**Wisdom of crowds**

Under what conditions does the wisdom of the crowds emerge?

Does modern democracy fulfill these conditions?
        If yes, give examples.
        If no, discuss why not and provide some ideas for changing institutions in order to take advantage of the wisdom of the crowds. If you believe this is impossible, explain why.

Are there political situations/institutions *other than* elections to public office where wisdom of the crowds is or could be used? Give examples or suggest your own institutions.

**Heuristics**

Under what conditions do individuals engage in heuristic thought-processes?

When are heuristics useful for the individual, but result in undesirable social/political outcomes? (Give specific examples.)

Is it possible to design political institutions that offset the negative social effects of heuristic decision-making? Give examples of real institutions or suggest your own. Do these institutions reduce the ability of individuals to make quick, efficient decisions? Does this matter?

How about designing institutions that put heuristic decision-making to good use by encouraging it in the right circumstances? Give examples of real institutions or suggest your own.

**Groupthink**

Under what conditions does groupthink occur?

Can we design political institutions that avoid (aspects of) groupthink? How do we know whether or not groupthink (or aspects of it) have been successfully avoided?

Are there possible positive effects of groupthink (or positive effects of some of its constituent parts)? Are there situations in which we should not be worried about groupthink or is it always to be avoided?

Bonus question: is there an overlap between the conditions that promote groupthink and the conditions that promote cooperation? If so, does it imply that there is a trade-off to be made between the promotion of cooperation and the avoidance of groupthink?

**Cooperation**

What are the conditions under which successful cooperation emerges?

Do our political institutions promote cooperation? Give examples of successful institutions, and examples of institutions that do not work as well. What improvements do you suggest to the institutions that do not successfully promote cooperation?

Are there situations in which cooperation is not desirable? Is it possible, in such cases, to design social/political institutions that discourage cooperation? Give examples.