

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION: COMPARATIVE POLITICS
4 HOURS
3 October 2022

STUDENT NAME (SUB-FIELD): Comparative

You must answer a total of two (2) questions for this examination. You have four (4) hours to do so. You must answer one (1) question from the core section and one (1) question from the subfield section. In your answers to any of the questions below, please be sure to present an argument and to refer to relevant readings and empirical examples.

SECTION 1. CORE QUESTIONS

1. If we wanted to predict the stability of democracy in a given country, what would be most useful to know and why: its economic condition, its institutional structure, or its political culture? Are there methodological difficulties in distinguishing between the effects of these variables, and if so, what strategies would you propose for allowing us to do so?
2. If you were to classify the field of comparative politics into subfields on your own, what organizing principles would you employ? Refer to relevant works to illustrate your points.

SECTION 2. SUBFIELD I: Political Behaviour

1. How do you interpret the state of the literature on the quality of voters and elections, and what are the normative implications of your interpretation? What role do political parties play in helping or hindering the quality of democratic choice?
2. Appeals to identity are inherently stronger than appeals to values. Discuss.