

2022 MAYIS-2023 MAYIS DOKTORA YETERLİK SORULARI

2022 Mayıs Doktora Yeterlik Soruları

PUBLIC POLICY,

1- Please discuss the pros and cons (and thus limits to applicability) of the “systems/stages approach to policy analysis” in investigating the policy processes/problems of developing countries in the 2000s.

2-Could centralisation of authority in governance (especially towards the national scale) enhance the harmony between the policy-making and policy-implementation stages of the public policy process? If yes, under what conditions? If no, why?

As you elaborate your answer, please benefit from the following key words: “status quo”, “planning vs fast-policy-making”, “rational decision-making”.

3-Under what conditions and how, do you think, “reliance on regulation” as a policy instrument (rather than direct spending) could help a central government pursue a progressive social policy (aiming to eliminate different forms of injustices across a country)?

TURKISH POLITICS

1-Since the military intervention of 27 May 1960, the political transformations in Turkey have deeply influenced the civilian-military relations. Please write an essay to discuss the significance of those forces which shaped the TSK's political role by critically reviewing the extant approaches accounting for the changing trajectory of the relationship between the civilians and the military, and by reflecting on its implications for democratization.

2-Can left-wing populism be a panacea/cure to the ongoing tide of right-wing populism in Turkish politics or would it be further detrimental to democracy? Based on the literature on populism in Turkish politics (and also across the globe), critically assess the potential pros and cons of a left-wing populist movement in Turkey. In your response, provide at least three academic references.

3-The legacy of the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP) in Turkish politics has always been controversial. While the term 'İttihatçı' has often been used in a negative sense, changing perceptions of the reign of Abdulhamid II, the Armenian Question and the early Republican period has influenced the perception and discussion of CUP. Currently, CUP is still mostly associated with coup d'états, authoritarian politics and rigid positivism; yet, opinions in the minority consider it as a liberal constitutionalist party. The question of rupture and continuity between Unionism and Kemalism is another subject of heated debate as former members of CUP were in power positions until 1960.

Write an essay discussing why the legacy of CUP has been so complicated and controversial in Turkish politics. In your essay, discuss not only the relation of CUP, both in opposition and in power, to liberalism, nationalism, militarism and representative politics, but also how this has been perceived and interpreted by contemporary political actors.

POLITICAL ECONOMY

1-Please define and critically compare and contrast these three theories of voting: i) economic voting, ii) ideological/issue voting, iii) strategic voting. Under what political, sociological, and economic circumstances does one (or a combination) of these theories prevail, why? In your response, provide at least one reference for each of these theories.

2-What are the different approaches to the global economic meltdown after 2007? How does each approach explain its causes and consequences? Relying on this literature, how would you define the crisis? Accordingly, is neoliberalism dead, wounded or fortified?

3-“Political economy as an academic field of research lives two radically separate lives giving rise to two radically different families of definitions” Please define and discuss the major political economy approaches with reference to its historical trajectory.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ,

1-“As Dwight Waldo once put it, public administration is the marriage of the arts and sciences of government to the arts and sciences of management. Efficiency and economy are primarily theories of management, while social equity is primarily a theory of government.”

In the context of the above quotation, write an essay on the role and functioning of contemporary bureaucracies (public administration) as promoter and sustainer of social equity.

2-Please choose a public organization in Turkey, and discuss how that organization has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and addressed these effects. In developing your answer, please make sure that you use organizational theory concepts and approaches.

3-“Governance is ultimately concerned with creating the conditions for ordered rule and collective action. The outputs of governance are not therefore different from those of government. It is rather a matter of difference in processes.” (Stoker, 1998)

Considering Stoker’s statement, please discuss whether or not a difference in processes has been materialised in Turkey (particularly in the 21st century) in terms of “ways of doing things” for bureaucracy. You can enrich your essay with concrete examples.

COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT ,

1-In the field of Comparative Government, it is generally accepted that there are three main forms of the executive: presidential systems, parliamentary systems and semi-presidential systems. In your opinion, does Turkey's "presidential government system" fit into any of those? In your answer make sure that you focus on the main reasons why the opposition parties in Turkey want "a strengthened parliamentary system".

What are some of the basic challenges that the scholars are facing in the field of comparative politics and government in the aftermath of the end of the Cold War and rise of the debates on globalization?

2- To quote King, Keohane, and Verba, is there "science" in comparative politics? Can there be "a unified logic of inference" (KKV, 1994) in quantitative and qualitative research in comparative politics, how? Discuss by providing at least two academic references on comparative method.

3-There has been a growing literature questioning the quality of democracy and increasing authoritarianism around the world. Please identify and discuss different notions of "democracy" and "authoritarianism" in this literature. Please also refer the country cases where relevant.

2022 Kasım Doktora Yeterlik Soruları

COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT,

1- Comparative Politics emerged as an identifiable subfield in the immediate period following the Second World War. Yet, comparativists have had sharply divergent views about the scope, objectives, and the logic(s) of comparative politics. How would you portray the debates and tensions within the field. How would you define the subfield of Comparative Politics?

2-Turkey's switch to the "presidential government system" in 2017 has been criticized by almost all political parties in the country and there are discussions of "bringing the parliamentary system back". In your opinion, in the case of the ruling party's (and/or the People's Alliance's) losing the elections, can this goal be achieved? Why/Why not? In answering the question please make sure that you also discuss the major characteristics of both presidential and parliamentary systems.

3- *"The word democracy has been circulating as a debased currency in the political marketplace. Politicians with a wide range of convictions and practices strove to appropriate the label and attach it to their actions. Scholars, conversely, hesitated to use it—without adding qualifying adjectives—because of the ambiguity that surrounds it. The distinguished American political theorist Robert Dahl even tried to introduce a new term, "polyarchy," in its stead in the (vain) hope of gaining a greater measure of conceptual precision. But for better or worse, we are "stuck" with democracy as the catchword of contemporary political discourse. It is the word that resonates in people's minds and springs from their lips as they struggle for freedom and a better way of life; it is the word whose meaning we must discern if it is to be of any use in guiding political analysis and practice."* (Schmitter and Karl, 1991).

Based on the quote above and the surrounding debates in the Comparative Politics literature, please discuss different approaches to conceptualize democracy and how they fare to understand today's democracies around the world. In your response, please provide at least three scholarly works from the CP literature to support your arguments.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND URBAN POLITICS,

1-What does the recent wave of mega-projects in Turkey (and around the world) tell us about the ideological contradictions of neoliberalism, especially given the discursive centrality of: a) the principle of “private property”; b) “the primacy of markets (over the state)”; and c) “decentralisation of government” in liberal thought?

2- Given the fact that the post of the “political executive” at both national and metropolitan scales of governance in Turkey is presidential in nature, can we argue that the current criticisms directed against the presidential system at the national scale (that it is undemocratic, etc) would equally apply to the presidential nature of metropolitan governance? Why or why not?

3-What sort of policy challenges, do you think, increasing mobility of populations/capital/goods and services/information could bring about in an administrative context where the jurisdictions are territorially fixed?

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION,

- 1- Please write a critical essay on the use and applicability of general systems theory in the theory and practice of public administration.
- 2- Please write an essay in which you discuss the relationship between bureaucracy and democracy by referring to different theoretical perspectives.
- 3- Please critically compare and discuss the administrative reform outcomes in Turkey in the 2000s and the 2010s in the light of the reform prescriptions of New Public Management and Governance paradigms. In your essay, please also provide examples of concrete institutional changes as well as changing ways of public service provision

POLITICAL ECONOMY,

1) What are the different approaches to the global economic meltdown after 2007? How does each approach relate to crisis theories? How does each approach explain its causes and consequences? And in terms of consequences, is neoliberalism dead, wounded or fortified?

2) “Political economy as an academic field of research lives [at least] two radically separate lives giving rise to two radically different families of definitions.” Please define and discuss the major political economy approaches with reference to their historical trajectories and methodological premises.

3) In light of the scholarly debates, please critically assess the i) history, and ii) pros and cons of a) liberal welfare state, b) corporatist welfare state, and c) social-democratic welfare state. What is the state of welfare state regimes in today’s democracies in light of this three-pronged classification? In your response, please provide at least three scholarly works from the PE literature to support your arguments.

TURKISH POLITICS,

1-Please discuss the relevance or pertinence of the concept of fascism to the study of Turkish politics, focusing on a specific ideological-political context in a specific period.

2- Which social cleavages are salient in Turkish politics? What are the institutional, structural and/or historical explanations as to why certain social cleavages have mattered in Turkish politics and why others do not? In your response, please provide at least three scholarly works to support your arguments.

3-Increasingly after the 2011 general elections in Turkey, the electoral durability of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) has been analysed in terms of the dominant party system typology in the party system perspective. In the Turkish case, the emergence of the dominant party system has also led to a democratic backsliding accompanied with the intensification of polarization and illiberal governance despite the fact that the party has come to occupy the center of the party competition or is still characterized as the centre-right. Please write an essay to explain the dynamics of the emergent dominant party system in Turkey and to discuss the usefulness as well as the deficiencies of different theoretical perspectives to account for the success of the AKP as the dominant party, and its consequences for both competitive dynamics and the state of democracy in Turkey.

PUBLIC POLICY,

1-In a context where it is very difficult for politicians/party(ies) that form a new government to change the higher level bureaucrats they took over from the previous government (and thus to shape the executive cadres they want to work with), how would such a new government with a radical reform agenda might proceed to implement its policies?

2-Please discuss the limits to rational decision-making in public policy, especially with reference to challenges to forecasting/policy analysis. You may want to further elaborate your answer with reference to the notions of “Big Data” and “Wicked Problems” (such as the most recent case of Covid-19 Pandemic).

3-Please compare and contrast “regulation” and traditional policy instruments (such as budgeting/spending or direct service provision) in terms of: a) their redistributive consequences; b) politics of representation behind them; c) types of implementers associated with these different instrument categories.

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT,

1- If contemporary political thought could be characterized as a critique of liberalism and science, what are the alternative approaches to such critique of modernity or schools of thought? Explain and discuss with reference to at least three thinkers or schools of thought.

2-Explicate the meaning of the term political in Rawls's work titled 'Political Liberalism'. What does political mean in his theory?. Compare and contrast this meaning of the political with the conceptions of the political in the theories of Arendt, Mouffe and Ranciere. Comment on the reasons for the differences.

3- How did the twentieth century political thinkers deal with the questions raised by authoritarianism tyranny and/or political violence? Write an essay with reference to at least three thinkers who developed concepts, theories and/or ideas to understand, interpret and/or criticize such ‘failure’ of modernity.

STUDIES IN MASS COMMUNICATION; IDEOLOGY AND CULTURE,

Please answer **two** of the following questions:

1. Discuss the reasons behind the rising monopolistic tendencies in the media market.
2. "Hegemony is never complete."

Discuss with reference to the production and consumption of media.

3. Compare and contrast the main theoretical approaches to the culture industry.

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY,

1. What is the impact of Foucauldian theory of power and discourse upon the field of political sociology? Discuss and evaluate with reference to possible changes in scope, focus and subject matter of the field.

2. In what ways do different theorizations of politics inform different theorizations of democracy or vice versa? Discuss with reference to two theories.

3. What is the significance of squares, real and/or virtual, and communication in contemporary social movements? Discuss with reference to at least two cases and theoreticians.

2023 Mayıs Doktora Yeterlik Soruları

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

- 1) Please discuss both the significance and contradictions of “politics-administration dichotomy” in the Turkish case from the 1990s onwards, but also particularly considering the practice of Presidential Executive System and critiques to it.
- 2) State at least six principles of New Public Management by illustrating them as to their practices in Turkish public administration during 1980-2023 period. Make a brief evaluation of each in respect to their success/outcomes.
- 3) Please choose one of the theories of organizational environment and evaluate it in relation to public administration context.

PUBLIC POLICY

- 1) Please provide a “nuanced” and “critical” exposition of main assumptions behind the “incrementalist approach” to public policy. In particular, please develop your answer with reference to both “society-centred” and the “state-centred” accounts of public policy-making.
- 2) What might be the reasons behind a potential mismatch between the “output” and the “outcome” of policy?
- 3) Please compare and contrast the dynamics of “policy instrument selection” in closed and open (multi-actor and multi-scalar) policy networks.

URBAN POLITICS

1-In the 1999 Marmara Earthquake, 17 thousand people lost their lives and some settlements were seriously damaged. After the earthquake, various changes were made in building codes and planning regulations. However, in the Kahramanmaraş-centered earthquake 50 thousand people lost their lives and some cities suffered great damage. How would you explain the failure to create earthquake-resistant cities? Write an essay on this failure by drawing upon the Marxist and Weberian paradigms of urban politics.

2-In his 1967 Berlin lectures Foucault argued that ‘the anxiety of our era has to do fundamentally with space, no doubt a great deal more than with time’. Do you think the intervening (almost) fifty years have confirmed this view? Write an essay on this issue.

3-In recent years, we have witnessed the metropolitanization of local politics/government in Turkey. What could be the economic and political reasons for the metropolitan scale to come to the fore?