May 20, 2010

Part A, Q2: In previous decades, political economy analyses contributed greatly to understanding Canadian politics, but in recent years little of analytic value has come from applying political economy approaches to Canadian politics. Discuss

Part A, Q3: The term “identity politics” is fairly recent, but the substance of what identity politics entails has long been a central concern of Canadian political science. Discuss

Part B, Q4: How has globalization affected the nature and the role of the state in Canada?

Part C, Q7: In what, if any, sense can we speak of a ‘Canadian political culture’?

Part C, Q8: Regionalism is the most elemental feature of Canadian politics. Discuss.

August 16, 2010

Part A, Q3: Identify TWO subfields of Canadian political science that are especially rich theoretically and empirically and TWO subfields in need of more and better research. Discuss why such variation exists in the quality and quantity of research across subfields.

May 22, 2009

Part A, Q1: Canadian political science has been accused of being atheoretical. Choose one area of the discipline for which you believe this criticism is valid, and one for which you believe it does not apply. Justify your choices through references to the literature. What accounts for the difference between the two areas in terms of theoretical underpinnings?

Part A, Q3: You have been asked to address this year’s meeting of APSA in Toronto on the topic, “Strengths and Weaknesses of Canadian Political Science.” What do you say?

Part B, Q4: In Canada, is regionalism the cause of federalism or is federalism the cause of regionalism?

Part B, Q6: For all the talk of the pervasive and pernicious effects of neoliberalism on Canadian politics, policy, and governance, its actual influence has been relatively modest. Discuss.

Part C, Q8: What insights can be gain by studying Quebec through the lens of ‘identity politics’?

Part C: Q9: At no time in Canadian history have there been as many ways to achieve effective political representation as exist today. Discuss.

August 20, 2007

Part B, Q4: To what extent have the traditional pillars of the Canadian constitutional system – federalism and parliamentary responsible government – been transformed by the addition of a third pillar: the Charter of Rights and Freedoms?

Part B, Q5: Despite being Canada’s foremost representative political institution, Parliament has attracted relatively little scholarly attention in recent years and most work on it has been descriptive or normative, rather than analytical or theoretical. Discuss.

Part B, Q6: The territorial bias of federalism seriously limits the capacity of Canadian political institutions to respond to the multiple identities and interest that comprise contemporary Canada. Discuss.

Part C, Q7: While the Canadian political economy literature has generated unique insights about Canada, it has suffered intellectually from a lack of incorporation of comparative perspectives. Discuss.

May 26, 2011

Part B, Q4: In Canada, since the late 19th century, society and economy and the attitudes and values associated with them have changed fundamentally, yet the principal institutions of government remain much as they were 120 years ago. Discuss.

Part B, Q6: Do federalism and the electoral system work at cross-purposes in Canada?

Part C, Q7: Partisan identification is not a useful concept in Canadian politics. Discuss.

Part C, Q8: What social and ideological cleavages best account for Canadian voting behaviour?

Part C, Q9: Do the results of the 2011 federal election suggest that Canada is entering a new party system?