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**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**279 0082 ZB**

**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. 'If a non-democratic political culture formed an insuperable barrier to democratisation, then it would be impossible to democratise any country for the first time.' Discuss
2. How, if at all, can one satisfactorily measure the legitimacy of any given democratic system?
3. 'A country's political system is the sum total of its formal political institutions.' Discuss.
4. What sense, if any, does it make to claim that parliamentary government is somehow superior to presidential government?
5. What are the most important ways in which different forms of presidentialism can be distinguished from each other?
6. 'Social and technological change has led to a transformation of the role of political parties in rich democracies, but not necessarily to a decline.' Discuss.
7. 'The effect of electoral systems upon party systems has been exaggerated.' Discuss.
8. 'The problem with referendums is that they oversimplify complex issues.' Discuss
9. Has the decline in political ideology since the ending of the Cold War rendered obsolete the idea of a median voter?
10. 'Patrimonial system of bureaucracy are almost impossible to reform.' Discuss.
11. 'The effect of federalism is to give too much power to the judiciary.' Discuss
12. 'Many people support local government in theory, but few people want strong local governments in practice.' Discuss, with examples.