

23.5.2007

## QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

### Comparative Politics

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

1. “*The post-war German state is neither laissez-faire nor etatiste and is best described as an enabling state.*” Discuss.
2. “...state power is capitalist to the extent that it creates, maintains, or restores the conditions required for capital accumulation in a given situation and it is non-capitalist to the extent that these conditions are not realised”.

Do you agree? If so, why? If not, why not?  
Please write an essay explaining your answer.

3. Compare and contrast presidential and parliamentary systems. In your opinion, which system is “better”? Why? In answering the question, you are expected to give actual examples from some representative countries in order to support your ideas.

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4.       Compare and contrast presidential and parliamentary systems. In your opinion, which system is “better”? Why? In answering the question, you are expected to give actual examples from some representative countries in order to support your ideas.

## QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

25.5.2007

### **Turkish Politics**

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

- 1 Explain the evolution of the role of the Turkish military in politics, and discuss the nature and the significance of the civilian-military relations in the context of democratization in Turkey. Make sure to include in your answer the particularities of the Turkish case (if any) and its similarities with the other cases in the world.
- 2 What are the leading parallels and differences between left-wing nationalism of the 1970s and the 2000s? Please discuss with references to domestic social forces and international conjuncture.
- 3 Taking the historical context in which Motherland Party emerged into account, please discuss the advantages and/or limitations of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) to become a centre-right party of the similar type.

## QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

25.5.2007

### **Political Sociology**

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

- 1 Please explain and discuss the following quotation: “The growing strength of anti-systemic movements has engendered, as might be expected, not only a rationalization of repressive machinery (including a strengthening of the interstate system), but also a systemic attempt to defuse these movements through concessions and cooptation.”
- 2 Please write essay in which you explain and discuss the theories on the organization/reorganization of the political public sphere in a democratic way in contemporary capitalist societies. Refer to at least two of the related theories.
- 3 What would concepts like ‘system’ and anti-systemic movements’ mean within the context of transition to post modernity?

## QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

### **Local Government/Urban Politics**

16 NOVEMBER 2007

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

1 The administrative reform has been in the agenda of Turkey quite a long time. One of the key declared aim of the reform is to devolve power to sub-national levels. However such attempts have met considerable resistance from different quarters. Write an essay on the decentralisation of power in Turkey by referring to the top down and bottom up pressures for and against such changes in Turkey.

2 In the 1960s and the 1970s, the Turkish cities were characterised by low level of investment in the built environment by both private and public sectors. However, investments in urban built environment have been intensified by both public and private sectors in the last two decades. How would you explain such a radical change?

3 It is often argued that analysis of urban space has been characterised by a split between the Chicago School and a power-conflict (political economy) paradigm dominated by neo-Marxist and radical-Weberian approaches. Please compare and contrast these two main paradigms.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

19 NOVEMBER 2007

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

- 1 Write an essay on the evolution of political sociological thought as regards social movements. In your essay trace the history of contemporary theories of social movements through actual political, social and cultural changes as well as the changes in the definition of politics and power in political sociology. Please make reference to specific thinkers and their work in your text.
- 2 Please write an essay on the question of the changing boundaries of 'the political' and 'the social'. In your essay refer to both the Marxist and Weberian school's treatment of these concepts as well as to the current conceptualizations that may or may not blur the distinction.
- 3 Please explain and discuss the relations between different conceptualizations of power and models of democracy.

## QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

- 1       What are the contributions of utilitarians like Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill to the development of liberal political thought? On what grounds did they revise classical liberalism? Do you agree with the view that utilitarian perspective transformed liberalism in a progressive and egalitarian manner? Why, why not?
- 2       One of the essential attempts of Thomas Hobbes consists of constructing a “closed philosophical system” based on his mechanic materialist approach as a thesis against the metaphysical-clerical image of the world. Nevertheless – as it is wide-spreadedly claimed-his theses are still containing theological-divine notions. Please discuss this aspect within Hobbes state theory.
- 3       Is it possible to speak of a myth of “civil society”? Discuss by comparing Gramscis’ civil society understanding with current debates.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

**POLITICAL THOUGHT (MODERN)**

21 MAYIS 2007

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

- 1 Write an essay on the mentality and spirit of the Enlightenment movement and its political consequences. Discuss the contemporary relevance/irrelevance of certain ideals and premises of this movement by reference to universalism, scientism and progressivism.
- 2 Explain and discuss Hannah Arendts' understanding of the "political". Is it possible to say – according to some of her critics – that her main theses are too normative and moralizing?
- 3 Explain and discuss Gramscis' definition of the "civil society". What are the common grounds and differences between his approach and the evaluation of the "civil society" within the current debates concerning democracy/democratization in Turkey?

## QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

### PUBLIC POLICY

16 NOVEMBER 2007

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

1 Most of the existing literature on the machinery of government assumes that, when an activity is delegated to a bureaucrat, he will either carry out the rules and regulations or will make decisions in the public interest regardless of whether it benefits him or not. We don't make this assumption about businessmen we don't make it about consumers in the market. I see no reason why we should make it about bureaucrats."

2 How can you analyze policy making as a process from the systems perspective? Discuss by giving examples and referring to its theoretical and practical advantages?

3 In the course of the evaluation of policy implementation theories, particularly in the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a debate developed between the 'top-down' and the bottom-up perspectives. Explain first and then critically evaluate these perspectives.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

**STUDIES IN MASS COMMUNICATION, IDEOLOGY AND CULTURE**

21 NOVEMBER 2007

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

- 1 “Anyone who still believes that you can organise a political demonstration without paying attention to television risks being left behind. It is more and more the case that you have to produce demonstrations for television so that they interest television types and fit their perceptual categories.”
- 2 What is “critical” in Critical Theory?
- 3 Can the mass media in contemporary Turkey be seen as an arena of public discussion?

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

**THEORY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

19 NOVEMBER 2007

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

1 A recent view in public administration theory suggests that the conventional sub-discipline (of social sciences) 'public administration' should be replaced with the discipline of 'science of the state'. Explain and discuss this argument.

2 It's sometimes argued that 'public management' philosophy and associated theories are in conflict with 'representative bureaucracy' understanding (and theories)

*Do you agree with that argument? Explain and discuss.*

3. Despite the apparent 'progressive' nature of public administration theories (new theories coming into agenda and disappearing in a short time) it may be argued that the essential and perennial issues and problems of this field do remain the same, making these 'repetitive' in nature.

*Do you agree with that statement? Explain why and critically discuss.*

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

**Turkish Politics**

16 NOVEMBER 2007

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

- 1 Write an essay explaining the trajectory of political Islam in Turkey since the 1970s; in particular, discuss its sources of appeal, its successes and failures by referring to the arguments and the findings of the major studies done on political Islam Turkey.
- 2 How can the concept of *populism* be a useful analytical tool to explain the patterns and the problems of Turkish party politics in the context of the changes and continuities in its socio-political and economic bases since the 1950s? Discuss this by taking into consideration the relevant developments in Turkish politics since then.
- 3 Taking the theoretical distinction between civic-political and romantic-cultural nationalisms, please comment on the main characteristics of the dominant versions of Turkish nationalism. Does this distinction make sense in the Turkish case? And how do comment on the competing branches of Turkish nationalism in Turkey?