

HRES 6157

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Russian and East European Studies

SOVIET AND POST-SOVIET RUSSIAN POLITICS

TRINITY TERM 2007

Monday 11 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. Does the general political science literature provide a useful toolkit for analyzing Soviet-type societies?
2. Is the Soviet political system best described as a ‘partocracy’?
3. Was Soviet Communism a modernising force?
4. ‘The disintegration of the Soviet state could not have taken place without the effects of tidal influences of one nationalism on another’ (Beissinger, 2002). Discuss.
5. ‘Russia’s “superpresidentialism” is more a product of political culture than of institutional design’. Discuss.
6. Is the Federal Assembly a peripheral institution in Russian politics?
7. How far have the limitations of market economic reform in Russia been the main obstacle to regional democratization?
8. In what ways has the design of electoral rules shaped political competition in Russia?
9. Is it accurate to say that political parties have played no significant role in Russian politics since the collapse of Communism?
10. Have both the Russian and Soviet political systems suffered from chronic state weakness?

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