

POLITICS I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. 'The quantitative turn in political science has revolutionized the discipline.' Discuss.
2. What role, if any, does masculinity play in peacebuilding operations?
3. Is it ever morally permissible not to pay taxes?
4. Historical institutionalism argues that institutions break down as a result of external shocks. Are there internal causes of institutional collapse?
5. Can one be a Hobbesian democrat?
6. Has the Russian Federation witnessed a democratic backsliding since 1991?
7. Does Locke's defence of private property in Ch. V of the *Second Treatise* apply to intellectual property rights?
8. Over the past decades, religious militancy has increasingly taken an Islamic character. Why?
9. What factors explain the emergence of minority governments in Europe?
10. What explains the dynastic features of India's political system?
11. Is there a non-Marxist account of class?
12. Are citizens under a moral duty to vote?

POLITICS II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. Are shifts between left- and right- extremism a minority phenomenon?
2. China's economic espionage: aggression or self-defence?
3. Is government by algorithms anti-democratic?
4. Is the United Nations' Security Council fit for purpose?
5. 'Social movement theory has become obsolete.' Discuss.
6. What explains the revival of the left in Latin American politics between 2018 and 2021? Discuss by reference to at least two Latin American countries.
7. Is there such a thing as 'public opinion'? If not, so what?
8. Is ideology epiphenomenal to stability in Sub-Saharan Africa? Discuss by reference to at least two countries.
9. Scholars have long scrutinized the causes of political revolutions yet have typically failed to predict them accurately. Why?
10. Should animals be granted full citizenship rights?
11. Are economic sanctions a morally justified alternative to war?
12. Is a just world one in which race is no longer politically salient?

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1. Were the COVID lockdowns a legitimate use of state power?
2. What is the role of the middle class in affecting the balance between democracy and tyranny?
3. Why not uncivil disobedience?
4. Considerable empirical research points to a positive relationship between economic development and democratization, yet China stands out as an exception. Is this an idiosyncratic exception or a sign that empirical research is inadequate?
5. Does dystopian thinking hurt or help today's anti-climate change politics?
6. Is it true that democratic peace theory lacks clear causal mechanisms? If so, why would that matter?
7. Should the state pay wages for care work?
8. Democratic backsliding: reality or hype?
9. Has Enlightenment humanism lost its appeal?
10. Under what conditions could empathy increase political polarization?
11. 'The history of modernity is not so much about the progress of reason as it is about the history of reason's unreason' (ACHILLE MBEMBE, 2018 interview). Discuss.
12. 'There is no Marx without Lenin.' Discuss.
13. How do political institutions shape political behaviour? When is this not the case?

POLITICS II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. Is a welfare state harder to implement under a free trade regime?
2. Must democrats always deliberate?
3. 'Class in itself' or 'Class for itself?' Discuss.
4. 'Political freedom is useless without economic self-determination.' Discuss in relation to **EITHER** (a) a postcolonial conjuncture **OR** (b) the politics of Brexit and the European Union.
5. Does the observed decline in military coups portend an equivalent decline in the incidence of authoritarian regimes?
6. What are the causes of low interpersonal trust in a society?
7. Are children dominated?
8. What role, if any, does whiteness play in stabilizing an unjust status quo?
9. Is the Downsian understanding of politics compatible with populist politics?
10. Does the sex/gender distinction hurt or help feminists?
11. Has the demand for a better future always underwritten conceptions of politics?
12. What do we not know about the power of money in politics?
13. Is there a right to adequate housing?
14. Does deterrence work?

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1. 'Of the people, by the people, for the people.' Discuss.
2. Why have global governance efforts so often ended in gridlock?
3. Is there a duty not to secede?
4. Why has socialism historically been weak in the United States?
5. Is populism an ideology?
6. What is a legitimate exercise of executive discretion?
7. Is gender relevant to the study of conflict?
8. What are the conditions for a successful transition to democracy?
9. 'There is no such thing as left-wing nationalism.' Discuss.
10. Is electoral politics a marketplace?
11. Can technology be a political agent?
12. On what grounds, if any, should human remains be returned to their community of origin?
13. Are natural resources a curse?

POLITICS II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. Is there a right to privacy?
2. Can a social movement be effective *and* true to itself?
3. What can political scientists learn from **EITHER** experimental methods **OR** ethnographic methods?
4. Are welfare states doomed?
5. Can the interests of future generations be adequately represented in the political system?
6. 'Quantification shapes how we think about public policy—often for the worse' (ETHAN BUENO DE MESQUITA). Do you agree?
7. Can other countries imitate the success of the Asian tigers?
8. Is illiberal democracy an oxymoron?
9. Should we worry about the Belt and Road initiative?
10. Is race political?
11. Does nuclear deterrence still work today?
12. What explains civil wars?
13. What, if anything, is distinctive about environmental politics?