Олимпиада студентов и выпускников «Высшая лига» – 2020 г.

Направление: «Политология»

Профиль: «Политика. Экономика. Философия»

код – 231

Время выполнения задания — 180 мин, язык - английский. Максимальное количество баллов - 100.

Задание 1. (максимально - 50 баллов)

Write an academic essay in English on one of the following topics (in English).

- 1. Policymakers around the world are typically concerned with both economic growth and economic stabilization. Explain the distinction between these policy goals. Are different policies used to achieve these two goals? Give some examples.
- 2. Recently the surveillance studies have focused on the expansion of sensory capacities of the State. As a result developed states can literally see their citizens (as well as foreign citizens) almost everywhere (for example, due to CCTV cameras in urban areas) and hear them. The technologies to process the data thus acquired have become rather advanced and quite affordable. What are the positive and negative implications of these developments for the public policy and public administration domains?
- 3. In 2012, the co-founder of Microsoft Corporation Bill Gates shared his thoughts on what is known as "the paradox of our age": "Innovation is faster than ever before... yet Americans are more pessimistic about the future." According to numerous studies, this pessimism is baseless. However, the "paradox" is here. What are the political, economic, social, and intellectual implications of this pessimism with respect to different aspects of the existence of humanity?
- 4. One of the participants of the 2020 Democratic Party presidential primaries Andrew Yang has warned that "all you need is self-driving cars to destabilize society". Is this warning a typical exaggeration of an aspiring politician in order to gain publicity? Can a new technology rapidly destabilize a developed society with an experience of avoiding or surviving crises?
- 5. A renowned European political scholar and sociologist Claus Offe has argued that the "demand" for legitimate state coercion as a "meta collective good" has substantially increased because of growing interdependence, etc. However, its "supply" has decreased. What are the causes of the "increase of demand" and the "decrease of supply" of this "good"? What is this "good"? How is this "good" created? You may try to substantiate or to refute Offe's idea. You are welcome to use arguments from the social sciences and the humanities.

Задание 2. (максимально - 25 баллов) Read the following fragment and answer the questions given below (in English).

... Truly, my philanthropic friends, Exeter Hall Philanthropy is wonderful; and the Social Science—not a "gay science," but a rueful [one]—which finds the secret of this universe in "supply-and-demand," and reduces the duty of human governors to that of letting men alone, is also wonderful. Not a "gay science," I should say, like some we have heard of; no, a dreary, desolate, and indeed quite abject and distressing one; what we might call, by way of eminence, the dismal science. These two, Exeter Hall Philanthropy and the Dismal Science, led by any sacred cause of Black Emancipation, or the like, to fall in love and make a wedding of it,—will

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give birth to progenies and prodigies; dark extensive moon-calves, unnameable abortions, wide-coiled monstrosities, such as the world has not seen hitherto!

- 1. Who, in your opinion, is the author of this excerpt? How would you describe the epoch to which this excerpt relates?
- 2. What was the impact of ideas expressed in this fragment on political and economic practices as well as intellectual debates?
- 3. What is the "dismal science"? What is the role of the "dismal science" in policies today?

Задание 3. (максимально - 25 баллов)

Using data given below answer the questions and explain how you obtained the results (in English).

Annual real growth rates (percentage change on the previous year) of three European countries are the following:

Country	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Croatia	5.3	1.8	-7.4	-1.5	-0.3	-2.2	-0.5	-0.1	2.4	3.5
Italy	1.5	-1.0	-5.3	1.7	0.7	-3.0	-1.8	0.0	0.8	1.3
Spain	3.6	0.9	-3.8	0.2	-0.8	-3.0	-1.4	1.4	3.8	3.0

- 1. Calculate growth dynamics of each of these countries over the entire 10-year period
- 2. Evaluate whether there has been a growth or decline in GDP in these countries?
- 3. Evaluate which country had the relatively best results and which the worst?

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