**Political Systems I.**

1. Characterize three main approaches in studying political phenomena. What is the concept of *three-dimensional* model of politics? Explain these dimensions using practical examples.
2. Explain the systems theory in political science and D. Easton’s model of political system. What dysfunctions might the political system exhibit? What is the structural-functional analysis and what functions of political system does it study? Shortly asses the functionality of the Czech political system.
3. Explain the basics of the rational choice theory. What is the Condorcet paradox and what are its implications for politics? Explain the basics of game theory (key concepts, relations among players, types of games, practical examples, for example using the political system of the Czech Republic). What is the utility of games theory in the field of political science?
4. Explain key concepts of the coalition formation theory. Introduce two schools of the coalition formation theory and compare them in the most important aspects. How can you use coalition formation theory in analyzing the Czech political system.
5. Explain the concepts of pluralism and corporatism and differentiate between pluralism, corporatism and neo-corporatism. Could we identify some aspects of corporatism in the political system of the Czech Republic?
6. Analyze basic aspects of consensual and consociational models of democracy. Explain the differences between consensual and Westminster type of democratic regime. To which of these types belong the Czech Republic and why?
7. Explain R. Dahl’s theory of polyarchy (theoretical background, main characteristics, conditions of establishment and consolidation of polyarchy, polyarchy and the concept of democracy). Does Czech Republic fulfil the criteria for being described as polyarchy?
8. Using example of particular countries explain key differences between presidential and semi-presidential political systems (excluding CEE political systems).
9. Tools of direct democracy: in general, explain the techniques of direct democracy and their use in Western Europe. List the pros and cons of direct democracy.
10. Introduce basic typology of nondemocratic regimes. Explain the differences between authoritarianism and totalitarianism. Name several examples of both kinds of nondemocratic regimes.
11. Introduce the main theories of transition to democracy (A. Stepan, T. L. Karl and P. C. Schmitter, G. di Palma, D. Rustow, A. Przeworski) and apply the respective theories to real-world examples of political transformations.
12. Explain key aspects of hybrid regimes (characteristic traits, types of hybrid regimes – illiberal democracy, delegative democracy, competitive authoritarianism etc.) and list examples of these political regimes.
13. Explain S. Rokkan’s conceptual map of Europe. Why are some parts of Europe included in the map, while others are not? What are the dimensions that Rokkan uses in his map?
14. Introduce main authors in the field of political party theory and their approaches to defining political parties. What is the difference between political party and interest groups? Explain the functions of political parties in modern democratic systems.
15. Explain the development typology of political parties (elite parties, mass parties, professional parties and cadre parties). What party properties are underline by this kind of political parties typology?
16. Introduce the concept of *cleavages* by S. M. Lipset and S. Rokkan. Briefly characterize each of the cleavages by thinking through examples from the political development of Western Europe.
17. What was the revitalization and expansion of the classical concept of cleavages in the last third of the 20th century? Characterize newly defined cleavages using the context of political development in western Europe.
18. Why authors use different kinds of cleavages in analyzing post-communist party and political systems in CEE than in the case of western Europe? Briefly assess these cleavages.
19. Explain the nature of electoral systems and their common definitions. Characterize Duverger’s and Blondel’s typology of party systems. Comparing to Duverger’s typology, what was the main innovation in understanding party systems provided by J. Blondel?
20. Describe main trends in development of voting rights in modern democracies. Introduce key aspects of electoral systems.
21. Explain the basics of majoritarian electoral systems (typology, main variables and effects of these electoral systems). Use concrete examples in your explanation.
22. Explain the basics of proportional electoral systems (typology, main variables and effects of these electoral systems). Use concrete examples in your explanation.
23. Introduce Duverger’s election laws and their critique in academic literature. To what extant were these laws built-upon by G. Sartori?
24. Explain the theory of second-order elections using the example of the Czech Republic.
25. Compare key aspects of communal and regional elections in the Czech Republic (structure of the ballot, election threshold, size of electoral districts, possibilities to be a candidate, voting behavior).
26. Compare key aspects of Czech elections to the lower and upper chamber of the Czech parliament and to the European Parliament (electoral systems, electoral behavior).
27. Characterize the position of the Czech Parliament within the Czech political system and explain its various functions.
28. Government of the Czech Republic: inner structure of the government, ways of establishment, possibilities of removing the government from power.
29. Explain the role of the President in the constitutional order of the Czech Republic, his/her powers and competences.
30. Explain the position of the Czech Constitutional Court in Czech constitutional order, its competences and area of jurisdiction.