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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

279 0114 ZB

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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

Democratic Politics and the State

Tuesday, 9 May 2006 : 10.00am to 1.00pm

Candidates should answer **FOUR** of the following **ELEVEN** questions: **QUESTION 1** of Section A and **THREE** questions from Section B.

PLEASE TURN OVER

SECTION A

Answer all **ten** parts of question 1 (40 marks in total)

1. For each statement, write 'True' or 'False' to indicate your agreement or disagreement, and then briefly explain your answer. You will be awarded 1 mark for judging correctly whether it is true or false and up to 3 marks for your explanation.
 - a) Any legitimate regime is a state.
 - b) Median voter convergence means that centrist views always prevail.
 - c) The new right believe that free markets, rather than governments, promote social welfare and economic growth.
 - d) Interest groups have equal levels of political influence in a polyarchic system.
 - e) Radical elite theorists believe that regional and local elites can play an important role in government.
 - f) Neo-Marxists believe that democratic government is no better than authoritarian rule.
 - g) Pluralists favour 'divided government'.
 - h) Neo-conservatives, like new right theorists, believe that state growth must be curtailed.
 - i) Incrementalist decision-making approaches assign great importance to the status quo.
 - j) According to Mancur Olson, 'free riders' are a major obstacle to interest group formation.

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SECTION B

Answer **three** questions from this section (20 marks each).

2. 'Politics is the art of the possible, the attainable, the art of the next best'. Discuss.
3. Outline why Marxists have often attacked liberal democracy as a political system.
4. Are bureaucrats an asset or a menace in liberal democracies?
5. 'The growth of the state is the main danger to the effective operation of liberal democracies'. Discuss.
6. On what do radical and liberal feminists disagree?
7. Is economic growth possible under a green political regime?
8. 'Globalization has entailed a decline in the role of nation-states'. Discuss.
9. What kinds of 'ruling class' might there be in modern democracies?
10. Why do neo-conservatives accept the need for a strong state?
11. Which electoral system best represents citizens' views: plurality rule or proportional representation?

END OF PAPER