

**TRES 6141
JRES 6141**

**QUALIFYING EXAMINATION
DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY
AND
DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

Russian and East European Studies**

**POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSITIONS IN THE FORMER
SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE**

TRINITY TERM 2007

Tuesday 12 June, 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Please start the answer to each question on a separate sheet.

Candidates should answer THREE questions.

Do **not** turn over until told that you may do so.

1. Was the collapse of the Soviet Union the product of modernization?
2. Discuss the importance of 'elite pacts' or 'settlements' in shaping the political transitions of post-Soviet states. Refer in your answer to AT LEAST TWO countries.
3. Should post-Communist transitions be treated as a distinct 'Fourth Wave' of democratization?
4. Assess the importance of 'starting points' for the development of democratization in any TWO East European states.
5. Consider the role played by political parties and parliaments in the consolidation of democracy in Eastern Europe. Refer in your answer to AT LEAST TWO states in the region.
6. 'Western promotion of democracy in post-Communist states was fundamentally flawed because it was based on faulty assumptions.' Discuss.
7. What elements of democratization have proved to be most and least susceptible to international influence?
8. EITHER
 (a) Were differences in the designs of the 'shock therapy' stabilization programmes in Poland and Russia primarily responsible for the variations in macroeconomic performance in these countries in the early 1990s?
 OR
 (b) How did the EU accession process affect economic performance in the Central Eastern European and Baltic countries during the period 1995-2004?
9. Evaluate the contribution of rising energy prices to the sustained recovery of the Russian economy in the post-1998 period.
10. How did weaknesses in corporate governance mechanisms undermine the success of the voucher mass privatization programmes in the Czech Republic and Russia in the 1990s?
11. What role did ethnicity play in the break-up of the former Soviet Union?
12. What accounts for the disparity in income and welfare among Russia's regions?

TRES 6141
JRES 6141

Last page