

**NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY
HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS**

**St. Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Area Studies
Programme in Political Science and World Politics**

APPROVED

**St. Petersburg School of
Social Sciences and Area Studies
Minutes No. _____
as of _____**

**Chairperson
Dr. Anna A. Dekalchuk**

SYLLABUS

Final State Exam

**Field of study: 41.03.04 “Political Science”
BA level**

Academic Supervisor

_____ **Yury Kabanov**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. State Exam Subject-Matter

The State Exam (field of study: 41.03.04 “Political Science”) covers the contents of the following disciplines pertaining to the Professional Programme Part (the Major):

1. Political History of Russia and Foreign Countries;
2. History of Political Thought;
3. Contemporary Russian Politics;
4. World Politics and International Relations;
5. Comparative Politics;
6. Introduction to Policy Analysis;
7. Qualitative Methods in Political Research;
8. Quantitative Methods of Political Research.

1.2. State Exam Format

The State Exam comes in the form of a written test. This test consists of two parts and lasts 1 hour 40 minutes (100 minutes).

Part One is a simple one correct answer quiz (24 questions: 3 questions per each discipline from the list available in provision 1.1 of this syllabus). Below you will find an example of a Part One question (within the contents of the *World Politics and International Relations* discipline):

Q1. The tragedy of the commons:

- a. results from an inherent tension between collective and individual responsibility.*
- b. can always be resolved through privatization and nationalization of the commons.*
- c. is independent of the carrying capacity of the common.*
- d. all of the options given are correct.*

Part Two consists of open-ended questions where students have to demonstrate their deeper knowledge of the subject by providing a 4-to-8 sentences answer (8 questions: 1 question per each discipline from the list available in provision 1.1 of this syllabus). Below you will find an example of a Part Two question (within the contents of the *World Politics and International Relations* discipline):

Q1. Briefly outline what the security dilemma is about and within which IR theoretical school it is relevant. Please provide a relevant historical example which clearly illustrates this concept.

1.3. State Exam Assessment Criteria and Grading System

Part One: a student gets 1 point per one correct answer (and 0 points otherwise). The total amount of points here is 24 points max.

Part Two: depending on how comprehensive the answer is, a student gets from 3 to 0 points per one question. The total amount of points here is 24 points max.

3 points are given for a comprehensive, analytical and well-structured answer which shows an excellent overall understanding of the subject-matter, the ability to put it in a broader academic and contextual perspective, and a broad background knowledge rooted in the primary sources listed below.

2 points are given for a analytical and clearly organized answer which shows a good overall understanding of the subject-matter, the ability to highlight the key points pertaining to this subject-matter (yet, leaving some minor issues not covered), and some background knowledge rooted in the primary sources listed below.

1 point is given for a largely unstructured answer which takes a very basic approach to the subject-matter, uses broadly appropriate notions but lacks focus, and shows evidence of a piecemeal understanding of the subject-matter.

0 points are given when no answer is provided or if an answer does not show any evidence of even a piecemeal understanding of the subject-matter.

The total for both parts is therefore 48 points max (100%). We use the following scaling system to translate the percentage of points obtained into the 10-point grade:

| Percentage | Grade |
|----------------|-------|
| 100,00 – 95,00 | 10 |
| 94,99 – 90,00 | 9 |
| 89,99 – 80,00 | 8 |
| 79,99 – 75,00 | 7 |
| 74,99 – 65,00 | 6 |
| 64,99 – 60,00 | 5 |
| 59,99 – 50,00 | 4 |
| 49,99 – 45,00 | 3 |
| 44,99 – 35,00 | 2 |
| Less than 35% | 1 |

2. STATE EXAM CONTENTS

POLITICAL HISTORY OF RUSSIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

What is political history? Early Modern European state building. Early Modern East and Southeast Asia state building. The Russian Empire in the making, XVI–XVII centuries. The politics of the world colonial empires. European politics in the XVIII century. The French Revolution and its political legacy. European wars and revolutions in XIX century. The making of a nation state in XIX century. European Imperialism and colonial rule in the XIX century. The Russian Empire in the XIX century: power and reforms. The making of modern ideologies: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism.

World politics in the First World War. The Russian Empire in the revolutions, 1905–1921. The Soviet political system. Comparative history of Totalitarian regimes. World politics in the Second World War. The Cold War, 1946–1961. The Cold War, 1962–1991. Communist politics in global history. Political development of China in the XX century. Decolonization in Asia, part I. Resistance, revolutions, wars. Decolonization in Asia, part II. Making independency. The “Global Sixties”: new political movements across the world. Democracy and the post-WW2 political regimes in the West. The making of a neoliberal state. The anti-communist revolutions of 1989–1991. The political crisis and the dissolution of the USSR.

HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT

Political ideas and religion in Ancient Egypt. Political ideas in Ancient China (Confucius and Laozi). Ancient India and Hindu Political thought. Thucydides: fear, power, interests and necessity. Ancient Greece: Socrates and Plato (Visions of Good and Just Society). Political Ideas of Aristotle. Augustine’s Political Philosophy. Political Ideas of Thomas Aquinas. Islam and Political Ideas in The Middle East.

Political Ideas of Machiavelli. Political Ideas of Grotius and Pufendorf. Natural Law. Political Ideas of Hobbes. Political Ideas of Locke. Montesquieu: Forms of Government and Their Principles. Rousseau and the French Revolution. Jefferson, American Revolution and Idea of Democracy. Kant’s Political Thought. Political Ideas of Hegel. Political Ideas of John Stuart Mill. Schopenhauer, Nietzsche and development of their political ideas in the XX century. Marxism and Socialism. Politics of Carl Schmitt. Political Ideas of Hanna Arendt. Political Ideas of John Rawls. Communitarianism: M. Walzer’s Spheres of Justice. A. MacIntyre: communitarian neoAristotelism. Charles Taylor: from communitarianism to multiculturalism. Feminist Political Theory and its critics. Political Thought in Russia: a Historical Overview.

CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN POLITICS

Brief overview of Russian political history (1990-2010s): Perestroika: why did it fail, or did it? August putsch and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Early Russian super-parliamentarism, Yeltsin’s rule by decree and October 1993 stand-off. Presidential elections 1996 and the rise of oligarchs. “Who is mister Putin?” Popular and unpopular reforms of the first and second Putin administrations. Putin’s political reforms and return to authoritarianism. Medvedev and the economic crisis in Russia. “The Return of the King”, “stolen elections” and 2011-2012 protests.

Puzzle of Russian political trajectory: struggle between president and legislature in the 1990s, with regions idle. Building power vertical in 2000s and embedding regional political machines.

Presidentialism: First electoral cycle and the birth trauma of Russian politics. The 1992-1993 stalemate and the new Constitution. How big a role does president have in Russia? Presidentialism and government instability in late 1990s. Economic crisis and the Primakov left-wing government. 1999 impeachment attempt.

Parties, media and opposition: Political parties in Russia. Where do they come from? Fate of the CPSU and the new communist party. What role did media play in Russian politics in the late 1990s? Oligarchs and the television.

Federalism: “Federalism by default”: Soviet matryoshka federalism and chocolate-bar break-up after the Soviet collapse. The all-mighty governors and gubernatorial elections in 1990s. Regional machines and the Fatherland – All Russia party in 1999. Adverse effects of federalism on party formation. Defederalization of Russia and building governors into the power vertical.

Corruption, bureaucracy and state building in Russia: Russia's surprisingly weak state. What is state weakness? State autonomy, state capacity and corruption. Is Russian state stronger under Putin than under Yeltsin? Descending to the local level and seeking societal explanations. Blat. Political machines.

Protests and color revolutions. Who are the Russian protesters and what do they want? Why revolutions happen in the Post-Soviet countries?

What state weakness tells us about institutions and the rule of law? Formal and informal institutions in Russian politics. Are courts another victim of the regime? How is law made in Russia?

Business and state in Russia. Oil and resource curse. Oligarchs: Is Russia swinging between state-capture and business-capture? How big is the Big Oil in Russian politics? What is resource curse and why is it a curse?

Societal, economic and political sources of autocratic resilience in Russia. A normal country? Do Russians support their political regime? What are the major correlates of this support? Is it economy? Is it stability? Is it law and order? Are Russians autocratic by nature? What does regime do to stay? How popular are regime policies?

WORLD POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Major Theories of International Relations. Introduction to IR. Political Realism and Liberalism: The Story of Confrontation and Inter-action. Neo-realism and Neo-liberal Institutionalism: The Neo-Neo Debate. Marxist and Neo-Marxist International Relations Theories. Social Constructivism. Post-positivist Turn in IR and Poststructuralism. Postcolonialism. Feminist Theories of IR. Geopolitics as a Theory of International Relations

Selected Issues in World Politics and IR. Diplomacy and Foreign Policy. Fragmentation and Regionalisation. Hard and Soft Security. Terrorism. Development-related Problems. Climate change and planet boundaries. Demographic shifts and Migrations. Information wars. World politics today.

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Intro to Comparative Politics and Comparative Research Methods. Comparative Politics. Comparative Method. Research design. Research question and answer. Variables and hypotheses in comparative politics. Old institutionalism. Behavioral revolution. Systemic approach. Rational choice approach. (Neo)institutionalisms. Problems of comparison.

Research designs in Comparative Politics. Research design. Research question and answer. Variables and hypotheses in comparative politics.

Political Regimes: Research in Varieties of Democracy. Political regimes. Typologies and classification. Scalar vs sortal approaches. Democracy. R. Dahl. J. Schumpeter. Substantive and procedural definitions. Polyarchy. Common good. Elections as instruments of democracy. Plebiscites and referendums. Direct and indirect participation in politics. Direct democracy vs representative democracy. Variety of democracies. Majoritarian democracies. Consensus democracies. Westminster democracies. Accountability and representation. Responsiveness and responsibility.

Political Regimes: Autocracies. Classic and modern definitions of autocracies. Totalitarianism and authoritarianism. Electoral and competitive authoritarianism. Personalist, one-party and military regimes. Hybrid regimes. Factors of sustainability of autocracies.

Regime Change. Regimes change. Democratization and democratic transitions. Types of transitions. Waves of democratization. Diffusion and bandwagon effects.

Electoral Systems, Political Parties and Party Systems. Electoral formulae. Thresholds. District magnitude. Families of electoral systems. Plurality systems. Proportional systems. Mixed systems. Preferential vote. Quota and divisors' methods. Political parties. Functions of political parties. Types of parties. Maurice Duverger. Cadre and mass parties. Catchall parties. Cartel parties. Party systems classification. Duverger's laws. Giovanni Sartori. Effective number of parties. Fractionalization. Volatility.

Legislatures. Institutional Designs. Parliamentarism. Assemblies, parliaments, congresses. Committees. Legislative process. Legislative oversight. Filibustering and logrolling. Parliamentary autonomy.

Current affairs in executive studies: coalitions, cabinets and new public management. Presidentialism. Mixed designs (president-parliamentary and premier-presidential systems). Perils of presidentialism. Presidential power and separate survival. Rational bureaucracy. New Public Management. Principal-agent problems. Policy implementation. Models of public service (civil service).

Politics in divided societies: integration vs accommodation. The lecture familiarizes students with the major normative debates, institutional approaches, and recent research trends in constitutional design and democracy in divided societies. The first topic includes discussion on the most widely known, dichotomic typologies (integration and accommodation, self-determination and pre-determination), as well as critical approaches to institutional responses to diversity (e.g. introduced by Alan Patten). The empirical part of the lecture focuses on the most prominent debate in the field of ethnic power-sharing between the proponents of consociationalism and centripetal majoritarianism (also known as the Lijphart-Horowitz debate).

Federalism and Regional Studies. The lecture focuses on the forms, origins, and dynamics of vertical divisions of power within a state. A particular emphasis is placed on analytical and explanatory theories of federalism, with a particular focus on delegation theories.

Constitutional Courts and Judicial Politics. The lecture introduces the historical origins and main institutional models of judicial review, along the most salient normative and institutional debates surrounding the phenomenon. Due to the prime questions discussed in the course, two topics in the literature on courts are further highlighted: constitutional adjudication and public policy; and constitutional courts in transitional regimes.

Introduction to Comparative Political Sociology. Political culture. Civic culture. Critical citizens. Paradox of voting. Traditional, modern and emancipative values. Modernization and post-modernization. Political participation. Conventional and unconventional participations. Institutionalized and direct participation. Models of voting behavior. Theories of protest. Critical mass theory. Absolute and relative deprivation. Tipping-point models. Political opportunity structure.

Introduction to Comparative Political Economy. Welfare State. Social Policy. Political Machines. Institutions and Growth. Interest Groups and Lobbying. Corruption. Natural resources.

INTRODUCTION IN POLICY ANALYSIS

Developing as a Policy Analyst: Designing Interventions and Writing Policy Papers. Intervention designs. How to write good policy papers.

What are public policies and why do (not) we want to analyze them? What are public policy problems? The notions of public policy and a policy problem. Features of policy problems. The social construction of policy problems.

Why State: state's role in making public policies: State's role in making public policies. Types of public policies.

The Essential: The Policy Cycle approach to public policy studies: Policy cycle model. Stages of the policy cycle. Policy cycle as descriptive and prescriptive model.

Policy Formulation & Shaping: Policy Transfer and Diffusion: Policy Transfer, policy diffusion, policy learning

Policy Formulation & Shaping: Evidence-based policymaking, the problem of evidence manipulation, values in evidence-based policy analysis.

Decision Making and Policy Change: Punctuated Equilibrium Theory: Punctuated equilibrium theory and analysis of budget spending.

Agenda Setting: Multiple Streams Framework: Multiple Streams Framework. Problem, Policy, and Politics streams. Coupling. Policy entrepreneurs.

Policy Formulation & Shaping: Advocacy Coalition Framework: Advocacy Coalition Framework. Advocacy coalitions, beliefs and their levels, coalitional resources.

Qualitative and Quantitative Policy Evaluation: Quantitative and qualitative tools in policy evaluation.

Policy Legitimation: Iron Triangle, Issue Networks, Policy Communities and Public Opinion

Policy Implementation: Bureaucracy and Compliance: The role of bureaucracy in policy implementation, bureaucratic stimuli. Barriers to compliance.

The Changing Landscape of Public Policy: Multi-level Governance: The concept of multi-level governance (MLG). MLG (ideal) types. Private governance. The role of businesses and NGOs in policy formulation and implementation. Co-governance and co-production.

Policymaking in Russia: Policy-making process in Russia. Factors of successful reforms.

Policy Advisory Systems: The role of policy advisors in policymaking. Policy Advisory Systems.

Public Policy as a Subject and a Profession: Who is a Good Policy Analyst. How to be a good policy analyst? Skills and competencies.

QUALITATIVE METHODS IN POLITICAL RESEARCH

Introduction to Qualitative Methodology. (Self)ethnography. Participant observation. Qualitative interview: data collection. Qualitative interview: coding and analysis. Focus-groups. Visual methods.

Ethnography. Digital ethnography. Interpretive turn and political ethnography (I). Interpretive turn and political ethnography (II). Ethnography and interpretive analysis in IR. Discourse analysis in IR. Practice turn and practice tracing in IR.

QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN POLITICAL RESEARCH

Introduction to the discipline: basic concepts and R basics. Specialized statistical software: types, examples, advantages and limits of different programs. Algorithm of installation R and R- Studio. Interface of R and R-Studio. Main commands, objects and functions in R. Installation and launching R. Console and script editor. Methods of data entry in R.

Descriptive statistics. Types of data. Descriptive statistics: measures of dispersion and measures of central trend. General population and sampling. Normal distribution and central limit theorem. Methods for calculating descriptive statistics in R.

Data Visualization: Principles, Tools, Examples: The role of data visualization in the presentation of the research results. Principles of data visualization. Chart types: scatter chart, distribution chart (histogram), boxplot, violin diagram, bar graph, pie chart. Examples of diagrams from a political science research. Functions for creating various types of diagrams.

Statistical hypotheses and errors. Statistical hypotheses: alternative and zero. Statistical errors: first and second type. Statistical significance.

Statistics and chi square (χ^2). Chi-square statistics. Manual chi-square calculation. Examples of using chi-square statistics in political science research. Calculation of chi- square and binomial test statistics in R.

Statistical tests: Binomial test. Parametric tests: t-test for independent and paired samples. Nonparametric tests: Wilcoxon test (Mann-Whitney) for independent and pair samples. Shapiro-Wilks Test.

Correlation. Correlation: Pearson and Spearman coefficients, significance of correlation coefficients. Correlation matrix. Conducting a correlation analysis and building correlation matrices in R. Examples in political science research.

Paired linear regression. Method of least squares (OLS): essence, assumptions. Paired linear regression: regression equation, interpretation of regression output

Multiple OLS regression: principle, interpretation, design. OLS regression diagnostics. Regression equation, the value of t- statistics for independent variables, the F-statistic value for the

regression model. Comparison of regression models. The nuances of the interpretation of the coefficient of determination and standardized coefficients for independent variables. Presentation of multiple linear regression results. Using categorical and ordinal variables. Implementation of the pairwise linear regression in R. Visualization of the essence of the method of least squares. Interpretation of the results of regression analysis. Realization of multiple linear regression in R. Examples in political science research.

“Technical” problems and prerequisites for OLS regression. Substantive problems of regression models. Technical problems of regression models: multicollinearity, heteroscedasticity, emissions, influential observations. Diagnostics and ways to solve technical problems of regression models. Essential problems of regression models: endogeneity, exclusion from an analysis of relevant explanatory variables, the inclusion of irrelevant explanatory variables. The problem of sample bias. Consideration and essence of technical and substantive problems.

Logistic regression. Ordered Logistic Regression. Generalized linear models: logistic regression. Predicted probabilities and odds ratio. Implementation of logistic regression in R. Generalized linear models: ordered logistic regression. Predicted probabilities and odds ratio for ordered logistic regression. Examples in political science research.

3. PRIMARY SOURCES

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