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**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**279 0082 ZA**

**BSc degrees and Diplomas for Graduates in Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences, the Diploma in Economics and Access Route for Students in the External Programme**

**Comparative Politics**

Thursday, 11 May 2006 : 2.30pm to 5.30pm

Candidates should answer **FOUR** of the following **TWELVE** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

PLEASE TURN OVER

1. What are the main problems encountered in trying to understand a country's political culture?
2. What are the main advantages and drawbacks of seeking to understand a country's political system by studying the nature of its formal political institutions?
3. Consider the relationship between democratic legitimation and respect for human rights.
4. 'Fully presidential systems only work successfully in countries where both congress and the president are elected on a first past the post basis' Discuss.
5. Define semi-presidentialism. What good reasons, if any, are there for expecting such systems to work better than full presidential systems?
6. 'Weak parties can cause severe problems of governability in parliamentary systems.' Discuss with examples.
7. 'Electoral systems largely determine party systems.' Discuss with examples.
8. 'Referendums tend to weaken party systems. They should therefore be used very sparingly.' Discuss.
9. Does the near collapse of party politics in some new democracies suggest that personalist styles of government can safely replace unpopular party systems?
10. Why is it so difficult to reform the state bureaucracies of patrimonial systems?
11. 'Federal systems tend to over-empower the judiciary.' Discuss with examples.
12. What, if anything, can local government typically do better than central government and why?