

# Political Economy Field Exam

## Summer 2021

Please answer all three questions. Each question will be graded equally. You have three hours to complete the exam.

**Question 1:** Discuss the main themes that have emerged from the literature on the political economy of autocracies. Discuss one (or several) lens(es) through which autocracies can be classified. What are the main trade-offs identified by the literature that autocrats must face? Discuss some institutions that solve these trade-offs more or less efficiently. What do you think are some of the most important questions not yet addressed by that literature.

**Question 2:** In recent years, there seems to be a realignment of dimensions of politics in advanced democracies with the pro/anti-globalization dimension uniting populist extreme right and extreme left against center left and center right. Go over existing families of voting models and discuss how these models may or may not be appropriate to incorporate this change. How do you think this issue should best be modeled. *Note: there is no single good answer here, but this is to test your deep thinking about the field of political economics.*

**Question 3:** Discuss two implications of the pivotal-voter model of turnout? Has the literature found much support for these predictions? Discuss two other theories for why voters turnout in large elections? What does the empirical evidence say about these theories? For at least two of the empirical papers, describe the data, research design, main findings, robustness, and any concerns with interpretation.