

## Second Midterm Examination Study Questions

The questions below will help you focus on the most important concepts presented in class as you prepare for the second midterm exam. You will not necessarily be tested on all of the material noted below, but these questions are a good starting point for studying—all of the midterm exam's definition questions, short answer questions and short discussion questions will be drawn from this material. As you prepare for the exam, I recommend that you **write down the answers** to these questions **in your own words** (certainly not just copied from Wikipedia!) to ensure that you understand the material completely.

1. Describe and explain *materials oriented*, *market oriented*, and *labor oriented* industries.
2. What is meant by the *materials index* of an industry?
3. In what ways does the materials index of an industry influence its location? Provide an example of an industry with a high materials index and an industry with a low materials index.
4. In terms of industrial location, what is meant by *industrial inertia*?
5. How does Weber's model explain the location of an industry? Especially consider the role of transport costs in his model.
6. How does Weber's industrial location model take into account places with low-cost labor and places with an agglomeration of firms? (In other words, explain what Weber called the *critical isodapane*.)
7. Contrast *internal economies of scale* with *internal diseconomies of scale*.
8. How do internal economies and diseconomies of scale relate to the *average cost curve* of an industrial process?
9. Describe and contrast *localization economies* and *urbanization economies*. Why are both of these considered to be *agglomeration economies*?
10. Explain and contrast the *vertical integration* of production and the *vertical disintegration* of production within an industry.
11. Discuss the patterns of locational and industrial change in the American steel and automobile industries over the last 100 years. What explains these changes? Consider such factors as new technology, the location of raw materials, labor, foreign competition, and changing markets.
  - For the steel industry, consider how the switch from the older *open hearth* and *Bessemer processes* to electric-furnace *mini mills* and "giant plants" using the *basic oxygen process* was associated with a locational change in the industry.
  - For the auto industry, what factors were associated with its shift away from Detroit by the 1980s?
12. How does the *nonbasic/basic ratio* illustrate the concept of a *multiplier*?
13. What is a *growth pole* industry? Explain the importance of growth pole industries in a regional economy.
14. Explain the characteristics of a *growth center*.
15. Explain and contrast the *technical division of labor* and the *social division of labor*.
16. Explain why some industries develop a strong technical division of labor and/or social division of labor.
17. What circumstances tend to push industries toward *vertical disintegration* and/or *horizontal disintegration*?
18. What are the important characteristics of an *industrial complex*? (Consider both traditional craft-oriented *Marshallian industrial districts*, as well as industrial complexes centered on high technology industries.)
19. Why is *subcontracting* so common in contemporary industrial complexes? Consider such factors as labor costs, capital investment and risk.
20. Briefly describe the contemporary industrial organization of the garment industry and the semiconductor industry. You may use the Los Angeles or San Francisco garment industry and the Silicon Valley semiconductor industry as case studies of these industries.
  - For the garment industry, especially consider how labor costs influence the location of production.
  - For the semiconductor industry, note the importance of scale economies after a product is standardized.

## Article Review & Analysis Paper

For this assignment, you will write a brief (1½ to 2 page) review of a newspaper or magazine article. The purpose of this assignment is to help you relate the concepts and information presented in class to contemporary issues.

- Choose a current article from a newspaper or magazine** that relates to one of the topics we are discussing in class. Your article should be *no more than two months old*, and should pertain to a **current news event** (in other words, something that is happening right now).
  - The range of article topics is wide. For example: a labor dispute or strike in a large company; an American manufacturer opening a new factory overseas; a new cost-saving manufacturing process for making electronic components; or new import restrictions on foreign products.
  - Do not use editorials or “op-ed” pieces—you should choose a news article.** If you find the article on the editorial pages of a newspaper or magazine—or on someone’s online blog—it’s an op-ed piece!
  - Do not use an article you’ve found on the Internet unless it was originally written for a mainstream newspaper or magazine.** If you are going online to search for newspaper articles, I strongly recommend that you limit yourself to articles from the online versions of major newspapers such as the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com) or the *San Francisco Chronicle* (www.sfgate.com). I might make a few exceptions here, but please check with me first. ***If you have any questions about the suitability of articles you find on the Internet, please see me.***
  - Feel free to visit me during my office hours to confirm that the article you’ve chosen is an appropriate one.
- Briefly summarize the overall problem or issue.** Do not plagiarize the article. If you include any phrases or sentences from the article word-for-word in your paper, you must indicate these sections by using quotation marks. It is generally best to paraphrase such sections using your own words.
- Explain the significance of the issue.** Your finished paper will be, in essence, a short case study illustrating one of the concepts or topics we study in cultural geography.
- Attach a copy of the article** to your paper, and be sure that the name of the newspaper or magazine, and the date of publication, are **clearly cited** (at the top of your paper, indicate the author, title of article, journal and date of publication). If you found your article on the Internet, you must carefully cite the **original source, date, author, URL**, and attach a hard copy of the article.
- Carefully proofread your papers.** You might have a friend or classmate read through a rough draft to point out spelling and grammar mistakes, as well as sections that are not clear.

Your paper will be graded in terms of content, as well as clarity and organization.

The paper is limited to a **maximum of 2 pages** using a standard 12-point font size (such as the one used on this handout—please do not use a small font!), and a length of **no more than 1000 words** (please use the “word count” function on your computer).

Your finished paper is due in class on **Friday, May 3rd**. This paper is worth 100 points. Late papers may be penalized 10 points for each lecture day late.