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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

279 0080 ZA

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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

Introduction to Politics

Tuesday, 9 May 2006 : 10.00am to 1.00pm

Candidates should answer **FOUR** of the following **NINE** questions: **QUESTION 1** of Section A and **THREE** questions from Section B. All questions carry equal marks.

PLEASE TURN OVER

SECTION A

Answer **question 1**.

1. Choose **any five** of the following **ten** statements. 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 4 marks for your explanation.
 - (1) Governing without a state is possible.
 - (2) Only states which hold democratic elections are sovereign.
 - (3) All pluralists view voters as rational actors.
 - (4) According to pluralists, all interest groups have equal levels of political influence.
 - (5) Neo-pluralists believe that professionals and technical experts, rather than governments, should make complex policy decisions.
 - (6) The new right believe that voters receive accurate political information about future state spending at election time.
 - (7) Mancur Olson argued that all interests that people care about will get organised.
 - (8) Democratic elite theorists believe that liberal democracy is possible where there are competing elites and power is decentralised.
 - (9) In William Niskanen's account, politicians enable bureaucrats to over supply government outputs.
 - (10) In the Marxist view, capitalists and their class allies are better organised than proletarian movements.

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SECTION B

Answer **three** questions from this section.

2. Why has analysis of 'the state' become so important in contemporary political theory?
3. How far does the motive of vote-maximisation explain the activities of political parties?
4. Are all bureaucrats necessarily 'empire-builders'?
5. To what extent is the existence of powerful interest groups incompatible with democracy?
6. 'Elite rule in a liberal democracy is inherently harmful to the general interests of society.' Discuss.
7. 'Marxism provides an accurate criticism of liberal democracy and capitalism.' Discuss.
8. **Either** (a) What contribution has feminism made to renewing the theory of the state?
Or (b) 'Economic growth is not possible under a green political regime.' Discuss.
9. **Either** (a) 'Only sovereign states can be democratically controlled. So if power slips away from them, it slips away from control by electorates as well.' Discuss.
Or (b) How far are inappropriate constitutional arrangements responsible for ethnic conflicts in modern democracies?
Or (c) 'Post-modernism emphasises social diversity. Therefore, it is nothing more than an extreme form of conventional pluralism.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER