

**Yale University**  
Department of Political Science

Field Examination in Comparative Politics  
August 2020

You are required to answer 3 questions. Each answer comprises one-third of the exam grade. The exam has a strict 21 page limit (double-space, 12 font). You have 7.5 hours to complete the exam. This exam is not open-book, but you can use up to 30 single spaced pages of notes and a clean copy of the reading list.

What is nation-building? When does nation-building strengthen cooperation between ethnic groups? When does it fail to do so?

How does the literature on authoritarian institutions help us understand democratization and regime change?

What is political culture and how is it perpetuated across time and space?

Do existing theories in comparative politics designed to explain variation in social spending adequately explain variation in taxation?

How useful is Lipset and Rokkan's framework for understanding the variation in 'cleavage structures, party systems, and voter alignments' outside of the Western European context?

The recent coalitional dynamics of social policy reforms is remarkably similar across developed and developing countries. Do you agree or disagree?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of the increased focus on causal identification in comparative politics? Evaluate with respect to two distinct literatures in comparative politics