



# THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

**A. M. E. C. E. A**

**MAIN EXAMINATION**

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**FACULTY ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**REGULAR EXAMINATION**

**SPO 231 INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

**Date: DECEMBER 2020**

**Duration: 2 Hours**

**INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO Questions**

1.
  - a. Name and explain the subject areas of comparative politics (5 marks).
  - b. "The term state can be relative and confusing." Explain the different meanings of state in relation to nation and ethnic groups and the importance of state in comparative politics (5 marks).
  - c. Discuss the concept of political regimes with reference to China and the USA (5 marks).
  - d. What are the common political institutions in most of the countries, and why is the Chinese, the Vatican and the Saudi systems considered unique? (5 marks)
  - e. Discuss the differences between the "abstract review" and "concrete review". Name at least five countries that practice "abstract review" and five that practice the "concrete review" (5 marks)

- f. Discuss with examples the main features of parliamentary, semi-presidential and presidential systems of governments, and name the governments that practice each one of them (5 marks).
- 2.
- a. Briefly discuss with some examples the meaning of the following comparative political terms: i) **Neo-Patrimonialism** ii) **bicameral legislatures** iii) **Nationalism** iv) **kleptocracy** v) **Irredentism** (5 marks).
- b. “USA is regarded as the oldest democracy in the world” Give at least five reasons why the USA and not Great Britain is considered the oldest democracy in the world (5 marks).
- c. “Saudi Arabia is one of only a handful of countries without a written constitution.” How does Saudi Arabia operate without a written constitution? (5 marks).
- d. Name and discuss the governance systems of five other countries without written constitutions (5marks).
- 3.
- a. “The USA is a large and wealthy nation with a relatively weak state.” Give at least six reasons why the USA is considered a weak state (5 marks).
- b. “The United States has more wealth than any other democracy but is plagued by persistent inequality.” Discuss this statement in relation to the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement (5 marks).
- c. “For an industrial democracy, USA population is unusual in some ways.” Discuss this statement in reference to the crises in other parts of the world and how they contribute to the USA population (5 marks).
- d. “Distrust of a strong state is still a feature of U.S. politics.” Discuss the roles of the Congress and the judiciary and the contributions to the distrust of a strong government.
- 4.

- a. Explain with examples the meaning and the differences between single member constituency or first past the post and proportional representation. What are the advantages and disadvantages of either of them? (5 marks).
- b. Give at least four the reasons why the internal politics of Germany is considered unique in comparison with its western and northern European counterparts (5 marks).
- c. "Too much of our understanding of Japan is shaped or at least shadowed by dangerously misleading stereotypes." Give three reasons why we are often wrong about Japan (5 marks)
- d. "Nigeria is one of the wealthiest African countries in terms of resources but is considered very poor." Why is Nigeria very poor despite its wealth? (5 marks).

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