

DEMO VERSION OF COMPETITION ASSIGNMENTS

SOCIAL SCIENCES: PERSON. SOCIETY. STATE

10th Grade

Time needed to complete the tasks – 120 minutes

Maximum number of points – 100

Task 1 (0 - 15 points)

“Values just don’t fall from the sky.”

Explain this quote from the point of view of social sciences. What are values and how are they formed?

Task 2 (0 - 15 points)

Ivan lives in a city and has recently obtained his life insurance policy. Now, in case of his death, his children will receive his money that may be spent on education. Petr lives in a village and sees no point in having life insurance. The money that he could have spent on life insurance goes to presents for neighbours. Petr believes his children will be fine even if he dies.

Explain Petr’s thinking. Who performs the functions of insurance agencies in villages?

Task 3 (0- 20 points)

Famous football player Cristiano Ronaldo has appeared in many commercials and videos. His face has been all over the billboards.

Why do manufacturers want celebrities to advertise their products? Who are those celebrities for potential customers? What concept used in social sciences can explain the influence of celebrities on potential customers?

Task 4 (0 - 15 points)

There are two methods that are used to analyze the feasibility of project implementation. These are the **cost-benefit analysis** and the **cost-utility analysis**. The former compares costs and monetary benefits and the latter compares costs and results in the form of change in status of the project beneficiary.

Answer the following questions:

- 1) *Which of the two methods is likely to be used in private and public sectors of the economy? Explain your answer.*
 - 2) *What types of products have more beneficiaries? Who is the main beneficiary of public (state) and private commercial projects?*
 - 3) *What other organizations, besides the governmental and the commercial ones, can implement customer-related projects? Give examples of such projects.*
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Task 5 (0 - 20 points)

Many experts believe that local self-government is the closest thing to democracy. According to the European Charter of Local Self-Government adopted in 1985, local authorities must have political, administrative, and financial independence from public authorities.

Answer the following questions:

- 1) *Why do you think local governing bodies are called “the closest thing to democracy?”*
 - 2) *Does your country abide by the general principles of local self-government listed in the European Charter of Local Self-Government? Do the local governing bodies in your country have political, administrative, and financial independence from public authorities?*
 - 3) *Why do you think it’s important for local governing bodies to have political, administrative, and financial independence from public authorities?*
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Task 6 (0 - 15 points)

Many authors believe that state authority (“administration”) always gravitates towards having bigger influence over the economy and the society. This is primarily due to its inherent properties like large size, ubiquity, strict hierarchy, economic power, and the presence of necessary information and means of coercion.

Answer the following questions:

- 1) *What specific tools can be used to limit state authority? Name at least 3 methods that may be used to limit state authority and explain how exactly they are going to limit “administration”.*
- 2) *Name one successful and unsuccessful historical example when attempts were made to limit state authority. Briefly describe what happened.*
