

This is the OFFICIAL and APPROVED structure of the exam set 6 or 7 years ago and implemented religiously by field chairs in Comparative ever since:

### Comparative Politics Prelim Exam Structure

"The comprehensive exam is loosely organized into seven areas: (1) states and state making; (2) regimes and regime change; (3) political economy; (4) mobilization, conflict, and violence; (5) political parties and political cleavages; (6) political behavior and psychology; and (7) formal political institutions. These areas are not rigid fields; they obviously intersect and overlap in various ways. We can adjust these labels and categories as things evolve. For purposes of the exam, these seven areas will be divided into two main groups: Group A questions should focus mainly on areas 1-4; Group B questions should emphasize areas 5-7. To allow for some choice and flexibility, the exam should have a minimum of three questions in Group A and three questions in Group B. There should not be more than eight total questions on the exam. Students must answer three questions. One question will be from one group and two questions from the other group."