NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

St. Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Area Studies Programme in Political Science and World Politics

APPROVED

Academic Council of the BA Programme in Political Science and World Politics

Minutes N_2 8.3.2.3.2-11/02 as of 06.12.2022

SYLLABUS

Final State Exam

Field of study: 41.03.04 "Political Science" BA level

Acade	Academic Supervisor	
	Yurv Kahanov	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. State Exam Subject-Matter

The State Exam (field of study: 41.03.04 "Political Science") covers the contents of the following disciplines pertaining to the Professional Programme Part (the Major):

- 1. Political History of Russia and Foreign Countries;
- 2. History of Political Thought;
- 3. Contemporary Russian Politics;
- 4. World Politics and International Relations;
- 5. Comparative Politics;
- 6. Policy Analysis;
- 7. Qualitative Methods in Political Research;
- 8. Quantitative Methods of Political Research.

1.2. State Exam Format

The State Exam comes in the form of a written test. This test consists of two parts and lasts 1 hour 20 minutes (80 minutes).

Part One is a simple one correct answer quiz (16 questions: 2 questions per each discipline from the list available in provision 1.1 of this syllabus). Below you will find an example of a Part One question (within the contents of the *World Politics and International Relations* discipline):

Q1. The tragedy of the commons:

- a. results from an inherent tension between collective and individual responsibility.
- b. can always be resolved through privatization and nationalization of the commons.
- c. is independent of the carrying capacity of the common.
- d. all of the options given are correct.

Part Two consists of open-ended questions where students have to demonstrate their deeper knowledge of the subject by providing a 4-to-8 sentences answer (8 questions: 1 question per each discipline from the list available in provision 1.1 of this syllabus). Below you will find an example of a Part Two question (within the contents of the *World Politics and International Relations* discipline):

Q1. Briefly outline what the security dilemma is about and within which IR theoretical school it is relevant. Please provide a relevant historical example which clearly illustrates this concept.

1.3. State Exam Assessment Criteria and Grading System

Part One: a student gets 1 point per one correct answer (and 0 points otherwise). The total amount of points here is 16 points max.

Part Two: depending on how comprehensive the answer is, a student gets from 3 to 0 points per one question. The total amount of points here is 24 points max.

3 points are given for a comprehensive, analytical and well-structured answer which shows an excellent overall understanding of the subject-matter, the ability to put it in a broader academic and contextual perspective, and a broad background knowledge rooted in the primary sources listed below.

2 points are given for an analytical and clearly organized answer which shows a good overall understanding of the subject-matter, the ability to highlight the key points pertaining to this subject-matter (yet, leaving some minor issues not covered), and some background knowledge rooted in the primary sources listed below.

1 point is given for a largely unstructured answer which takes a very basic approach to the subject-matter, uses broadly appropriate notions but lacks focus, and shows evidence of a piecemeal understanding of the subject-matter.

0 points are given when no answer is provided or if an answer does not show any evidence of even a piecemeal understanding of the subject-matter.

The total for both parts is therefore 40 points max (100%). We use the following scaling system to translate the percentage of points obtained into the 10-point grade:

Percentage	Grade
100,00 – 95,00	10
94,99 – 90,00	9
89,99 – 80,00	8
79,99 – 75,00	7
74,99 – 65,00	6
64,99 – 60,00	5
59,99 – 50,00	4
49,99 – 45,00	3
44,99 – 35,00	2
Less than 35%	1

2. STATE EXAM CONTENTS

POLITICAL HISTORY OF RUSSIA AND FOREING COUNTRIES

Early Modern European state building. The Russian Empire in the making, XVI–XVII centuries. European politics in the XVIII century. American War of Independence and the French Revolution.

European wars and revolutions in XIX century. Age of nationalism: the issue of the emergence of the nation states. Industrial revolution in Europe. The politics of the early modern colonial empires. European Imperialism and colonial rule in the XIX century. The Russian Empire in the XIX century: power and reforms. Modernization of East Asia in the XIX century.

The making of modern political ideologies: Liberalism and Conservatism, Socialism and Anarchism.

Politics in the First World War. The Russian Empire in the revolutions, 1905–1921. The Soviet political system. Restructuring the world order after the First World War. Interregnum: Liberal democracies in crisis. Stalinism. Totalitarian regimes in Italy and Germany.

World politics in the Second World War. The Cold War, 1946–1961. The Cold War, 1962–1991. Political development of China in the XX century. Communist polities in global history. Decolonization in Asia. Resistance, revolutions, wars. Democracy and the post-WW2 political regimes in the West. The "Global Sixties": new political movements across the world.

The making of neoliberal state. The anti-communist revolutions of 1989–1991. The political crisis and the dissolution of the USSR.

HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT

Political ideas and religion in Ancient Egypt. Political thought of Thucydides. Political ideas in Ancient China (Confucius and Laozi). Ancient India and Hindu Political thought. Political ideas of Plato. Political Ideas of Aristotle.

Political Ideas of Niccolo Machiavelli. Political Ideas of Thomas Hobbes. Political Ideas of Augustine. Political Ideas of John Locke. Political Ideas of Thomas Aquinas. The Quran and Political Ideas of Islam. Charles Louis de Montesquieu: Forms of Government and Their Principles. Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the French Revolution. Thomas Jefferson, American Revolution and the Idea of Democracy. Political Ideas of Grotius and Pufendorf. Natural Law. Immanuel Kant's political thought. Political Ideas of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel.

Early political thought of Karl Marx. Political thought of Carl Schmitt. Political Ideas of Hannah Arendt. Political Ideas of John Stuart Mill. Schopenhauer, Nietzsche and development of their political ideas in the XX century.

Political Ideas of John Rawls. Feminist Political Theory and its critics. Political Thought in Russia: a Historical Overview.

CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN POLITICS

Political History of Russia: The institutionalist conceptual lens. Critical Junctures in Russian Political History. Soviet Politics and Perestroika. 1992-1993 and the New Constitution.

Political institutions and processes in contemporary Russia: Parties and Electoral Process. Media. Federalism in Russia. State-building and reform process in Russia. The role of Siloviki. Rule of Law and Courts. Business and State. Civil Society and NGOs. Color Revolutions in the PostSocialist countries and Political Protest in Russia. Societal, economic and political sources of regime resilience in Russia

WORLD POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Major Theories of International Relations. Introduction to IR. Political Realism and Liberalism: The Story of Confrontation and Inter-action. Neo-realism and Neo-liberal Institutionalism: The Neo-Neo Debate. Marxist and Neo-Marxist International Relations Theories. Social Constructivism. Post-positivist Turn in IR and Poststructuralism. Postcolonialism. Feminist Theories of IR. Geopolitics as a Theory of International Relations

Selected Issues in World Politics and IR. Diplomacy and Foreign Policy. Fragmentation and Regionalisation. Hard and Soft Security. Terrorism. Development-related Problems. Climate change and planet boundaries. Demographic shifts and Migrations. Information wars. World politics today.

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Overview on political systems. Presidential and parliamentary systems. Party systems and coalitions. Constitutional politics and non-majoritarian institutions. Federalism.

Varieties of democracy. Democracy, diversity, and power-sharing. Authoritarian regimes and the problems of authoritarian rule. Authoritarian power-sharing and the selectorate theory.

Civil-military relations, coups, and coup-proofing. Authoritarian control. Resource curse and rentier states. Colonial legacies and the challenges of post-colonialism. Political violence: civil war, ethnic conflict, terrorism. Democracy and autocracy.

POLICY ANALYSIS

Developing as a Policy Analyst: Designing Interventions and Writing Policy Papers. What are public policies and why do (not) we want to analyze them? What are public policy problems? Why State: state's role in making public policies. "Carrots, Sermons and Sticks". The Essential: The Policy Cycle approach to public policy studies. Policy Formulation & Shaping: Policy Transfer and Diffusion. Policy Formulation & Shaping: Evidence-Based Policymaking or Policy-Based Evidence-Making? Agenda-Setting: Punctuated Equilibrium Theory. Agenda Setting: Multiple Streams Framework. Policy Formulation & Shaping: Advocacy Coalition Framework. Policy Legitimation: stakeholders' engagement, input and output legitimacy. Policy Implementation: Bureaucracy and Compliance.

Qualitative and Quantitative Policy Evaluation. The Changing Landscape of Public Policy: Multi-level Governance. Policymaking in Russia. Policy Advisory Systems

QUALITATIVE METHODS IN POLITICAL RESEARCH

Introduction to Qualitative Methodology. (Self) ethnography. Participant observation. Qualitative interview: data collection. Focus-groups. Visual methods. Digital ethnography.

Grounded Theory: Interview coding, analytic memos. Data Presentation. Discourse analysis I: the archeology of knowledge. Discourse analysis II: New materialism. Interdisciplinarity and intersectionality in qualitative research. Intersectionality II: Feminist and postcolonial theories in action

QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN POLITICAL RESEARCH

Introduction to the discipline: basic concepts and R basics. Descriptive statistics. Data Visualization: Principles, Tools, Examples. Statistical hypotheses and errors. Statistics and chi square (x2). Statistical tests: binominal, t test, Mann Whitney test.

Correlation. Paired linear regression. Statistical tests: Mann Whitney test. Multiple OLS regression: principle, interpretation, design. "Technical" problems and prerequisites for OLS regression. Substantive problems of regression models. Logistic regression. OLS regression diagnostics.

Ordered Logistic Regression (Overview). Panel regression and fixed effects, Hierarchical regression models

3. PRIMARY SOURCES

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