

LIGHTHOUSE CPA SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT

**STUDY GUIDE # 1 - THE BODY POLITIC AND
POLITICAL LIFE**



CHAPTER LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- **Define civic, political, and private life and the activities of individuals in each sphere**
- **Define and explain relationships between politics, government, and public policy**
- **Use the Pre-amble of the Constitution to describe the purposes and functions of government**
- **Explain the importance of a written constitution in establishing and maintaining the principles of rule of law and limited government**

What is civic life?

Examples of civic life:

1.

Externality:

2.

Externality:

3.

Externality:

What is private life?

Examples of private life:

1.

Externality:

2.

Externality:

3.

Externality:

Can civic life and private life overlap? What is it called when private decisions impact the larger public or vice versa?

What are examples of these externalities both positive and negative? Please go back to the list of civic life and private life examples, what would be an externality associated with each example?

What are the externalities associated with a person's decision to smoke?

What are the externalities associated with a person's decision to advance their education?

What are the externalities associated with a person's decision on where to live?

Where do governments and economics end up going their separate ways?

What do we mean by comparing intentions and results?

Why are governments and governmental officials more likely to be concerned with intentions instead of results?

Looking at drug policy around Marijuana use, what are the two ways a government perspective and an economic perspective may differ when looking at drug policies?

Government:

Economic:

Who is correct regarding the debate around intentions and results? (hint this is your opinion, but be able to support the opinion)

What is political life?

Political life required compliance even if agreement is not reached, why?

Politics exists as a result of what?

What is the “common good”?

How much national defense is in the interest of the common good? How much education? If we are all paying separately for these items, how might the problem of a “free rider” be exacerbated? What is a “free rider”?

Why do we have governments? What is the reason that they exist?

What is meant by the phrase “strength in numbers”?

What are some of the other advantages of organizing people?

What are some of the problems that exist as a result of people organizing themselves?

What are some of the tools of government in regards to protecting the people?

How much “value” do we (society) place on an individual life? Is all life worth the same amount? Why or why not?

What is meant by the phrase establish justice?

What is the problem with focusing on results when we are trying to determine justice?

Do accurately determine if we have “justice” what kinds of questions should we be asking? What are examples of these types of questions?

Examples:

What is meant by the phrase ensure domestic tranquility?

How much are we willing to “spend” both monetarily or non-monetarily to “ensure” domestic tranquility?

What is the first rule of economics and life? What does it mean practically?

What is meant by promoting the general welfare? Can promoting the general welfare come at the expense of other goals? How should we rectify these inconsistencies?

What is liberty?

How can we legislate or make rules to ensure that people are free from control and rules?

What is the message regarding liberty in the video? Perhaps this is not something that you have considered before, but how high of a value should society place on liberty?

How does a limited government compare to an unlimited government?

When a constitution is written down why does this help to ensure a more limited government?

Is it natural to move away from those limited forms of government?

What can we learn from De Soto's interview on the importance of property rights? What issues exist when property is not legal?