

**APPROVED
at a meeting of the
Scientific Council
NJSC «Al-Farabi
KazNU».
Minutes No.10 dated
May 13, 2023.**

**The program of the entrance exam for applicants to the PhD
for the group of educational programs
D063-«Political science and conflict studies»**

1. General provisions.

1. The program was drawn up in accordance with the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 31, 2018 No. 600 "On Approval of the Model Rules for Admission to Education in Educational Organizations Implementing Educational Programs of Higher and Postgraduate Education" (hereinafter referred to as the Model Rules).

2. The entrance exam for doctoral studies consists of writing an essay, passing a test for readiness for doctoral studies (hereinafter referred to as TRDS), an exam in the profile of a group of educational programs and an interview.

Block	Points
1. Essay	10
2. Test for readiness for doctoral studies	30
3. Exam according to the profile of the group of the educational program	40
4. Interview	20
Total admission score	100/75

3. The duration of the entrance exam is 4 hours, during which the applicant writes an essay, passes a test for readiness for doctoral studies, and answers an electronic examination. The interview is conducted on the basis of the university before the entrance exam.

2. Procedure for the entrance examination.

1. Applicants for doctoral studies in the group of educational programs D063 - «Political science and conflict studies» write a problematic / thematic essay. The volume of the essay is at least 250-300 words.

2. The electronic examination card consists of 3 questions.

**Topics for exam preparation according to the profile of the group
of the educational program.**

Discipline «Public policy»

Topic 1. Fundamentals of public policy

The concept and essence of the state. Basic concepts, functions and methods of public policy. Goals and priorities of state policy. Stages of state policy development. Mechanisms of state policy formation.

Topic 2. Policy and management

Politics as a social phenomenon. Policy goals, tools, and methods. Features of the implementation of the functions of political leadership and their role in the organization of power. Public and state forms of political power. Political management in election campaigns and referendums. Improvement of Kazakhstan's parliamentarism.

Topic 3. Openness and transparency of the policy

Policy openness features. Components of openness in public administration. Ethical problems of public policy. Classical and modern ideas about democracy. Modernization in transition societies. Liberal-democratic, social-democratic and national-democratic alternatives to the political development of Kazakhstan.

Topic 4. Development and analysis of public policy

Development of public policy. The essence and classification of state target programs. Main priorities of the state policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the context of the Strategy "Kazakhstan-2050"

Topic 5. Legal and economic foundations of state policy

The mechanism and levels of legal regulation of state policy. The main elements of legislative and regulatory acts in the field of public policy. Features of the constitutional reform in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Topic 6. Institutionalization of public policy and civil society

Political institution and political institutionalization. Forms of citizens' participation in public policy. The relationship between civil society and the rule of law and the state. Political parties and their participation in the realization of the interests of society. Formation of the image of a political party. Features of the party system of Kazakhstan (origin, ideological orientations, electorate of Kazakhstani parties). Formation and development of the institute of social partnership in Kazakhstan.

Topic 7. State economic policy

State economic regulation. Forms and methods of state intervention in the economy: direct intervention, indirect intervention. Economic policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. State anti-crisis program of the Republic of Kazakhstan in modern conditions. The main directions of state policy in the field of small and medium-sized businesses.

Topic 8. Anti-corruption policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Corruption as a threat to national security. The main factors contributing to corruption manifestations. Anti-corruption measures in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Formation of the level of anti-corruption culture. World experience and international cooperation in the field of countering terrorism and extremism.

Topic 9. State antimonopoly policy.

The concept of competition and its reinforcing factors. Antimonopoly authorities in Kazakhstan: structure and powers. Antimonopoly regulation in Kazakhstan.

Topic 10. State social policy

Social policy of the state: essence, content, functions. "Human capital" as a factor in the development of the "innovative economy". The economic basis of the state's social policy. Subsections of social policy: tax policy, budget policy, labor market policy, housing policy, health policy. State youth policy. "Concepts of the state youth policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan". State educational policy. State program for the development of education in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2011-2020. Reforms in the field of Kazakhstan's higher education. Priorities in the field of science and technology and the implementation of strategic state development programs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Topic 11. State cultural policy

The essence and main content of cultural policy. Political and legal support of cultural policy. State programs aimed at restoring historical and cultural monuments on the territory of Kazakhstan. The program "Rukhani Zhangyru" and the political consciousness and culture of young generation. Political culture of modern Kazakhstan society.

Topic 12. State Information Policy

State policy in the field of mass media. Ensuring information security. Electronic mass communication media. State program for the formation of electronic government in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Implementation of the state program "Digital Kazakhstan". The role of new media technologies in the political space.

Topic 13. State national policy

The concepts of "national interests" and "nationalism" in the modern political science discourse. The essence and main tasks of the state national policy. National Policy of Kazakhstan. State program of functioning and development of languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2011-2020. The state program of support for compatriots living abroad. Socio-cultural foundations of the formation of national and state identity in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The policy of preserving interethnic and interfaith harmony in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Topic 14. State policy in the field of religion

Definition of religious policy, its purpose and objectives. State-confessional relations. Models of state-confessional relations. Interfaith relations in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Social partnership of the state and confessions, as well as religious, interreligious and public organizations. Political and legal mechanisms for regulating religious relations in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Topic 15. State Environmental Policy

State environmental policy. The concept of sustainable development. The main directions of Kazakhstan's environmental policy. The concept of environmental safety of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Topic 16. State policy in the field of national security

Definition of «national security». Problems of ensuring national security in the modern world. The essence and main content of the state policy in the field of national security. The spread of destructive political trends and problems of national security and political stability.

Topic 1. Public administration, its nature and social essence.

Management, its essence and structure. System approach in management, functions and management structure. Methodological problems of the theory of public administration and politics. The mechanism of separation of branches of power in public administration. Models of public administration (classical, socialist, corporatist, Good Governance, etc.).

Topic 2. Public administration as the art of implementing state power

The main functions of public administration (information support, forecasting, modeling, planning, organization, coordination, regulation, control, etc.). Contradictions of the public administration system. Efficiency and effectiveness of public administration. The main criteria for the classification of types of public administration.

Topic 3. Political power and public administration

State power: legal problems of establishment and functioning. Power and management as specific formats of state activity. Interpretations of the concept of political power and public administration. The state as a subject of management of political processes. Theoretical and applied models of analysis of state management of political processes. Stages of transformation of the political system of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Modern electoral technologies and features of their application in the political practice of various countries.

Topic 4. The main features of the public administration system

General characteristics of the public administration system. Structural system-target model of state management. Implementation of state policy in the process of public administration. The decision-making process in the public administration system. Corporate approach in public administration. Civil service in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the measures necessary for its improvement.

Topic 5. The dependence of public administration on the forms of state structure

Differences between public and private sector management systems. The principle of necessary diversity in public administration. Direct and inverse relations in the system of public administration. Typical and unique in public administration. Objectives of public administration. The "goal tree" of management as a system. Principles of public administration. Forms of public administration in various political regimes. Centralization and decentralization of public administration.

Topic 6. Political decisions and state decisions

Types and forms of government decisions. Technologies for making and implementing state management decisions. The role of competition in decision-making. The concept and classification of normative legal acts. Planning, preparation and approval of decision-making projects. State registration of normative legal acts of central and other executive bodies. The essence and types of political consulting.

Topic 7. Factors of public administration

Objective conditions that determine the nature of public administration. The subjective factor of public administration, its structure and qualitative characteristics. The organization of the subjective factor and its impact on the quality of public administration. The legal basis of public administration.

Topic 8. Organizational principles and functions of public administration.

The complexity of the institute of public administration. New trends in the system of public administration. Management of society as one of the main purposes of the state. General characteristics of the functions of the state. Internal and external functions of public administration.

Permanent and temporary functions of public administration. Functions as an expression of the main activities of the state.

Topic 9. System characteristics of public administration

Public administration system: concept and structure. Comparison of system characteristics of policy and management. General characteristics of the public administration system. Public service as a fundamental institution of the public administration system. The role and functions of the bureaucracy in the system of public administration. Personnel policy in the civil service: foreign experience. Experience of administrative reforms abroad and features of administrative reform in Kazakhstan.

Topic 10. Decision-making process in the public administration system

The role of strategic planning in the system of public administration. The role of competition in decision-making. Differences between public and private sector management systems. Principles of management in the decision-making process. Formation of the image of a political leader and his role in the decision-making process.

Topic 11. Public administration activities

State-management activity, its essence and distinctive features. Forms of management activity. Methods and means of administrative activity of the state. The role of communications in the public administration system. State regional policy.

Topic 11 Fundamentals of public administration of the social sphere

Formation of approaches to social policy as an independent area of public administration. Modern approaches to the assessment of social policy. The state as a guarantor of the social orientation of the market economy. The role of the state in providing the population with public goods. The main components of social policy and types of social assistance of the state. State protection of the rights and interests of consumers. Principles of evaluating the effectiveness of the state's social policy. The main tasks of demographic and family policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan. State programs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the field of healthcare.

Topic 13. Fundamentals of public administration in the field of economics

The state in the sphere of economy: the essence, functions and main directions for its regulation. Stages of formation and evolution of state management of the economy. The state as a guarantor of providing conditions for business activity. The main directions of state regulation of the economy. The activities of state bodies in ensuring the economic security of the country and the problem of its improvement. The activities of state bodies to combat economic crime. The nature and goals of interaction between the state and business. Politicization of business structures in the transition economy. Market and state mechanisms for regulating economic processes.

Topic 14. Efficiency of public administration.

The problem of socio-economic efficiency of state management activities. Criteria for the effectiveness of public administration. Performance evaluation of efficiency. Development of performance and efficiency evaluation criteria. The human factor and its impact on the effectiveness of public administration. The impact of government agencies on productivity and effectiveness. Social efficiency of management: its structure, criteria, indicators.

Topic 15. Public administration in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The system of state bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The state of the civil service in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the measures necessary for its improvement. Organizational principles and functions of public administration and their features in Kazakhstan. Models of local self-

government. Legislative and executive power reforms in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Constitutional reform in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Discipline «Political Conflict Studies»

Topic 1. Introduction to General Conflict Theory

Conflict as a social phenomenon of public life. Social contradictions and social conflicts. The structure of social conflict. Sources and causes of social conflict. The functions of social conflict in social development.

Topic 2. Basic theoretical approaches to the study of conflicts

The problem of conflicts in the ancient world, the Middle Ages, the new and modern times. The emergence and development of Conflict Studies as a special scientific discipline. Sociology of conflict by G. Zimmel. "Positive-functional conflict" by L. Kozer. R. Darendorff's "Conflict model of society". K. Boulding's General theory of conflict. A Marxist approach to conflict theory. General theory of conflict prevention and resolution. The main directions of foreign psychological schools of conflict research. Theory of human needs (J. Burton, J. Fisher, K. Mitchell). Modern theories of conflict. Research centers for the study of conflicts.

Topic 3. Political conflicts in public life

Causes of political conflicts. Features of political conflicts. Subjects of political conflicts. Functions of political conflicts. The problem of institutionalization of political conflicts. Features of political conflicts in the post-Soviet space.

Topic 4. Typology of political conflicts

State-legal conflicts. Status-role conflicts. Conflicts of political cultures. Conflicts of interest. Value conflicts. Identification conflicts. Vertical and horizontal conflicts. Zero-sum conflicts and non-zero-sum conflicts. Institutionalized and non-institutionalized conflicts.

Topic 5. Conflicts in the public administration system

The nature of conflicts in public administration. Conflict between the legislative and executive branches of government. Political crisis. Government crisis. Parliamentary crisis. The constitutional crisis. Conflicts between different levels of the management apparatus. The main phases of the settlement of political conflicts.

Topic 6. Ethno-political conflicts

The main trends of ethnopolitical processes in the modern world. Ethnic conflict: problems of definition and typology. The essence and main causes of ethnopolitical conflicts. Dynamics of ethnopolitical conflicts. Technologies for the settlement of ethnopolitical conflicts.

Topic 7. Dynamics of political conflicts

Factors of the dynamics of political conflicts. Stages and levels of political conflicts. Conflict situation. The stage of conflict development. The transition of the conflict from a latent state to an open confrontation between the parties. The process and conditions of escalation. De-escalation of the conflict. The stage of conflict completion. Consequences of the political conflict. Factors that determine the severity and duration of a political conflict. Essential characteristics and types of political crisis. Political transit in the post-soviet space.

Topic 8. Social tension as an indicator of conflict.

Social functions of Conflict Studies. Theories of social tension. The structure of social tension. Patterns of social tension. Methods for measuring social tension.

Topic 9. Conflicts in international relations

Theories of international relations on the causes of conflicts. Features of international conflicts. Practical significance of theories: political realism, idealism, neorealism, neoliberalism, structural theories. Low-and high-intensity conflicts, armed conflict, international terrorism. The role of UN structures in resolving international conflicts in the twenty-first century. The main nodes of international conflicts of the second half of the XX century-the beginning of the XXI century and approaches to their settlement.

Topic 10. Violence in political conflicts

Biogenetic explanation of human aggressiveness (Spengler). Psychological direction (Z. Freud). Violence as a means of political domination and domination. Structural violence. Cultural violence (J. Galtung). Mechanisms for limiting the use of violence in political conflicts.

Topic 11. Settlement and resolution of political conflicts

The concept of regulation and resolution of political conflicts. Institutionalization of political conflict as a condition for its regulation. Taking into account the correlation of socio-political forces in the regulation of political conflicts. Compromise and consensus as methods of regulating and resolving political conflicts. Interaction of the state and civil society in preventing the destructiveness of conflicts. The role of the third party in the settlement of political conflicts. Conflict management technologies. The "conflict tree" method.

Topic 12. Negotiations

Negotiations as a way to resolve political conflicts. Preparation for negotiations. Stages of negotiations. Positional bargaining. Interest-based negotiations. Negotiation functions. Negotiation strategies. Tactical negotiation techniques. Multilateral negotiations. Improving mechanisms for conflict resolution through negotiations. Formation of a negotiation culture as a basis for conflict prevention and resolution.

Topic 13. Mediation as a form of third-party participation.

Mediation methods. Facilitation mediation. Consulting mediation. Mediation with elements of arbitration. Binding arbitration. Recommendation arbitration. Arbitration of the "final offer". Limited arbitration. The role of international organizations in the settlement of political conflicts. Mediation activities of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the consolidation of peace, settlement of conflict situations, crisis phenomena

Topic 14. Ways and means of preventing political conflicts in Kazakhstan

The level of conflict in Kazakhstan: risks and potential threats. Methods of conflict resolution in Kazakhstan. The role of the state and civil society in preventing destructive conflicts in Kazakhstan.

Discipline «Modern International Relations and Global Development»

Topic 1. International relations: the essence, history of formation and main areas.

The ratio of the categories "international relations", "international politics" and "world politics". The main areas of international activity, cooperation and confrontation. Theories of international conflicts. The problem of politicization of international relations. The essence and content of the dynamics of international relations at the present stage. The interdependence of domestic and international political (micro-political and macro-political) processes.

Topic 2. Development of the theory and methodology of research on international relations, global and regional systems

Theoretical approaches to the study of international relations, global and regional systems. Levels of analysis and methods of international relations research. Classifications of international

political relations. The main trends in modern international relations. Foreign policy activities of subjects of international relations in the field of national, regional and global security.

Topic 3. The international sphere as a space for the realization and protection of national interests

The concept of national (national-state) interest as a basic category of international relations. Fundamental national and state interests. National interests in the international sphere. The clash of national interests of States. Foreign experience in forming a foreign policy strategy based on national interests and identifying their priorities. Formation of national and state interests of modern Kazakhstan. The power concept of world politics and the possibilities of its application for the analysis of modern world processes.

Topic 4. Globalization and global challenges of human civilization, world politics.

The origin and essence of the global problems of our time. Parameters of the manifestation of the unevenness of globalization. Globalistics and the political sphere. Essential features of the modern stage of globalization. Postindustrialism and globalization. National and regional issues in the global dimension. Kazakhstan's participation in the processes of globalization. Global consequences of major regional socio-political conflicts.

Topic 5. Geopolitics and geopolitical factors of world development

Geopolitics in International relations. The role of power in geopolitics. The geopolitical balance of power. Geopolitical maps of the world and their reflection of the diversity of international relations. The geopolitical situation and national interests of the Republic of Kazakhstan. History of development and features of modern geopolitical conflicts. The activities of political institutions for the settlement of geopolitical conflicts. Technologies for the settlement of geopolitical conflicts.

Topic 6. Possible models of the future world order

Trends in the formation of a new world order. The modern international order. Globalization and the new World Order. Democratizing the world. Integration processes in the modern world. The world order in the era of globalization. Separatism or the right of a nation to self-determination.

Topic 7. Global and regional organizations: objectives, nature and forms of their activities

Global and regional international organizations in the modern system of international relations. Goals and means of action of global and regional organizations. Types of regional organizations. Regional organizations of general competence. The role of international organizations in the regulation of political conflicts.

Topic 8. Foreign policy of individual states and their bloc organizations of various directions

Basic principles of classification of modern states. The main directions of the foreign policy of individual states and their bloc organizations. The main directions of the foreign policy of the United States, Russia, European countries, China, Japan and Central Asian states.. Factors of increasing threat of religious extremism and terrorism in the Middle East.

Topic 9. International activities of non-governmental organizations and financial and economic structures

Non-governmental organizations as international structures of civil society. Non-governmental organizations are new actors in international relations. Activities of the international financial and economic institutions of the Bretton Woods system (IMF, World Bank, IBRD, etc.). The role of transnational corporations in the modern world.

Topic 10. Foreign policy activities of subjects of international relations in the field of national, regional and global security

Problems of national security in international relations. Regional and global security systems. The activities of the Republic of Kazakhstan to strengthen peace and create a sustainable system of international security. The political system of the world and new participants in international relations. New challenges to national and international security. Challenges and threats to regional security. «Hybrid wars as factors of increasing instability in the areas of rivalry between international powers.

Topic 11. International cooperation in countering international terrorism and ideological extremism

International terrorism as a socio-political phenomenon. Merging of political and criminal terrorism. International terrorism as a global phenomenon. Theory and practice of modern extremism. International terrorist organizations. Problems of developing a legal framework for combating international terrorism. The main goals and objectives for the prevention and eradication of international terrorism. Foreign experience in the fight against international terrorism and objective foundations for the creation of an anti-terrorist coalition. The growing threat of religious extremism and terrorism in the modern world.

Topic 12 Political and socio-economic determinants of disarmament policy.

The arms race as a factor of aggravation of international tension. The impact of the militarization of the economy on the processes of socio-economic development. The problem of disarmament in the UN activities. The problem of disarmament in various regions of the world. Political and legal framework in the field of disarmament. Problems of military security and disarmament in various regions of the world. Prospects for disarmament policy. Kazakhstan's position on nuclear safety.

Topic 13. Dialogue of cultures in the global information space.

Forms and methods of information activity in the international arena. Information aggression and information warfare. Information expansion. Mass culture and national cultures in the information space. The Internet in World Politics: Forms and Challenges. Interaction of cultures in the modern world. Problems of ensuring information security in the global information space.

Topic 14. The Republic of Kazakhstan in the system of international relations

Foreign policy and Diplomacy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Multi-vector foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. New Kazakhstan in the new world: the concept of a multipolar world order and the main categories of security. The Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the rights of the subjects of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the conduct of international affairs. The subjects of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the current legislation regulating external relations. Mediation activities of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the consolidation of peace, settlement of conflict situations, crisis phenomena.

Topic 15. Kazakhstan in the modern world

Geopolitical realities of Kazakhstan's position in the modern world. Geostrategic interests of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the choice of its foreign policy strategy. The Eurasian Union as a geopolitical category. Prospects for using the economic potential of Kazakhstan. The Caspian Sea as a geopolitical problem. The position of the Caspian States on the division of the sea. Kazakhstan's participation in international and regional organizations: EurAsEC, SCO, CSTO, CICA.

Discipline « Research methods in political science»

Topic 1. The specifics of research in the social sciences

Levels of scientific methodology: philosophical, general scientific, specific scientific. Methodology of scientific work, its levels: philosophical, general scientific, concrete scientific. "Hypothesis" and "research question" in scientific research. The essence of the concept of "method". Classification of the main methods of scientific research. Operationalization: the relationship between theory and observation. Operational definitions. Measurement. Measurement levels. Conceptualization and operationalization of theoretical constructs. Measurement error. Validity. Reliability. Interdisciplinary approach in scientific research. Features of the application of methods of sociological research in political science. The influence of information culture and values of modern society on the development of science.

Topic 2. Methodology of political science research

"Methodology", "method", "methodology" from the point of view of applied political research. Development of political science in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The state and prospects of political science research in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The concepts of "political theory", "methodology of political research".

Topic 3. Scientific approaches in the study of politics. Instrumental approaches and modern methods of political life research.

The use of a comparative approach in the study of political regimes. Differences between structural-functional and systemic approaches in political science research. Cultural approach, its application in political research. Institutional and regulatory approaches. The historical approach, its application in political research. The use of ethnological methods in political research. the method of observation in political science research. Features of the application of mathematical methods in political science.

Topic 4. Applied political research. Advantages of applying qualitative methods in political research.

Basic principles of data processing and analysis of political science research. The main methods of data collection and processing for political science research. The method of expert assessments in political science research. Features of the use of case studies in political research. The main stages and features of the technique of using content analysis on the problems of political processes and phenomena. Quantitative and qualitative types of content analysis. Features of the use of cognitive mapping techniques in applied political research. The significance of the use of empirical methods in applied political research. Features of the application of modeling for the analysis of political events and phenomena.

Topic 5. Political analysis and forecasting.

Fundamental, empirical, and applied types of political analysis. Quantitative and qualitative methods of political analysis and forecasting. Application of the method of situational analysis in the study of political processes and phenomena. The use of indexes (Democracy Index, Global Terrorism Index, etc.) for political science research. SWOT analysis in political science research. Event analysis in the study of the political situation and processes. The Delphi method in political forecasting. Scenario (predictive) method. The main characteristics of the applied analysis of textual information on the problems of political processes and phenomena. Types and methods of diagnostics of political situations. Institutional analysis of political processes as a research method in political science. The process of modeling in political science research. Examples of mathematical models of political behavior. Other types of models (measurement, descriptive, explanatory, criterion, predictive). Basic principles of the ethics of political analytics.

Topic 6. System and structural-functional approaches in political science research.

System analysis as a complex method used in the science of politics. D. Easton is the founder of the system approach in political science. Stages of development of system analysis. Levels of

system analysis, interdisciplinary in nature. Fundamental dimensions of system analysis: structure, action, becoming. Determining the system inputs and outputs. The role of structural elements in the political process, their interrelationships and interaction.

Topic 7. Comparative approach.

Comparative method and strategy of political science research. The main stages of the comparative study. The problem of choosing the object of research. Types of comparative studies: cross-national comparison; comparatively oriented description of individual cases; binary analysis; cross-cultural and cross-institutional comparisons. Levels of comparative analysis in political science. Formulation of hypotheses according to the level of comparative analysis. Features of conceptualization, empirical data processing. The significance of the comparative method in the development of political science.

3. List of references.

Main:

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