

Subject 1:

Geography of Development and Development Studies

1. Definitions and ideological perspectives on globalization, global technological change
2. Chronology of globalization, contemporary globalization – global economic transformation and key characteristics of the global economic map
3. Global production networks and the roles of key actors in GPNs
4. Transnational corporations, motives and trajectories of transnationalization, TNCs' internal networks and externalized relationships
5. The role of state in globalizing world, relationship between TNCs and states, tax avoidance and evasion, inequality
6. Agro-food industry, food regimes, food security and food crises, global land rush and land grabbing
7. Cultural and political aspects of globalization, cultural differentialism, convergence and hybridization, global government and types of governance in globalizing world
8. Why is development viewed as a complex, contradictory, contentious phenomenon, often subject to manipulation? Explain.
9. What is the philosophical, sociological and economic background of modernization theory? Explain.
10. What are the historic forms of dependence as formulated by Dos Santos? How is Import Substitution Industrialization related to this analysis? Explain the world systems development theory? Who developed its theoretical framework?
11. When was the “development paradigm” launched? Which development theory did this begin to perpetuate? What other institutions got on board to assist the development project? Explain.
12. Post-developmentalists view modern reason and science as a mode of social control that acts openly through disciplinary institutions. How can you apply this to the development discourse? Explain.
13. What is democratic transition? How can it begin? What are the types of transition? Who are the actors? What phases does it include? What is the role of the external actors in transition? What are the obstacles for transition?
14. Defining democracy: liberal democracy, Dahl's polyarchy, Schumpeter's minimal democracy, democracies „with adjectives“/illiberal democracies, hybrid regimes; Is democracy a universal concept?; democracy promotion (support of good governance, transitional cooperation, promotion of democracy „by force“)
15. contrasting the democratic and non- democratic regimes, classification and characteristics of authoritarian and totalitarian states
16. Defining the concept of good governance, what are the underlying values, mechanisms and how to measure it? What is the difference between the government and governance?

Subject 2:

Development Economy and Development Assistance

1. Theories of economic growth: Harrod-Domar model - Solow model - new growth theories
2. comparisons, differences and similarities among them
3. Contemporary models of development and underdevelopment: coordination failures and multiple equilibria - big push - o-ring theory - growth diagnostics framework
4. Inequality and development: definition and overview: methods of measurements - Kuznets hypothesis - inequality and growth: savings, income, political redistribution
5. Poverty, undernutrition and development: definition and overview - methods of measurements - functional impacts of poverty: credit and insurance - functional impacts of poverty: nutrition (incl. the households level)
6. Population growth and economic development: the influence of economic development on population growth (adjustment of birth rates, fertility decisions: cost-benefit analysis; fertility choices in joint families) - the influence of population growth on economic development (negative effects, positive effects, empirical findings)
7. Rural-Urban interactions: definition of the sectors in interactions - Lewis Model - rural-urban migration and the Harris-Todaro model (incl. floors on formal wages)

8. Land market in developing countries: ownership and tenancy - forms of land rental contracts: explanations - land rental contracts: sharecropping vs. fixed rent
9. Labour market in developing countries: labour categories - supply and demand of labour: the (imperfect) basic model - poverty, nutrition and labour markets (piece rate, work effort, non-labour income, nutritional status and equilibrium on the market)
10. Credit market in developing countries: sources of demand for credit - rural credit markets - theories of informal credit markets - interlinked transactions - alternative credit policies
11. Strategies and policies of economic development and the roles of market and state: development planning: definition, rationale, models - government failures (and preferences for markets over planning) - market economy: definition, the Washington and the New consensus - role of government and institutions in development; governance - democracy vs. autocracy and growth
12. Definitions of development and development assistance, typology and modalities of development assistance.
13. Organization and management of development assistance.
14. Aid effectiveness, financing for development.
15. Historical evolution of development assistance, important events and documents shaping the current form of development assistance.
16. Development assistance of selected traditional bilateral donors and multilateral institutions.
17. Development assistance of emerging donors.
18. Role of non-governmental organizations in development assistance.

Subject 3:

Environmental Geography and Sustainable Development

1. Ecosystem services and human well-being, definition and typology of ecosystem services and their significance for developing regions, trade-offs and congruence between services
2. Perspectives on linkages poverty-environment linkages, the role of policy imperfections and inequality in environmental degradation, poor people as environmental activists
3. Political ecology of drylands: definition and geographical distribution of drylands, drylands and constrained ecosystem services, dryland degradation and desertification
4. Political ecology of tropical forests: definition of forest and tropical forest, causes of deforestation, forest transition theory and its implications
5. Payments for ecosystem services (PES): principles and rationalization, characteristic of PES programs and impact of PES programs on various stakeholders
6. Traditional approaches to protection of natural resources and nature conservation: "conservation by exclusion" in the context of developed and developing countries
7. Alternative approaches to protection of natural resources and nature conservation: community based nature resource management, opportunities and constraints
8. Human influence on environment from historical perspective (influence of hunters, nomads, agricultural revolution, industrial revolution)
9. Environmental issues influencing sustainable development (biodiversity, water, deforestation, climate change, ozone layer depletion, acid rain)
10. Sustainable development (theoretical background, definitions, world conferences and summits), human values compatible and incompatible with sustainable development)
11. Economic aspects of sustainable development
12. Technological, political, legal and institutional aspects of sustainable development
13. Sectoral aspects of sustainable development (energy, transport, agriculture)
14. Indicators of sustainable development

Subject 4:

Development Opportunities of 2 regions (choose only 2 out of 4 regions listed below)

Africa

1. Geography as a determinant of African Development: geographical factors influencing African development - development specifics of landlocked countries in Africa - natural resources and their influence on African development - environmental aspects of African development
2. History as a factor for African Development: slave trade and its impact on African present development - colonization and its influence on contemporary development in Africa - decolonization and its impact on development in Africa
3. Institutions, state and politics in Africa: institutions and development in sub-Saharan Africa - quality of governance in Africa, measurements - features of political environment in Africa - democracy and development in Africa (dynamics, measurements and links)
4. Conflicts in Africa and their impact on development: overview and dynamics of conflicts in Africa (since 1960s) - causes of conflicts in Africa - development consequences of conflicts in Africa - development specifics of post-conflict countries in Africa
5. Economic and Social Development in Africa: recent economic development in Africa (overview, periodization since 1960s and perspectives) - factors of economic growth in Africa; economic and social reforms in Africa (SAPs, PRSPs) - demography (population growth) and social capital (health, education) – remittances and migration
6. Africa in the World Economy: Africa and the World Trade (trade patterns, dynamics, barriers to trade, trade and development in Africa) - external capital flows to Africa, with the main focus on FDI (dynamics, links to growth and development) - private sector in Africa and the quality of business environment (incl. ways of measuring)
7. Regional and subregional integration in Africa and links to development: integration, trade and development in Africa - reality and barriers to integration in Africa - the AU (+ NEPAD) & selected African sub-regional integrations
8. Development Aid and MDGs/SDGs in Africa: development aid to Africa (dynamics, pros and cons, links to growth and development) - MDGs (definition) and MDGs in Africa (How did Africa fare regarding the MDGs?) - SDGs (definition) and SDGs in Africa (What are the perspectives for Africa?)

Central Asia and Middle East

1. Regional integrations with involvement of Central Asian countries
 - SCO, GUAM, EEU, CIS, CSTO
 - WB, IMF, UNDP, WTO
 - Their development and role in Central Asia
 - Presence of the respective countries in the integrations
2. Relations and dependencies among the Central Asian countries
 - Geopolitical relations, economic relations, energy dependencies
3. History of Central Asia and its influence today
 - Ancient empires and their historical heritage
 - Russian influence, (New) Great Game
 - Soviet Union and its heritage (political, economic, social, cultural)
4. The role of world and regional powers in Central Asia and Caucasus
 - Russia, China, USA – their interests and strengths
 - Turkey, Iran, EU, Afghanistan – their interests and strengths
5. Development problems and opportunities in Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan)
 - economy/trade, development aid, FDI, remittances, migration, MDGs/SDGs
 - Strengths and weaknesses
6. Development problems and opportunities in Central Asian countries (Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan)
 - economy/trade, development aid, FDI, remittances, migration, MDGs/SDGs
 - Strengths and weaknesses
7. Development problems and opportunities in Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and Mongolia
 - economy/trade, development aid, FDI, remittances, migration, MDGs/SDGs
 - Strengths and weaknesses
8. Geography and development in the Middle East

- the definition of the region; subregions; differentiation and typologies of states
 - water scarcity in the region (overview and ways to deal with this problem)
 - abundance of oil in the region (overview and consequences for development – a blessing or a curse?)
9. Recent economic, social and political development in the Middle East
 - recent economic development (growth, GNI per capita, economic competitiveness etc.)
 - recent social development (demography, health, education, human development)
 - recent political development: the Arab Spring, its consequences and directions of possible future development
 10. History, politics and religion and their impacts on development in the Middle East
 - history and its consequences for the contemporary development in the Middle East
 - the World Wars and the era of Europe's dominance
 - the era of independence: consequences of conflicts (incl. the question of Palestine) for the region's development
 - state and political systems in the Middle East and their connection to development
 - religion and its influence on politics, economy and development
 11. Development Deficits in the Middle East
 - the democracy deficit in the region (definition, quantifications, possible solutions)
 - the gender deficit in the region (definition, quantifications, possible solutions)
 - the education & technology deficit in the region (definition, quantifications, possible solutions)

South East Asia

1. Regional integrations with involvement of South and South Asian countries
 - ASEAN, BIMSTEC, SAARC, ECO
 - ADB, WB, IMF, WTO
 - Their development and role in Central Asia
 - Presence of the respective countries in the integrations
2. Historical influence in the region of South and South East Asia
 - Historical empires
 - Colonization
 - Decolonization
 - Conflicts
3. Role of the world, regional and colonial powers in the region of South and South East Asia
 - China, USA, EU, France, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, India
 - Consequences for development
4. MDGs/SDGs in the countries of
 - Situation in different countries
 - Successes and problems
5. Role of ethnic minorities and religion in development of South and South East Asian countries
 - Situation in different countries
 - Involvement in development
6. Development problems and opportunities in South East Asian countries (continental part)
 - economy/trade, development aid, FDI, remittances, migration, MDGs/SDGs
 - Strengths and weaknesses
7. Development problems and opportunities in South East Asian countries (island part)
 - economy/trade, development aid, FDI, remittances, migration, MDGs/SDGs
 - Strengths and weaknesses
8. Development problems and opportunities in South Asian countries
 - economy/trade, development aid, FDI, remittances, migration, MDGs/SDGs
 - Strengths and weaknesses

Latin America

- 1) Until recent, how were indigenous cultures perceived in terms of modern development? And are they more or less vulnerable to global crises than the non-indigenous ones?
- 2) In terms of indigenous development describe The Inter-American Development Bank's strategy called development with identity.
- 3) Describe the concept of buen vivir and its political and socio-economic implications. Buen vivir is an example of which development theory?
- 4) Explain the choice between the liberal and conservative view of organizing societies in L.A. after the Independence. In your explanation use examples of countries such as Paraguay, Argentina and Peru or Bolivia.
- 5) What similarities and differences can you draw between the post-independence eras of L.A. countries in the 19th century and African countries in the 20th century?
- 6) What is the Heckscher-Ohlin model and how is it related to the "extractivist" economic policies of L.A. and the modernization/dependency development theories? Analyse the real life implications of using the Heckscher-Ohlin model in L.A.?
- 7) Describe Cardoso's associated – dependent development. What was the role of "comprador" class? In what way did this policy differ from the dependency theory? Which countries proved to break away from the economic and political "shackles" of the core as described by the *dependentistas*.
- 8) How did political economists such as Baran or Frank make sense of Latin America's declining position in the world economy? Analyse.
- 9) Compare the effects of ISI on the L.A. economy and society in the 1970s with the effects of neoliberalism at the end of the 20th century. Which policy would you choose for the development of a L.A. country and why?
- 10) What is Liberation Theology? Describe the main goals of the movement? How can Liberation Theology be applied to the Third World development?
- 11) What impact has NAFTA had on Mexico? Use concrete examples. Look at migration, trade, consumer goods, but also different economic sectors such as manufacturing or agriculture.
- 12) Explain the Chinese soft power in L. A. There are several areas where this power can be exercised. Describe.
- 13) What are the effects of climate change on Latin American development?