

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

TURKISH POLITICS

November 14, 2011

Please answer *two* of the following three question:

1. Please write an essay on the politics of constitution-making and constitutional reform in Turkey since 1960 by analyzing the institutional and interest-based parameters of Turkish democratization dynamics. Discuss also briefly how do these dynamics also reflect on the recent debates and process of constitutional reform in Turkey.
2. Discuss the uses and limitations of the *political culture* variable in analyzing Turkish party politics and democratization dynamics.
3. Discuss the relations between Turkish conservatism and Kemalism, focusing on the discourse of a particular ideologue, political movement or party.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

THEORY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

18 Kasım 2011

Please answer *two* the following question:

1. Explain and critically discuss the following quotation:

“To reverse the old jibe about sociology, that it is a discipline in search of a subject matter and to say that public administration is a subject matter in search of a discipline”.

2. Explain and critically discuss the following quotation in the context of contemporary theories of public administration:

“Human knowledge is always an imperfect understanding of reality: the significance of knowledge changes with time and the absolute totality of existing knowledge can probably never be organized systematically”

3. Write an essay in which you explain and critically discuss theory and practice of “performance administration” with special emphasis to its relevancy and applicability in Turkish public administration system.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Comparative Politics & Government

November 21, 2011

Please answer *two* of the following three question:

- 1) Compare and contrast presidential and parliamentary systems. In your opinion, which system is better for Turkey? In answering the question, you are expected to give actual examples from other countries in order to support your ideas.
- 2) Write an essay which analyses the history of and trends in comparative politics, focusing basically on the methodological shortcomings of the field.
- 3) Write an essay discussing the relationship between the modernization theory, critique of modernization theory and contemporary statist-institutionalist approach.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Political Thought (Contemporary)

November 16, 2011

Please answer *two* of the following three question:

1. The conditions encountered by the `stateless people` in terms of their legal-political situation and their rights or rightlessness have become a central concern for contemporary political thinkers in last decades. Discuss the reasons for such concern and the novelties in conceiving rights, law, state and politics by reference to two thinkers who focus on such issues
2. What are the contributions of Rawlsian 'Political Liberalism' and Habermas's Discourse Ethics and Procedural Democracy to our understanding of justice and legitimacy in so called pluralistic societies. Compare their theories. Comment on the limits within which Rawls and Habermas imagine (or support) social and political change.
3. By the second half of the twentieth century the contemporary political theory canon has witnessed an increasing criticism of liberalism emerging from the so called 'intransigent right' thinkers. Most prominently C. Schmitt, L. Strauss, M. Oakeshott, F. Hayek and R. Nozick pointed out to the crisis of liberalism and promoted a conservative account for politics. Choose two of the above-mentioned thinkers and provide an analysis of the development of the contemporary conservative political theory by discussing their theories.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

STUDIES IN MASS COMMUNICATION, IDEOLOGY & CULTURE

21 Kasım 2011

Please answer *two* the following questions:

1. Please write an essay to explain, discuss and comment on the above picture/news with reference to theories of media.



Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan who had slammed the media on several occasions, accusing the press of distorting his remarks recently invited the media owners, top executives of Turkey's newspapers, news services, and television channels to a working breakfast. In this three-hour "discussion" it is reported that PM clearly sought a new era and a new relationship with the nation's news media.

2. Do we still need ideology critique? Please refer, in your answer, to one or more of the following concepts: “false consciousness”, “culture industry”, “ideological state apparatuses”, “common sense” and “society of spectacle”.

3. Would you agree with the argument that audiences are active producers of meaning rather than passive recipients of media representations?