

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

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FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER - MAY 2011

**TITLE OF PAPER** : **INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**COURSE CODE** : **IDE-DL026**

**TIME** : **TWO (2) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS** : **ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS: ONE FROM SECTION A AND THE SECOND FROM SECTION B. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 50 MARKS**

**TOTAL MARKS** : **100**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION TO DO SO HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

**SECTION A:**

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**QUESTION 1**

The scientific study of politics entails the understanding of the philosophy and the theories that shape and guide our understanding of political systems and processes that are aimed at bringing about profound change for the good of society. In your own understanding, what are some of these theories of politics and how do they strive to leave a lasting legacy for the good of society?

**( 50 marks)**

**QUESTION 2:**

Karl Marx adopts a historical approach in his analysis of the different social formations that have occurred over time, trying to locate the point at which the state emerged and the reasons why. Explain this historical transformation of society from one level of development to another. How is this different from the liberal view of how the state emerged?

**( 50 marks)**

**QUESTION 3:**

Define the concept of government, its functions as well as to describe the different branches that form government. Explain how a "good" government should operate.

**(50 marks)**

**QUESTION 4:**

Social classes are groups of people found in different sections of society. According to Marx, these groups occupy different positions with regard to their relations to the means of production. Explain Marx's conception of social classes and the solution that he sees in redressing the class issue.

**( 50 marks)**

**SECTION 2:**

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**QUESTION 5:**

Discuss the notable characteristics of power and the different types of power. What are the different types of authority. Give examples.

**( 50 marks)**

**QUESTION 6:**

Swaziland adopted a constitution in 2005. Explain what is the nature and role of a constitution. Does the Swaziland constitution contain the key elements of a constitution? Which type of constitution is the Swaziland constitution and why?

**( 50 marks)**

**QUESTION 7:**

Make a distinction between political parties and interest groups. Explain the major functions of political parties. Using a country of your choice as an example, which political party system do you consider ideal for democracy and why?

**( 50 marks)**

**QUESTION 8:**

Political culture can broadly be classified according to whether members of society take an active participatory role in the political process or a passive one. In your opinion, what is the political culture of Swaziland and what are the determinants of that political culture?

**( 50 marks)**