

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Canadian Government and Politics Major Field Exam

August 22, 2013

10am to 2pm

(Professors Bashevkin, Haddow and Loewen)

Instructions: Answer one (1) question from each part. Include in-text author citations where appropriate.

PART A

1. You are designing an upper-year course on Canadian politics, one section of which focuses on four books in Canadian political science that have made influential and lasting contributions to the field. What books do you put on the course and why?
2. “The comparative turn in the study of Canadian politics is really a quantitative turn.” Discuss.
3. Canadian political science has been accused of being atheoretical. Choose one area of the discipline for which you believe this criticism is correct and one for which you believe it is not. Justify your choice through references to the literature. What accounts for the differences between the two areas in terms of theoretical underpinnings?

PART B

4. Alan Cairns predicted that the adoption of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* would transform Canadian political culture and governance. To what extent has this happened?
5. What are the strengths and weaknesses of federations, especially the Canadian one, in addressing long-term policy challenges like climate change or pension funding.
6. When it comes to learning about public policy, what are the limits to variation between provinces?

PART C

7. Will Kymlicka argues that Canada must manage different dimensions of diversity: Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal, French/English, and multicultural. To what extent do responses to these three require different policies and political practices? Might there be a more global approach to reconciling them?

8. Which spatial or ideological dimensions best characterize Canadian federal voting behaviour?
9. Do the results of the 2011 federal election suggest that Canada is entering a new party system?