

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer one question from each of the following three groups. Please identify clearly each question answered, and avoid repetition between answers. 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) Would it be correct, or misleading, to claim that Anglophone political theory from Hobbes to Rawls has consistently promoted a "negative" rather than a "positive" concept of liberty?

(2) Is it possible to defend liberal principles without endorsing some perfectionist vision of the good life?

II

(3) Is liberalism compatible with utilitarianism? Discuss with reference at least two of the following: Rawls, Nozick, Mill.

(4) Assess the communitarian critique of liberalism. In what ways is this an important and successful critique? In what ways do you believe it fails?

III

(1) "The makers of modern liberalism did not reject virtue as a critical category of moral political philosophy, and never dreamed that a politics based on natural freedom and equality could achieve its goals independently of the qualities of mind and character of citizens and officeholders." Discuss the accuracy of this statement with respect to at least three of the following theorists: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, and Mill.

(2) While Hobbes is often described as a "conservative" political thinker, many would argue that his "conservatism" diverges significantly from that of Burke and Montesquieu. How is Hobbes' conservatism similar to and different from that of Burke and Montesquieu? Is it fair to call Hobbes a conservative, in light of these differences?

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II

(3) Locke’s confused idea of the state of nature shows that this idea should be abandoned in any serious political theory—and along with it the idea of the social contract.” Discuss.

(4) Is individualism the safeguard of democratic life or its enemy? Compare the views of Tocqueville and Emerson.

III

(5) Would it be correct, or misleading, to claim that Anglophone political theory from Hobbes to Rawls has consistently promoted a ‘negative’ rather than a ‘positive’ concept of liberty?

(6) Is it possible to defend liberal principles without endorsing some perfectionist vision of the good life?