

PS145 Midterm Exam

- 1) Your exam will begin at 12:40pm on March 12th. You will then have until 2pm to complete the exam. You need not use all of this time and you will be allowed to leave early if you finish early, with the exception that, as a courtesy to your fellow students, no one will be allowed to leave the exam room during the last 10 minutes of the exam.
- 2) You must handwrite your answers in a bluebook or greenbook. You must write in pen. Consider leaving every other page blank so that you can make any necessary corrections on the adjacent page without having to use up the limited space provided in the margins.
- 3) Please write your name and your SID number on the front of your exam book. Please do **NOT** put your name on subsequent pages; include only your SID number. This allows for blind grading.
- 4) This is a closed-book exam. You may **NOT** use any course materials for the exam, nor may you consult your fellow students while completing it. If we see you doing either of the following, you will receive a failing grade on the exam, which means you will also fail the course.
- 5) You may not bring any electronics to the exam. Please leave your cell-phones, computers, etc. at home or in your vehicle.
- 6) We will be relatively liberal with citation format for the exam. Given that this is a closed-book exam, you will not be required to quote directly from sources, nor provide page numbers. That said, when you are paraphrasing or using another person or author's ideas, you must give this person credit. An author's name should be sufficient for this purpose. If you fail to cite appropriately, you will be docked points and, depending upon the egregiousness of the conduct, you may fail the exam/course.
- 7) You will be graded on the degree to which you demonstrate a good understanding of the course materials, on the quality of your writing and on the originality of your thinking.

Good luck!

Potential PS145 Midterm Exam Questions:

[Please note: only one of the below essay questions, in addition to several fill in the blank and/or short answer questions will appear on the actual exam.]

- 1) Since Independence, many argue that India's economic development has been primarily driven, or stymied, by the choices of national leaders. How did India's post-Independence leaders approach the goal of economic development? What explains these choices? Did India's leaders have any other viable economic strategies in the pre-1991 period? Take a position and lay out a thoughtful argument in support of it. Be sure to draw upon relevant evidence and to consider factors that run contrary to your argument.
- 2) You've just been selected to be Prime Minister of India. Your supporters have demanded that you fix India's "corruption problem." Taking into account India's political and electoral institutions, the institutions of the Indian state and what you have learned so far about India's history and population, come up with a plan that will satisfy your supporters and also ensure that you remain in power.
- 3) India's electoral system supports the largest elections in the world. Some argue that this system also underlies the particular development of India's party system. Why might this be the case? Describe the differences between the party system today and at Independence and explain why these differences are, or are not, related to the character of India's electoral institutions. Given recent events, should we expect anything different in the future?