

BIRKBECK COLLEGE

(University of London)

BA EXAMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS

FULL-TITLE OF MODULE: Political Transformations

OFFICIAL MODULE NUMBER: POSO010S5

CREDIT VALUE: 30 credits

DATE OF EXAMINATION: Wednesday 6th May 2015

DURATION OF PAPER: TWO HOURS 10:00am – 12:00pm

You must answer TWO of the ELEVEN questions.

All questions carry equal weight.

1. Why did the sovereign state emerge as the dominant form of political organization in modern Europe?

2. Would it be right to argue that the 'absolutist state' was not as 'absolute' as commonly thought?

3. Assess the relationship between the development of the modern state and the development of capitalist economies.

4. To what extent did the French Revolution change the relationship between state and society?

5. **EITHER**

a) 'Liberalism regards the state as a necessary evil'. Discuss with reference to the changing character of the state in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

OR

b) 'Socialism was an ideology appropriate only to an industrial society. It has no relevance in today's post-industrial societies'. Discuss.

6. Was fascist ideology a product of war or class conflict?

7. How are global population shifts affecting politics?

8. What accounts for the rise of the extreme right in Europe?

9. "Violence has declined in human history." Do you agree?

10. Which is the more important trend in the world today, secularisation or religious revival?

11. **EITHER**

a) 'Liberalism succeeded in the West after 1750 because the ideas of liberal intellectuals spread throughout society.' Discuss.

OR

b) Assess Inglehart's claim that rising material security leads to liberal attitude change.