

Political Science 313 Worksheet

This work sheet will help you identify the constituent elements of a political ideal/theory. It will then ask you how a particular organization/party applies the ideal that is most closely associated with it in practice (e.g., *conservative theory* as applied by the *Conservative Party of Canada*). You will then compare and contrast the political ideal versus the real-world practice.

STEP 1.

Identify political ideology (e.g., conservatism, liberalism, socialism, etc.):

STEP 2.

Identify and evidence how the ideology addresses/defines:

(a) Theory of human nature . . .

(b) Economic order . . .

(c) Social justice . . .

(d) Ideal government structure . . .

(e) Role of society . . .

(f) Meaning of freedom . . .

(g) Scope of equality . . .

(h) What are the boundaries of the ideology (e.g., geographical, cultural, ethical, etc.) . . . ?

PART 3.

Identify Party/Organization: _____

Examine Web site of political party. For this portion of the assignment, you will be required to provide evidence from the party's literature—so these concepts are not always explicit. Providing examples, you must ask: What do the party's documents and policy suggest about:

(a) Theory of human nature . . .

(b) Economic order . . .

(c) Social justice . . .

(d) Ideal government structure . . .

(e) Role of society . . .

(f) Meaning of freedom . . .

(g) Scope of equality . . .

(h) What are the boundaries of the ideology (e.g., geographical, cultural, ethical, etc.) . . . ?

STEP 4.

Compare the ideology/theory to party practice.

THEORY COMPARED TO PRACTICE	ALIKE (✓)	UNALIKE (✗)
(a) Theory of human nature		
(b) Economic order		
(c) Social justice		
(d) Ideal government structure		
(e) Role of society		
(f) Meaning of freedom		
(g) Scope of equality		
(h) Boundaries of the ideology		

Step 5.

Based on the results of step 4, does the party correspond to its political theoretical namesake/origins?

For each “point,” you could possibly structure a paragraph that briefly summarizes the theoretical component; then compare or contrast the component to party policy/practice that you have documented.

You can employ addition sources to enhance your understanding of the political theory’s ideals/origins or the party’s current practices.