

Concepts & Measurement

Political Science

Turning abstract political concepts into things you can observe.

From concept to indicator.

1

Define the concept

State clearly what is and is not included.

2

Identify its dimensions

Most political concepts have several.

3

Choose indicators

Observable measures for each dimension.

4

Check validity

Does the indicator capture the concept?

5

Check reliability

Would another coder produce the same result?

Educational reference. Democracy indices differ substantially because they define and weight the concept differently.