

## International Development Studies

### Oral Exam Preparation

These questions are intended to offer the opportunity for reflection on major development issues. They require you to utilize material from coursework, along with your own reading, in order to formulate thoughtful responses. Discuss each question with sufficient detail to support your generalizations. Be prepared to answer any of the questions provided below, and note that these prompts may serve as a starting point for a deeper conversation on any of these topics.

#### **I. Thematic Questions**

##### **A. Human Rights**

1. Examine the causes of forced migration and the impact of refugee flows on states. What responsibilities and roles do both individual states and the UNHCR have in regard to these populations? Finally, consider the implications of your answer and provide recommendations for mitigating these flows.
2. Consider the struggle to implement transitional justice after human rights violations. Review the obstacles and variables for successful justice, while also discussing the three forms of transitional justice available. What are some possible recommendations for successful future reconstruction of society after violence?

##### **B. Global Politics**

1. Theories of international relations often share elements in common despite their differences, and while nearly all of them agree that the international system is anarchic, they do not agree on for what that means for state behavior. Explain why and how they differ, while also discussing why these differences matter within the international system.
2. Questions abound regarding the best methods of fostering development. Please discuss poverty and its measurements, the continued impact of building an economy on the sale of raw materials, and some of the arguments surrounding foreign aid. How might developing states become most economically successful, while also intentionally supporting their populations toward improved social mobility?

##### **C. Global Health**

1. Describe what has come to be known as the brain drain of health workers from developing countries. Is it simply a matter of migration and potential pay or are there other forces at play? In addition, cover the patterns of where these health workers go and why. Finally, should the ethics of recruitment be considered by developed countries as they search to fill necessary positions? Why or why not?
2. If men and women have different life expectancies, but they do not tend to die from diseases biologically tied to a single sex, what are some of the main ways gender shapes health outcomes? Are these impacts only felt in developing states? Finally, consider potential recommendations to continue to improve health outcomes for both men and women.

#### **D. Political Economy**

1. Evaluate the trajectory of political economy history from Adam Smith to the present. Include a description of key economic thinkers of the twentieth century (e.g., Veblen, Galbraith, Schumpeter, Polanyi, Keynes, Hayek, Friedman).
2. Discuss the purpose of studying political economy. How does studying political economy inform decision making, and in reverse, how can it inform political and economic decision making? What tools do states use in regulating foreign trade? What political-economic systems are most and least likely to impose strict regulations on trade?

## **II. Classics in International Development**

The works listed below are independent readings. The following questions will help guide your reading and provide structure for your senior exam. You should be able to explain the thesis or primary themes of the following works, as well as the context of the scholarship.

#### **A. Acemoglu and Robinson - *Why Nations Fail***

1. Do you think that institutions explain all of the differences in development across countries? Are some of these differences due to geography, culture, ideas or even just luck?
2. Did the authors use primarily qualitative or quantitative evidence to support their argument? Was this method effective?

#### **B. Collier – *The Bottom Billion***

1. What four traps does Collier describe? What role do they play in economic development?
2. Which tools does Collier argue are most effective to encouraging economic development?

#### **C. Sachs – *The End of Poverty***

1. What are the eight barriers to economic growth that Sachs describes? Does he emphasize any in particular? Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. Which side of the foreign aid debate does Sachs fall? Does he encourage aid and international support? Why or why not? How do the perspectives of other influential authors compare?

## **V. Professionalization**

- A. Attend a professional conference
- B. CV edited by the University Writing Center listing conferences, papers written, coursework, and department participation.