

POLITICS I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

1. Has interstate war declined?
2. Do we have a right to meaningful work?
3. What is the verdict on Truth and Reconciliation Commissions?
4. Sometimes states outsource violence to private actors. Why and with what consequences?
5. The Middle East has seen more conflict and lower economic growth than Latin America after decolonisation. Why?
6. How are taxation, public borrowing, and state-building linked?
7. All modern states, democratic and autocratic alike, claim that their sovereignty rests upon a foundational popular consent. Why does the fiction of 'government by consent' continue to have such appeal?
8. Should states nationalize key infrastructure, including the energy sector?
9. The institutionalization of party systems is generally perceived as a good thing for democracy; in contrast, volatility is seen as a negative attribute. Discuss.
10. What is the relationship between ethnicity and nationalism?
11. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948. Has it been consequential?
12. Is it legitimate for the United Kingdom to strip British nationals of their citizenship if they can legally claim another?
13. Should we be political realists?
14. What drives the emergence of authoritarian-popular formations? Discuss with relation to one or more specific contexts.
15. Networked online misogyny — an underestimated threat or overblown hype?

[OVER]

16. 'And the main foundations of any state, whether it be new or old, or a new territory acquired by an old regime, are good laws and good armed forces' (NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI). Does pacificism betray a fundamental political naivete?

POLITICS II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

1. 'Military coups explain the difference between successful and unsuccessful revolutions.' Discuss.
2. Should we select our representatives by lottery?
3. Is affective polarization an inevitable effect of democracy?
4. Was the transition from communism to capitalism in Central and Eastern Europe a success?
5. Is China an imperial power?
6. Why do people run for opposition parties in electoral autocracies?
7. 'The family is the reason we are supposed to want to go to work, the reason we have to go to work, and the reason we *can* go to work. It is, at root, the name we use for the fact that care is privatized in our society' (SOPHIE LEWIS). Should we abolish the family?
8. Authoritarian regimes, it turns out, are quite successful in controlling and reducing corruption. What are the implications of this observation for democratic theory?
9. Does war make states?
10. Do we have a right to take our own lives?
11. 'Welfare needs to become an engine of mobility, changing people's lives for the better, rather than simply a giant cheque written by the State to compensate the poor for their predicament.' (NICK CLEGG). Do benefit sanctions work?
12. Is individualism a necessary element of political and economic development?
13. '[T]his is the crime of which I accuse my country and my countrymen and for which neither I nor time nor history will ever forgive them, that they have destroyed and are destroying hundreds of thousands of lives and do not know

it and do not want to know it' (JAMES BALDWIN). Is racism today primarily a problem of actively cultivated ignorance?

14. Can Marxism adequately respond to the climate crisis?
15. It is argued that concepts such as terrorism and genocide are imprecise and misleading. Should we then get rid of them?
16. Critically assess the effectiveness of partition as a strategic response to conflict. Discuss in relation to South Asia, East Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and/or sub-Saharan Africa.