

BIRKBECK
(University of London)

BA EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS
BA POLITICS & SOCIETY

SCHOOL OF POLITICS AND SOCIOLOGY

POLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS
POSO010U

DATE OF EXAMINATION: Tuesday 16 May 2006
DURATION OF PAPER: Three hours, 2.30pm-5.30pm

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There are **TWELVE** questions divided into **TWO** sections on this paper. You must answer **THREE** questions in total, and no more than **TWO** from either section. All questions carry equal weight.

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SECTION A

1. **EITHER (a):** What best accounts for the rise of the sovereign state in early modern Europe: the ambition of Princes or the desire for peace after the Wars of Religion? **OR (b):** How important were international relations in the emergence of the sovereign territorial state?
2. 'There was no 'absolutist state' in early modern Europe, only various types of political regime'. Do you agree?
3. How important were the American and French revolutions in the creation of modern democratic political systems?
4. Is the 19th century liberal state best seen as an attempt to reconcile individual freedom with public order or as an instrument of class rule?
5. What accounts for the emergence of social democratic government in Western Europe in the 20th century?
6. Does the model of sovereignty associated with the sovereign territorial state from the 17th through to the 20th centuries still apply to modern societies?

SECTION B

7. Compare modernist and perennialist (ethnosymbolist) theories of how the modern nation state originated.
8. In the development of liberal democracy, which is more important, liberalisation or democratisation? Why?
9. In post-industrial societies, what is the knowledge class and why is it pre-eminent?
10. Describe material, cultural, and political globalisation. Will these lead to the nation state being replaced by regional or global government? Give reasons for your answer.
11. **EITHER (a):** Is individual choice of lifestyle dissolving ethnic, national, and religious solidarities in the West? **OR (b):** Is Islamism nationalist?
12. What are the political effects of differential birth rates within and between ethnic and religious groups?