

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

B.Sc. (Intercal)

IHME3002: Health, Poverty and Development

COURSE CODE : **IHME3002**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **17-MAY-06**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 Hours**

International Health B.Sc. (*Intercal*)

Health, Poverty and Development Examination Paper 2006 (IHME3002)

Please answer **THREE** questions only from the following TEN questions listed. Each question on this paper is worth the same number of marks.

1. Discuss the circumstances under which reducing barriers to trade may lead to poverty reduction. Include in your answer an explanation of the theory of comparative advantage and comment on the extent to which the theory offers a reliable guide for poverty-oriented trade policy.
2. "Communitarians argue that rights and justice are culturally specific and cannot be applied across borders... They hold that the diversity and heterogeneity among a plurality of communities and their values are as important to sustain as is a diversity of species among animals and plants." (Prokhovnik 2004).
Discuss the extent to which this is a sustainable view to hold in an era of globalization and "universal human rights".
3. A new government has been elected in the low-income country of Kajalia. You have been appointed as head of the government's anti-poverty task force and have been asked to formulate its new anti-poverty action plan, with a focus on rural areas.

The vast majority of rural dwellers are subsistence farmers, though some cultivate crops for market and others make a living from petty trading. Many younger people have migrated away from rural areas in search of employment in urban centres. Recently, however, there has been a growing amount of private investment in the production of vegetables destined for export to European markets.

Primary education is provided free by the government, though many families are so poor that their children must work rather than attend school. In addition the local customs –strong in the countryside – mean that girl children will only receive minimal schooling.

Health care services are patchy, with a poorly-functioning public sector; however, the government and a coalition of mission-hospitals have received word that their application to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria to fund improved rural health services for AIDS patients has been successful.

CONTINUED

Write a brief policy paper outlining the measures the government could take to reduce poverty, taking into account financial constraints. Your answer should examine both short- and long-term measures.

4. **EITHER**

To what extent does Sen's entitlements theory imply that markets cannot be relied upon to prevent famine mortality?

OR

Assess the claim that "the dismal record of famine prevention in Africa means that the international community now has to take full responsibility for stopping Africans from starving".

5. "Without aid... Africa would have experienced severe decline" (Commission for Africa 2005).

"The single most important limiting factor to genuine Tanzanian state ownership of the development agenda remains [its] high degree of aid-dependence" (Wangwe 2004).

Discuss the validity of these two propositions and put forward some proposals for the future of aid relationships between developed and developing countries.

6. To what extent is democracy a pre-requisite for better health?

7. Using examples from Africa and Asia, discuss the conditions that make state involvement in industrialization a success.

8. "Universal health care services are a vital contribution to poverty reduction efforts". Suggest ways in which low- and middle-income countries could achieve the ambitious objective of universality, and outline some of the dilemmas they might face in trying to do so.

9. You have been appointed as a policy-advisor to UNIFEM, the United Nations fund for women. Your first task is to suggest priorities for how the organization can use its money to fight gender inequalities in the developing world. Write a short policy paper outlining your priorities and your reasons for choosing them.

CONTINUED

10. You have been sent to Geneva to serve as your country's ambassador to the World Trade Organization. You come from a large, fast-growing low-income country, with increasing political clout on the world stage, but a limited presence in Geneva.

Your country has very diverse interests in world trade. On the one hand, it has a large number of agricultural producers who fear competition from subsidised imports from the developed world and who are prevented from accessing rich country markets by high tariffs imposed on their goods. On the other, it wants access to developed country markets for its fast-growing service sector and for its exports of textiles. It is concerned about the implications for its domestic pharmaceutical industry of the entry into force of the provisions of the TRIPS agreement.

Showing your knowledge of relevant issues in world trade negotiations, including the possibilities of forging political alliances with like-minded countries, draft a strategy for the negotiations which will produce the most beneficial outcome for your country. Given that the government you represent is just about to fight an election at home, it is essential that you make it clear if there will be any adverse effects of your strategy for domestic constituencies.

END OF PAPER