

Instructions:

All students should answer one question from Part I of this examination. For the minor, students should also answer one question from any other part of this examination (Part II, III, or IV). For the major, students should answer two additional questions, one each from any two additional parts of this examination (e.g. one question from Part II and one from Part IV). You should incorporate into your answers discussion of the theories you deem most relevant to the question. Make sure, however, to answer the question directly as well as you are able; do not simply offer a literature review.

PART I (CORE)

- (1) What insights, if any, from ancient political philosophers are most worth preserving?
- (2) David Hume wrote that “Political writers have established it as a maxim, that in contriving any system of government, and fixing the several checks and controls of the constitution, every man ought to be supposed a knave, and have no other end, in all his actions, than private interest.” Discuss.
- (3) Does Marx’s critique of exploitation contain or imply a theory of freedom?
- (4) Critically discuss the role that the idea of progress plays in the writings of two major 18th-19th century philosophers of your choice.

PART II (JUSTICE, RIGHTS, AND LAW)

- (5) Under what circumstances may a political community justly prevent non-members from entering or inhabiting the territory it inhabits?
- (6) Can supra-individual entities such as corporations or nation-states be bearers of rights, and if so on what grounds?
- (7) What are the main arguments for and against consequentialist theories of justice?

PART III (CONSTITUTIONALISM AND DEMOCRACY)

- (8) Has global economic interdependence made democracy on the scale of the sovereign state obsolete?
- (9) “Relative (as distinct from absolute) entrenchment in constitutions through supermajoritarian amendment rules, policed by Courts, is antithetical to democracy.” Discuss.
- (10) Does liberal democratic constitutionalism require neutrality regarding religion, comprehensive doctrines and all basic values?

PART IV (IDEOLOGY AND IDENTITY)

- (11) Discuss the sources, uses, and consequences of nationalism, including discussion of at least two writers on this subject.
- (12) How equal should citizens be for a state to be democratic?
- (13) How can constitutions be drafted to accommodate conflicts among ethnic, religious or linguistic groups?