

Name:

Section:

Machiavelli and Hobbes questions assignment

These are the questions we will be discussing during our reading of ALHOP chapters 9 and 10 (Machiavelli and Hobbes). You will write down or type your answers to these questions while we read the chapters on Monday May 18 to Friday May 22. Once we are finished with the reading and have answered all of the questions, you will then submit all of your answers completed in one PDF document through Archi.

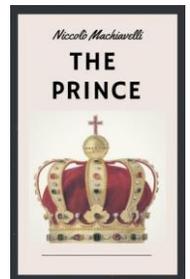
Chapter 9, “The Fox and the Lion” (Niccolo Machiavelli)

1. What did Machiavelli think was the right way to act as a ruler (prince)?



2. According to Machiavelli, what was the most important thing for a ruler (prince)?

3. Describe Machiavelli’s idea of ‘virtu’ (valor or manliness).



4. Machiavelli referred to Cesare Borgia’s killing his enemies and making an example of his commander de Orco, as showing ‘swift action’ on his part. Why did Machiavelli approve of these actions?

5. What does Machiavelli mean by saying that “it’s better as a leader to be feared than to be loved”?

6. Describe the animal qualities that good leaders should learn from, according to Machiavelli.

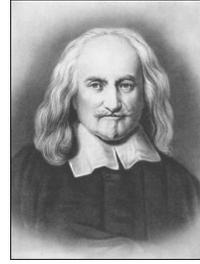
7. What does the adjective ‘machievellian’ mean today?

8. What important lesson for leaders does Machiavelli’s philosophy teach?

9. What is the main criticism against Machiavelli?

Chapter 10, “Nasty, Brutish, and Short” (Thomas Hobbes)

10. What is Hobbes’s view of human nature?



11. According to Hobbes, if society broke down and we lived in a ‘state of nature’, what would be the rational way to act?

12. How is it that “even the stronger wouldn’t be safe” in a state of nature?

13. Why would teaming up with friends to survive not be a good strategy in a state of nature?

14. Describe the solution that Hobbes proposes to the state of nature.

15. According to Hobbes, what would happen without a ‘sovereign’ to enforce the laws?

16. Why would people willingly give up their freedom for the sake of forming a ‘social contract’?

17. As a philosopher, Hobbes would be described as a ‘materialist’. What does this mean?

18. How are the views of Hobbes and Machiavelli similar?