

Final Examination Study Questions

The questions below will help you focus on the most important concepts presented in class as you prepare for the final 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 final 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. Explain and critique the *Chicago School's concentric ring model* of urban social geography.
2. What was the Chicago School's explanation of the changes over time in residential location for immigrants within a city?
3. What political, economic and social processes tend to maintain racially and/or socially segregated neighborhoods in American cities? For example:
 - Why do blue-collar workers and white-collar workers typically live in different neighborhoods of a city?
 - Consider such factors as peer expectations within a social class, zoning laws and the practice of redlining.
4. How is gender reflected in urban residential and economic patterns?
In answering questions 3 and 4 above you should go beyond factors such as overt racism and sexism. For example, consider how social relations in the city are influenced by the social division of labor under capitalism.
5. Why is it difficult to describe and compare levels of economic development around the world?
6. In what ways is *per capita gross domestic product* a good measure of economic development? In what ways is it a poor measure?
7. Briefly describe the "international trade" approach to economic development. Provide a brief example.
8. Discuss Rostow's "Stages of Economic Growth" model.
9. What have been some of the negative consequences of economic development projects in Third World countries?
 - Provide specific examples of the processes at work, such as the introduction of new agricultural technology or the change from subsistence to cash-crop agriculture.
10. What is a *transnational corporation* (or "multinational" corporation)?
11. What is meant by the *international division of labor*?
12. Describe Ricardo's *Principle of Comparative Advantage* in international trade.
13. Why can't traditional trade theory (the *Principle of Comparative Advantage* and *Factor Endowments*) fully explain the emerging pattern of transnational corporations we see today?
 - For example, consider the relative levels of economic development of the countries involved.
14. How does the *Product Cycle model* explain changes in the location of production of some products?
15. Briefly describe the idea of *Kondratiev Waves* ("Long Waves") in the world economy.
16. What kinds of circumstances might encourage a transnational corporation to open a branch plant in another country?
17. What advantages might a country realize by hosting a transnational corporation's branch plant?
18. What is an *Export Processing Zone*, and why have they become an increasingly important part of the global economy?

19. What is a *local content law*?

20. In what ways has labor become a key to industrial location in the world today? Describe and explain at least one example.

The final exam in Economic Geography is comprehensive, but only in a limited way. You will *not* be asked to define terms from material covered on the two midterm exams, but you may be asked to address several major themes that have run through the entire course—questions you can answer with examples from material covered in this current set of Study Questions, as well as from the two previous lists of Study Questions. Some of the major themes we have discussed at several points during the semester include:

- The importance of the division of labor in all aspects of the economy.
- The importance of agglomeration economies.
- The ways in which labor has become a key to the location of contemporary industries.
- The decline of traditional “fordist” industries in the American Manufacturing Belt.
- The disintegration and dispersal of production around the world (in other words, the “globalization” of the world economy).
- The interconnections between all of the above.