

Олимпиада студентов и выпускников «Высшая лига», 2 этап, 2021 г.

Направление: «220. Политология»

Треки:

«Политика. Экономика. Философия»

Код 220.1

«Политический анализ и публичная политика»

Код 220.2

«Прикладная политология»

Код 220.3

Время выполнения – 180 мин.

Максимальный балл – 200.

**ИНВАРИАНТНАЯ ЧАСТЬ**

**Задание 1 (50 баллов).**

Read the text (below). The text is part of a scholarly article. It is not terribly difficult to understand. However, it would help a lot if you read it attentively. After reading and rereading it, you are to provide detailed answers to four questions. Do not cite the text when answering the questions! Then you are to write an abstract (approximately 100-150 words). The abstract is to convey the contents of the text correctly.

You will find input windows to type in your answers to four questions and the abstract after the text.

[You can download the pdf file](#)

Вопрос 1. In what methodological perspective was this text written?

Вопрос 2. What is a «white elephant»? You are not to answer by giving a direct quote from the text. Instead you are to explain this phenomenon and to give examples.

Вопрос 3. «White elephants» are often treated as the «worst symptoms of the megalomania of rulers». Yet, creators of «white elephants» are not lunatics. What is the logic behind the policies leading to initiation of «white elephants» (as proposed by the authors of the text)?

Вопрос 4. «White elephants» are not infrequently presented as a feature of autocracies. Are democracies completely immune from policies leading to «white elephants»?

Вопрос 5. Write an abstract.

**ВАРИАТИВНАЯ ЧАСТЬ**

**Трек 220.1 «Политика. Экономика. Философия»**

**Задание 2 (50 баллов).**

If you find our topics (and our Programme) challenging and worth, you are to write an academic essay on the topic you like. Your essay is to be written in English. Good luck!

1. Much ink has been spilled over the past decade on the question of “populism”. Discussions of its content, its relationship to society, its communicative and emotional style, and its consequences for democracy have made frequent appearances on TV screens and in academia respectively. What

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should we make of this phenomenon? Is populism something that should be avoided as a harmful and demagogic movement to the body politic or embraced as a core feature of democratic politics?

2. Much of the 20th century political science literature has view political behavior through the lens of rationality. Irrational components of the human psychology, however, such as emotions, may also play a role in influencing the individual to make political decisions. What role, if any, does affect play in political decision-making and what implications does this have for democratic politics?

3. In the 2015 essay “The Coddling of the American Mind” in the Atlantic magazine Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt claimed that “Attempts to shield students from words, ideas, and people that might cause them emotional discomfort are bad for the students... When the ideas, values, and speech of the other side are seen not just as wrong but as willfully aggressive toward innocent victims, it is hard to imagine the kind of mutual respect, negotiation, and compromise that are needed to make politics a positive-sum game.” Nevertheless, certain ideas, values, and people are kept out of classes on a regular basis all over the world. What are the most cited arguments to keep certain “ideas, values, and people” out of classes? Should all ideas, values, and people be “admitted” to classes? What is the relationship (if any) between the evolution of politics (in a particular country or in general) and the perception of “ideas, values, and people” as appropriate in classes?

4. Though a genuine AI is nowhere near, we can observe enormous advances in R&D and application of advanced algorithms. Popular culture and futurologists have already constructed believable and rather grim futures in which evil AIs destroy or enslave humans. How can existential threats from the AI be avoided? What political and ethical problems are to be solved to make intelligent machines human friendly?

5. The World Economic Forum is pushing forward a concept of “the Great Reset”. What is this concept? What are its economic and political implications?

При проверке эссе жюри руководствуется критериями, примерный перечень которых приведен ниже (с указанием максимума баллов по каждому критерию):

1. корректное использование ключевых понятий социальных наук по теме эссе - до 10 баллов;
2. знание ключевых работ и авторов по теме эссе, знание и умение анализировать различные подходы и позиции по теме эссе, существующие в соответствующем разделе политической науки – до 10 баллов;
3. способность привлекать идеи, концепции и понятия смежных дисциплин – до 15 баллов;
4. качество письма (структурированность содержания эссе, ясность и логичность аргументации, уровень владения английским языком) – до 15 баллов.

### Трек 220.2 «Политический анализ и публичная политика»

#### Задание 3 (50 баллов).

Read the provided text. Answer five questions on the issue of Russian municipal solid waste reform and public responses to the corresponding policy changes covered in the provided material. Try to provide an analytical perspective on the issue; use both the information provided and your personal knowledge and experience.

You will find input windows to type in your answers to questions after the text.

[You can download the pdf file](#)

## Evaluation Criteria

1. General scope and coverage of the task: how many questions have been answered; how elaborate are the answers? 0 – 20
2. Analytical component of the response: critical thinking; ability to analyze the materials; ability to identify causal relationships. 0 – 15
3. Public policy perspective on the subject: the usage and understanding of the terms, concepts, and analytical frameworks of public policy. 0 – 15
4. FINAL GRADE 0 – 50

**Вопрос 1.** Are municipal waste management issues in current RF environment a political or policy issue and why?

**Вопрос 2.** What is the difference between public policies and politics? Please, explain your answer using the example of the problem with municipal waste.

**Вопрос 3.** Identify the key actors interested in resolving the problem of municipal waste. What are their interests, goals, abilities to mobilize resources?

**Вопрос 4.** Determine the goals of public policy for a selected policy actor. Formulate alternative public policy goals. Justify the preferred option.

**Вопрос 5.** Which political changes will be needed to implement the preferred policy change in municipal waste management? Explain your choice.

## Трек 220.3 «Прикладная политология»

### Задание 4 (50 баллов).

Участникам предлагается написать академическое эссе по одной из предложенных тем. Язык написания эссе – русский или английский. Удачи!

1. Особенности и причины политической поляризации современного российского общества.
2. Сетевые методы в современных политических исследованиях: области применения и причины роста востребованности.
3. Технологии электоральной мобилизации в России с использованием социальных медиа: чего ждать на предстоящих парламентских выборах?
4. Как уровень неравенства может влиять на переход от автократии к демократии?

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1. корректное использование понятий политической науки (и смежных наук) по теме эссе – до 10 баллов,
2. знание ключевых работ и авторов по теме эссе, знание и умение анализировать различные подходы и позиции по теме эссе, существующие в соответствующем разделе политической науки и смежных дисциплинах, – до 20 баллов,
3. структурированность содержания эссе, ясность, логичность изложения и доказательность эссе – до 20 баллов.