

DEMO VERSION OF COMPETITION ASSIGNMENTS
SOCIAL SCIENCES: PERSON. SOCIETY. STATE

11th Grade

Time needed to complete the tasks – 120 minutes
Maximum number of points – 100

Task 1 (0 - 15 points)

What is considered excessive and necessary depends on what your neighbour has and you do not.

Explain this quote from the point of view of social sciences. Do you think it's fair to judge a person's social status based on the objective criteria? If yes, then why? If no, what other criteria may be used?

Task 2 (0 - 15 points)

Ivan and Petr are discussing their professional life. Ivan says he is a social scientist and he is interested in talking to people about their lives. Petr says he is a philosopher and he is interested in the same thing.

Could one suggest social sciences and philosophy only slightly differ? What are the differences and similarities between social studies and philosophy?

Task 3 (0 - 20 points)

There are discussions on TV and the Internet on whether Russian middle class is a real social group or it is just a myth.

What is a social group? What basic features should a group have to be called “social”? What arguments could you use to prove both opinions expressed above (that it is a real social group or a myth)?

Task 4 (0 - 15 points)

Constituent entities are the territorial units of the highest order in the Russian Federation. They are often called regions, and there are 85 of them. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin has recently had this to say, “I don’t think we need 85 regions. For instance, there’s no point in keeping the Jewish Autonomous Region as a separate region in terms of labor input. It should be united with a bigger neighbouring region.”

Answer the following questions:

- 1) *What are other reasons for consolidating regions?*
 - 2) *What are the reasons against it?*
 - 3) *What other administrative measures, besides regional consolidation, may be proposed to increase the effectiveness of territorial management?*
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Task 5 (0 - 20 points)

Recently many countries of the world have been creating territorial management centres. Before, citizens sent their requests directly to the authorities, but now it is these centres that receive these requests. They promptly process the requests or send it to the appropriate state body.

Answer the following questions:

- 1) *What is the reason behind the emergence of these centres?*
 - 2) *Is there a link between having a civil society and the activity of these centres? Explain your answer.*
 - 3) *What are other functions that can be performed by such centres?*
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Task 6 (0 - 15 points)

Since the emergence of the classic Wilson-Goodnow dichotomy, there have been attempts to modernize the government apparatus, particularly through business methods. In addition, special attention is paid to the separation of powers through which “politicians” gain control over the activities of civil servants.

Answer the following questions:

- 1) *Due to what problems of public administration there is a need to implement business methods?*
- 2) *What are the limits for introducing business methods into the government apparatus?*

- 3) *Why is special attention paid to the control of the government apparatus exerted by certain “politicians” but not by other members of the bureaucracy?*
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