

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Canadian Government and Politics Major Field Exam  
December, 2013**

**(Professors Haddow, Loewen and G. White)**

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

**PART A**

1. What is gained and what is lost if Canadian political scientists fully embrace 'the comparative turn'?
2. "Canadian political scientists are overly preoccupied with national politics, with the result that provincial and municipal politics are not adequately studied." Discuss.
3. Canadian political scientists now study the politics of identity and difference much more than they did a couple of decades ago, and perhaps more than in many other countries. What explains this greater emphasis and what are its merits?

**PART B**

4. Does the Prime Minister of Canada have too much power? What accounts for changes in the Prime Minister's power in recent decades?
5. Does Canada have a democratic deficit? Is Canada becoming more democratic or less democratic?
6. The Canadian system of government combines Parliamentary government with federalism. Has this had positive or negative consequences for the ability of its institutions to respond to evolving societal needs?

**PART C**

7. What, if anything, does the argument that Canada has a brokerage party system contribute to our understanding of Canadian political behaviour and voting?

8. What are the principal strengths and weaknesses of the Canadian policy literature?

9. "Scholarship in the political economy tradition is now much less prominent in Canadian political science than it was a generation ago. This is because of the intrinsic limits of this approach." Comment.