THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
MONA

EXAMINATION OF DECEMBER 2002

Code and Name of Course  GT 11A—INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Date and Time:  Tuesday, December 10, 2002 — 4:00 – 6:00pm Duration: 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES: This paper has 2 page(s) and 10 questions

Answer TWO questions

1. Political socialization is a very important process that creates and conveys the political culture of a society. Examine two of the agents of political socialization for the way in which they operate and the effects both may have in the country of your choice.

2. Using examples from any Caribbean territory and the United States, compare and contrast presidential and parliamentary systems of government for their key characteristics, as well as their strengths and weaknesses. Draw some conclusion about which system is better on balance in your view, and justify your position.

3. What is the "pluralist" model or theory of U.S. government? What is the "elitist" theory? Which best explains the realities of U.S. government? Make a strong argument. What are the roles and functions of interest groups in the U.S.?

4. Compare and contrast the impact of the "separation of powers" on the UK and USA constitutional systems.

5. Does the office of the Prime Minister currently have too much power? What factors have shaped this position and its powers and constraints over time? Are changes needed? (Use examples from any one Caribbean territory).
6. **Either:**

(a) How accurate is it to describe British government as ‘prime ministerial government’?

Or:

(b) ‘Parliament is still a vital part of the British political system.’ Discuss.

7. “Russia is a society in chaos with an inadequate political system that is described variously as pseudo-democratic, authoritarian, mafia-nomenklatura, and kleptocratic, to mention but a few”.

To what extent has the ‘superabundance of presidential power’ facilitated this view of post-Communist Russia?

8. What is globalization, and what does it mean for politics and democracy in the English-speaking Caribbean?

9. Examine the uses to which referendums may be put in a political system. What are the justifications for holding a referendum, and on what sorts of issues? This analysis should discuss the merits of direct and indirect forms of democracy. Also, consideration should be given to the practical requirements and consequences of holding a referendum on a complicated or divisive topic.

10. Analyze the different types of ‘representation’ involved in a democracy. What are the problems in providing for representation? Can different forms of representation be realized at the same time, or is a choice required? What are the problems of accountability that are posed by relying on representatives?

END OF QUESTION PAPER.