

The 'Pol Soc Podcast' – Episode 2 – 'Listen Along Worksheet'

Thomas Hobbes.

Listen to the podcast and complete the questions below as you go. Don't be afraid to pause the playback and skip back to the timecode (in brackets) if you miss something first time around.

1. Outline 3-4 of the key historical events that are important to contextualize Hobbes's key work, *The Leviathan*:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

2. What does Hobbes see as the primary purpose of a state? (4:05)

3. What does Professor Armstrong identify as the key differences between what Hobbes says, and the ideas that went before its publication? (5:05)

How is the method different?

How are his conclusions different?

4. Complete the famous Hobbes Quote:

"Life is solitary, poor, n_____, b_____ and s_____"

5. How does Hobbes fit in with the Enlightenment?

- a. How does he in agreement with other Enlightenment thinkers?

- b. How does he differ from other Enlightenment thinkers?

6. What answer does Hobbes offer to the question of why we need a state at all?

7. What does Hobbes mean when he uses the term "Social Contract"? How is his version different than other interpretations of this term?

8. What are the key differences between “Divine Right Absolutism” and “Philosophical Absolutism”? (‘Untangling the Terminology’ – 14:35)

9. Does Professor Armstrong think that Hobbes is a Christian? (20:15)

Based on what you’ve read about Hobbes do you agree with Professor Armstrong?

Having listened to the podcast, consider ways in which the ideas of Thomas Hobbes might be relevant to your own life. Where in the modern world might those ideas be most obviously tested? (War Zones, ‘failed states’, in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster....) Imagine, for example, that Ireland was hit by a number of terrorist attacks. What degree of personal freedom would you be prepared to sacrifice in order to maintain security?

Jot down your ideas here and return to those ideas in the coming weeks to see how your perspective shifts over time...

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