

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer one question from each of the following three groups. Please identify clearly each question answered, and avoid repetition between answers. Answers are expected to respond directly to the specific questions asked. Write out and sign (by number) the pledge on the face of your exam. This is a closed-book exam. You are not to refer to any written material or discuss this examination with anyone.

If you do not type, please attempt to write legibly. Use blue or black ink, and please skip lines.

I

1. How do the interpretive assumptions one brings to Plato's dialogues critically affect one's understanding of his political theory? Discuss, with reference to recent scholars who take different views of how to read the dialogues.
2. How do different ways one understands Thucydides' use of speeches in his *History* affect one's understanding of Thucydides' political theory?

II

3. In what ways and to what extent is the value of equality a central concern of ancient Greek political theory?
4. According to the poet, Pindar, *Nomos* (law, convention) is "King of all." Discuss the distinction between *nomos* and *physis* (nature) as it helps us to understand important aspects of Plato's dialogues.

III

5. It is often claimed that Kant achieved an important theoretical breakthrough in viewing the social contract (contract of government) as purely hypothetical, rather than historical. To what extent and in what respects do you agree with this claim?
6. Jean-Paul Sartre called Karl Marx a "true philosopher," unlike the vast majority of political theorists who "are carried along by the marching crowd." Thinkers of the latter type he describes as "ideologists," who are incapable of raising themselves above the contingencies of their social existence. In what ways do you agree with this description of Marx? In what ways do you disagree?