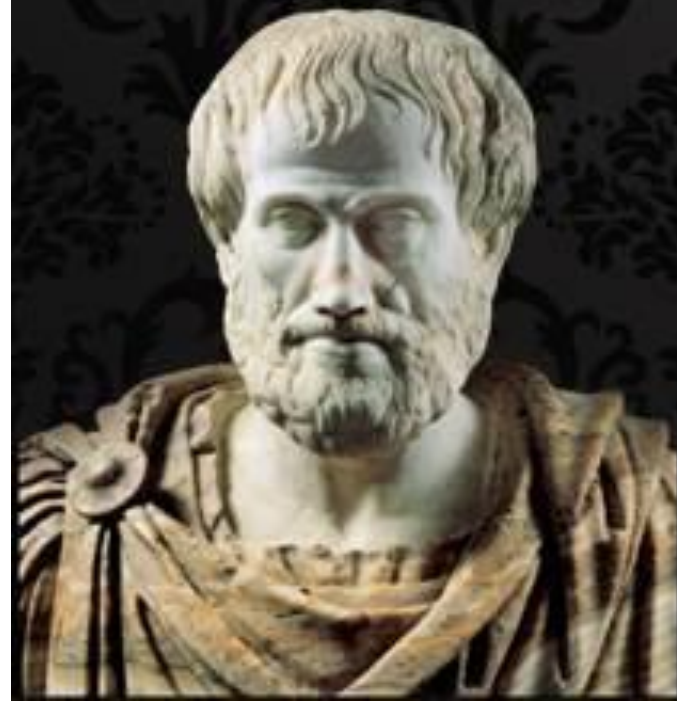
1. What the mode of government the picture displays?
2. What advantages do such a mode have compared to the other modes?
3. What modern countries share such a mode too? Name at least 3 examples.



TASK № 5. TWEETING AS A PHILOSOPHER

1. Keep track of the number of characters:
 - when preparing for the competition, practice formulating thoughts within a given number of characters;
 - in face-to-face format, participants will be able to use the draft to work out the wording before entering the answer form;
 - in the online format, the use of any extra means is prohibited, however, it is assumed that it will be possible to correct the answer in the form itself before the final download;
2. Essential controversy: to understand the meaning of the position of the "given" philosopher and to object her/him in the way that another outstanding philosopher could do;
3. Due to limitations: use style and concepts of the philosopher where possible and relevant;
4. You may choose ONE out of several proposed philosophers;
5. You may type just few tweets (usually no more than 4);

The most perfect political
community is one in which
the middle class is in
control, and outnumbers
both of the other classes.



Aristotle

*Greek philosopher and polymath
(384 BC - 322 BC)*

QuoteHD.com



IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE METHODOLOGICAL COMMISSION IN THE AREA OF "CONTEMPORARY POLITICS", PLEASE SEND THEM TO THE ADDRESS OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH OLYMPIAD - 2021:

interolymp@hse.ru

ALSO FOLLOW AND STUDY THE RELEVANT INFORMATION ON THE "CONTEMPORARY POLITICS" PAGE OF THE GLOBAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION WEBSITE



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