

Please answer **one** question from **each of the two sections**. You have **four hours** to complete the exam.

Part I. Approaches to Political Theory:

1. What does it mean to be a historian of political thought or to take an historical approach to political theory? Compare and contrast Foucault, Skinner, and Tully on this question.
2. In relation to the concept of savagery or barbarism in the history of political thought, what do different approaches (contextual, hermeneutical, philosophy as critical activity) contribute to such a study? Who might provide a better framework for these concepts and why?
3. Quentin Skinner is celebrated widely for his contributions to a contextualist approach to the history of political thought. In light of the political struggles of recent decades, such as anti-colonialism, anti-racism, feminism, LGBTQ liberation, and contestations over capitalist globalization, does Skinner offer an adequate approach for grasping the political history of political thought? In answering this question, consider Skinner's approach in light of alternative approaches advanced by at least two other theorists on your list.

Part II. Thinker: Edward Said

1. Critically analyze the concept of orientalism in Said's thought and compare at least three of Said's interpreters from your list on how they interpret this concept.
2. To what extent is Edward Said, a critical literary theorist, useful to political theorists? And in what ways is his approach limited for political theorists.
3. Edward Said sought to reclaim the notion of *humanism* despite his understanding of the limits of European humanism historically and in the face of (at least partial) challenges to "humanism" put forward by such contemporaries as Foucault and Derrida. What can Said's work teach us about elaborating a defensible humanism as well as understanding the potential pitfalls of such a project? Draw on at least three of Said's commentators to answer this question.