Instructions: The examination will consist of five (5) sections as follows:

A) General Political Science  
B) American Government (National, State and Local)  
C) Political Philosophy & Theory  
D) International Relations, and  
E) Comparative Politics

Students must answer one question from each of the five sections for a total of 5 questions.

1. GENERAL POLITICAL SCIENCE

a) A perennial theme in the study of political science is the understanding of the struggle between despotism and democracy in the management of the human polity. From a review of the sub-disciplines of political science, fully examine this proposition by defining the concepts and examining their applicability to particular polities across time and place. Most especially, examine whether the modern American polity reflects this tension between despotism and democracy. Please refer to key scholars, their arguments, and writings where possible.

b) Identify and fully define each subfield in political science. In your response, identify at least one theory and key scholar from each sub-field and examine the key questions that he/she is examining. Provide an analysis of how political scientists, in each sub-field, would study any one of the following concepts: despotism, anarchy, globalization, morality, power, and democracy.

2. AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL)

a) Define and examine the basis of an “electoral college” in American politics. Discuss how the electoral college works in selecting the president of the United States. What impact do they have in the selection process and how do they represent the basic democratic foundations of our polity?

b) What are the basic differences between the House and the Senate in the United States Congress? What impact do they have on the character of each body? Explain how each body approached a key legislative bill and how that bill eventually becomes law in the current Congress.
3. **POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY & THEORY**

a) How have political philosophers in the classical and modern eras examined the concepts of justice, equality, liberty and power? In your response, please refer to and discuss the primary philosophers who have developed and applied these concepts to the study of politics and the management of the human polity in general.

b) While the Utilitarians pursued the goals of social reforms, Karl Marx went beyond such goals to theorize about a radical and violent revolution that help usher in the desired socio-economic change, and thereby transform human society. The concept of “alienation” is central in Marx’s philosophy, particularly in the formulation of this theory of radical revolution for social change. Define and explain “alienation” or “estrangement” and articulate its importance with reference to the role of class struggle, profit and property in human society.

4. **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

a) Realists state that international relations is the struggle for power and influence between actors in an international system. Fully explain this argument. In light of this proposition, also examine the factors that define the current conflict between the United States and Iraq as well as Al Qaeda. Identify and discuss the other major issues that characterize the relations between the United States and the Middle East in general.

b) Foreign policy scholars would assert that states act in their national interest. Fully define the concept of “National interest.” What are the different tools that states use to pursue these interests? Fully examine the foreign policies of the United States vis-à-vis Afghanistan, Pakistan and/or the Indian subcontinent. If you were a State Department Desk Officer, suggest changes that ought to be made to the United States’ foreign policy towards the region that you have examined in light of the current international relations.

5. **COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

a) Discuss the differences among liberal, communist, social democratic, and mercantilist political-economic systems (also list an example of each type). Based on your country readings, discuss one country that is representative of one of these systems-liberal, communist, or mercantilist. Your answer should discuss any structural or policy dynamics in the country that exemplify this type of political economic system, and where the country ranks in terms of its GINI coefficient, GDP per capita (US $-PPP), and HDI.
b) Discuss the differences among democratic, communist, and authoritarian (including the four sub-types) political/ideological systems (also list an example of each type). Based on your country readings, discuss one country that is representative of one of these systems—democratic, communist, or authoritarian. Your answer should detail any structural components in the country that exemplify this type of political system, and briefly rank the country in terms of its GINI coefficient, GDP per capita (US $-PPP), and HDI.