

**Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division**

SSD/2/2/4

**Social Sciences Board**

**Approved at the meeting of Teaching Audit Committee on 27 February 2015**

**Title of Programme**

BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics

**Brief note about nature of change:** Updating syllabus for one paper

**Effective date**

**For students starting FHS from MT 2015**

**For first examination from 2016-17**

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations* 2014

**Detail of change**

**1. P378, I42-51:**

201. *Comparative Government* ~~Candidates may be expected to show knowledge of the following topics: political parties and party systems; electoral systems; political executives; legislatures; bureaucracies; federalism and other forms of territorial decentralisation; judiciaries; interest groups; forms of government and the constitutional allocation of power between institutions; democratisation. Questions may be set regarding the nature, origins, and political effects of the individual institutions in the preceding list. Candidates should answer all questions comparatively. They should show knowledge of relevant empirical material, and use evidence, comparative methods, and theoretical perspectives appropriately.~~ Candidates are required to show knowledge of theories and methods of comparison in empirical political analysis, including both quantitative and qualitative approaches, and their application to specific problems. The course will include the study of (i) regimes and states; (ii) institutions; and (iii) political actors. Candidates may select any combination of questions in the examination. Topics in the area of regimes and states will

include: state-building; structural and actor-based explanations of democratization processes; institutional and legitimacy-rooted variation across hybrid and autocratic regimes; the outcomes of different regimes. Topics in the area of institutions will include: constitutional design and constitutional practice under different regime styles; executives and legislatures; judiciaries; bureaucracies; structures, purposes and consequences of devolved power; and variations in and consequences of electoral systems. Topics in the area of political actors will include: the origin of parties; the explanation of party-system variation and the causes of party-system change; interest groups and social movements, and their interaction with parties and government; the nature of political activism. Where appropriate, candidates must demonstrate an understanding of casual inference and causal mechanisms, and of associated problems of selection, endogeneity, and interaction effects.

**Explanatory Notes**

Updating syllabus for one paper