

Political Economy Exam August 2018

Please answer **one** question from each **Part**. Choose questions that show the depth and breadth of your knowledge. You may refer to the Political Economy Exam reading list for authors' names and titles but no other material.

Part 1

1a. Why did the welfare state emerge in the late nineteenth century and expand rapidly in the twentieth century? What is your prognosis for the future of the welfare state in the advanced democracies? What kind of welfare state, if any, do you expect to emerge in the countries that are large and growing rapidly in the developing world?

1b. What explains the differences in the size of the welfare state in Europe and the United States? Discuss different arguments, their causal logic and empirical evidence.

Part 2

2a. What is the relationship between income and democracy? Discuss some of the mechanisms through which the modernization hypothesis operates, any evidence that specifically supports such mechanisms, and any avenue for future research in identifying possible mechanisms.

2b. Discuss at least two explanations for the extension of the franchise in Europe and the United States in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Which theory do you believe is best supported by the historical evidence?

Part 3

3a. The Hotelling-Downs model of opportunist politics and the Nash-Wittman model of interest-group politics are the main models of electoral competition on offer. Describe the main characteristics of each model, including definitions of electoral equilibria, and evaluate them from the viewpoint of realism and usefulness.

3b. Discuss the following statement: "Transparency is the bedrock of democratic accountability; greater transparency unmistakably benefits voters."

3c. Under what conditions do political leaders seek to maximize economic growth? Reflect on the ability of rational choice explanations to explain differences in economic growth.