

BENVUE01: Economics and Urban Development (2005/2006)

Duration: Three hours

Answer THREE of the following questions. At least one question must be drawn from each section. All questions carry equal marks. You are advised to spend an equal amount of time on each question.

Section A

1. Give a critical account of the effects of structural adjustment programmes on the process of urbanization in developing countries. Your answer must include the issue of migration.
2. Discuss the following statement: "Today, certain areas of peripheral cities are reserved for the control and command functions of national or even extra-national economies; others become sites for elite living and consumption, often in gated communities and exclusive shopping areas; still others are semi-abandoned and left to the poorest sectors" (A. Portes, 2003, "Urbanisation in Comparative Perspective")
3. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the notion that "one of the most significant trait of the urbanisation process is the relationship between level of socioeconomic development and urbanization" (J. Rodriguez, 2002, in "Population and Development", ECLAC, No. 32)
4. How, in your view, can economies of agglomeration contribute to make cities part of an international network to serve the purposes of an international division of production? Can this contribution be positive/negative for national socioeconomic development?

Section B

1. Explain the ways in which the appraisal of an investment project be undertaken by a city government should ideally be different to the appraisal of a similar investment by a privately owned company.
2. What do you consider to be the main difficulties in valuing the costs and benefits in a social cost benefit analysis of: (a) a new municipal sewerage works; and (b) a new programme to increase the skill levels of construction workers in the city?
3. Consider the principal difficulties in appraising the environmental impact of a proposed extension to a large port for sea-borne container cargoes.
4. What would be the procedure by which you would evaluate the success or failure of: (a) the introduction of a city government policy to raise charges for car parking in the city centre; and (b) a municipal investment in 2,500 units for a site-and-services housing project?

END OF PAPER