

Comparative Politics M.A. Exam
Major and Minor
Spring 2008

Student ID _____

Do not print your name on the examination. For identification, please use your student ID number in the Space indicated above.

If comparative politics is your major field, please answer two (2) questions from section A and two questions from section B. You have 48 hours to complete the examination.

If comparative politics is your minor field, please answer three (3) questions, one from Section A and B and the other from either Section A or B. You have forty-eight hours to complete the examination.

Return the exam to Traci when completed. Demonstrate the breadth of your knowledge. Avoid overlapping materials from one question to the next. Also, you should avoid excessive paraphrasing and quotations.

Section A. questions are designed to elicit theoretical and conceptual responses while Section B. questions are designed to engender a more empirical type of analysis.

Section A.

1. What is "conceptual stretching"? Why does it matter in comparative politics and how has it been addressed in the literature?
2. What is a case study and how can it best be used?
3. What is the comparative method in small N qualitative research? Give an illustration of the comparative method in your response.

4. "Selection Bias" has become a hotly discussed topic in comparative politics. What is selection bias? And what is its relationship to small N research? Finally, can it be overcome in small N research designs?

Section B.

1. What explains why advanced industrialized states take such different approaches to addressing the problem of economic equality?

2. In China today a free market economy seems to co-exist easily with an authoritarian state. What is the relationship between market freedom and political freedom? Do market freedoms lead to more political freedom? You may refer to one or more specific country cases (whether or not you mention China), and/or discuss broader multi-country studies.

3. Identify and explain two prevailing issues in the democratization literature. Your explanation has to include both theoretical and methodological components.

4. Modernization and the spread of global capitalism were supposed to undermine the basis for ethnic and religious conflict. How do you explain the contemporary explosion of ethnic and religious conflict?