

POLITICS I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

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?