

Exam key

All exam questions related in some way to democratization, so the requirements of the exam were similar for each question. Of course, there were nuances to each question that were taken into account. This document is a general summary of what distinguished different grades and not all responses perfectly fit these criteria.

A – The best exam responses did the following: (1) used clear and accurate definitions of democracy and/or democratization drawn from the course syllabus that demonstrate the candidate understood how these authors conceptualized political institutions, (2) articulated, in an accurate and integrated way, the main theoretical drivers of the process of *democratization* across the four readings identifying points of consensus and debate, and empirical implications of this theoretical discussion (3) used well-selected, justified and relevant case studies/other evidence that was accurate and referenced, (4) analysed this evidence in relation to the theories being tested such that appropriate and substantiated inferences about the usefulness of these theories for democratization could be drawn and empirically grounded predictions made, (5) used a clear structure, expression, referencing and flow.

B – responses usually did the following: (1) used clear and accurate definitions of democracy and/or democratization drawn from the course syllabus that demonstrate the candidate understood how these authors conceptualized political institutions, (2) articulated, in an accurate but descriptive or partial way, some theoretical drivers of the process of *democratization* across the four readings (3) used case studies/other evidence that was generally well selected and relevant, accurate and referenced, but not necessarily well-justified and at times making claims that were unsubstantiated (4) used this evidence somewhat descriptively and *at times* without drawing clear, substantiated and grounded inferences as a the basis for predictions(5) used a clear structure, expression, referencing and flow.

C – responses usually did the following: (1) used clear and accurate definitions of democracy and/or democratization drawn from the course syllabus that demonstrate the candidate understood how these authors conceptualized political institutions, (2) articulated, in an accurate but largely descriptive way the content of the main theories without identifying the key *processes* that drive democratization (3) used case studies/other evidence that was by and large accurate but not well justified, substantiated or clearly relevant (4) used this evidence descriptively without drawing clear and grounded inferences as a the basis for predictions with some claims lacking substantiation or grounding in evidence (5) needed improvement in expression, structure, referencing or flow.

D – responses usually did the following: (1) used definitions of democracy/democratization that were somewhat inaccurate or elided key texts with insufficient justification (2) articulated in descriptive way the content of the main theories without identifying the *processes* that drive democratization, sometimes with inaccuracies (3) used case studies/other evidence that did not relate back to the theoretical discussion and/or were not clearly relevant or

substantiated with some inaccuracies (4) used this evidence descriptively and made analytical claims that were to a large degree unjustified by the evidence presented (5) needed significant improvement in expression, structure, referencing or flow.

E – responses usually did the following: (1) used definitions of democracy/democratization that were inaccurate or elided key texts without sufficient justification (2) articulated in descriptive way the content of the main theories without identifying the *processes* that drive democratization and with inaccuracies (3) used poorly justified, unsubstantiated or inaccurate evidence not related back to the theoretical discussion, (4) used this evidence descriptively with analysis that was largely unsubstantiated (5) needed significant improvement in expression, structure, referencing or flow.

F –responses usually did the following: (1) used definitions of democracy/democratization that were inaccurate (2) articulated the content of the main theories without identifying the *processes* that drive democratization with significant inaccuracies such that the sensor was not convinced the candidate had understood the main theories (3) used poorly justified, inaccurate, irrelevant or unsubstantiated evidence (4) exhibited poor expression, structure, referencing or flow.