Please put your Student ID number at the top of each page of your examination. **DO NOT** write your name anywhere on the examination. Number your pages consecutively for the entire examination. Submit a cover page with your responses that lists the following: ID number, type of exam completed (e.g. MA major, MA minor) and examination area, as well as the semester in which you are taking the exam. Cite sources throughout your essay, where appropriate, using standard format and provide a single bibliography that includes all the materials used in preparing your answers. Clearly label each answer with the number of the question you are answering. Budget your time carefully, including time to think and organize while preparing and writing the answers. Focus on preparing coherent, well-organized essays that not only demonstrate your mastery of the literature, but also indicate how the literature expands our collective knowledge. Students are expected to work independently on this examination and not discuss the essay items and responses with others.

**MA Majors** – please answer one question from each section for a total of four.

**MA Minors** – please answer three questions. You can select your three from any of the four sections but you cannot select more than one from a section.
Section A.

1. In *Designing Social Inquiry*, King, Koehane and Verba argue that there is a 'unified logic of inference' operating in the social sciences. Critically evaluate this claim.

2. What is a case study, and is it the same as the comparative method?

Section B.

3. ‘Ethnicity’ has come to be defined broadly by some scholars; for example, it is often defined to include religion. In your view, is this expansive definition conceptually valid and useful for empirical work? Why or why not?

4. Is the analysis of democracy and democratization deeply influenced by competing conceptualizations of democracy?

Section C.

5. Is there a theoretical or conceptual core to ‘new institutionalism’? If so, what is it? If not, why?

6. Why are ‘ideas’ and ‘discourse’ becoming so central to the ‘new institutionalism’ literature?

Section D.

7. Democracy and authoritarianism cluster around the world. When accounting for this regional concentration, do you find structural explanations more persuasive (ex: level of development, resource endowments)?; Or cultural ones (ex: religion)?

8. Scholars assess causation from different perspectives. Some use ‘structural’ or ‘deterministic’ explanations, while others prefer ‘agency,’ contingency, and leadership. Of the two, which is your preferred source of explanation and why? Does the first ignore real politics? Does the latter merely describe, and fail to explain? Pick a broad phenomenon of interest to you and evaluate the explanations in the literature in these terms.

9. In your view, does the political knowledge of the masses have a significant impact on broad political processes and aggregate political outcomes? Answer with reference to the arguments and evidence that arise in a process or outcome of interest to you.