I. History

1. Discuss critically the first chapter of Marx's Capital, covering the following issues. What are use and exchange value? What are the similarities and differences between them? What is socially necessary labor time? What is the relationship of these two value forms to the type of labor used to create them? Then take up the fetishism of commodities, looking at issues such as the following: (a) What in Marx's view is the special nature of human relationships under capitalism? What does he mean when he writes that human relations are thing-like? (b) What is being hidden or fetishized? (c) How are capitalist social relations between upper and lower classes different from that in pre-capitalist societies such as European feudalism? (d) How does "free and associated labor" come into all this?

2. Compare and contrast two modern social-contract theorists. Assess the value of social-contract theory for contemporary political theory, using the two writers whom you discussed as references. Is social-contract theory merely an expression of the historical conditions of its time, or does still have important implications for and applications to contemporary social and political life?

3. Discuss the following concerning Rosa Luxemburg: (a) her theory of gender, and (b) her critique of war and militarism. How are these two elements of her work connected to each other? Link these two sets of Luxemburg writings to two of the following: to the Marxian tradition, to the feminist tradition, or to the antiwar tradition.

4. There is variety within any "category" of political thought (liberal feminism vs. eco-feminism, for example, or individualist vs. communist anarchist). Pick two "versions" from the category of your choosing, and discuss both what differentiates them (why there are varieties) and where they overlap (why they belong in the same category).
II. Contemporary

1. Discuss Du Bois's arguments about race and class in America from his Black Reconstruction. What were the main historical events of this period and who were some of the key individual actors? What were the primary social groups and classes that were players in this historical drama? How did race and class interact in both the South and the North? What in his view were the achievements and limitations of this period?

2. Discuss in depth the way in which one twentieth-century political theorist addressed the relationship between nationalism and culture, and compare and contrast briefly his/her analysis of that relationship to current literature on nationalism.

3. Discuss the writings of Hardt/Negri and Holloway on the present moment of globalized capitalism and the prospects for resistance.

4. Explore how a contemporary political theorist both continues and breaks from a tradition in the history of political theory. You could, for example, explore Rawls in the context of social contract theory, Gramsci in the context of Marxist thought, or Gandhi and the history of Indian political theory.
III. Epistemology

1. Discuss the contributions of Lukacs and Marcuse on Hegel and dialectics, as well as Adorno's critique of positivism and empirical research. How do some or all of these thinkers attack natural science models for social science? Scientific Marxism, for example Engels? How else do their arguments connect or diverge?

2. How can the classics of political theory inform the practice of contemporary political science? Be sure to provide a specific example from the "canon" of political theory and show specifically how that theorist/work could enlighten political science today.

3. Discuss the work of Levi-Strauss, Bourdieu, or Althusser, stressing their critique of the Western liberal notion of the human subject. How does this connect to themes from Foucault? Then discuss the themes of Foucault's major works on the mental institution and the prison. What do these various texts tell us about Foucault's critique of modernity?

4. Epistemology asks questions such as "Who can know?" "What can be known?" "How do we learn?" "Why are we ignorant?" Show the political relevance of epistemology by discussing the political consequences of one set of answers to such questions. The set may come from a particular theorist, society, or school of thought.

5. Explain all three terms, using examples: American political thought.