

**HOWARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Spring 2016**

Answer five questions. Ph.D students must answer at least two questions and M.A. students at least ONE question from Part I.

PART I

1. Show analytically how the growth of the labor force serves as an engine of growth in the Lewis model of development. In what respects does the process of economic transformation coincide or differ between the Lewis and the Harris – Todaro models? Explain.
2. Neoclassical growth theory predicts convergence of growth rates across countries. However, the real world manifests diversity of growth experiences. Examine how successful recent attempts have been at explaining this diversity. Draw upon your analysis to explain the catching up and leapfrogging in China and India.
3. Explain how Kuznet's inverted U hypothesis describes changes in income inequality in the process of economic development. Does empirical evidence support this hypothesis?
4. While the classic Solow's model permits us to derive a number of potentially important conclusions, it is quite at odds with the empirical findings that different countries experience very different rates of productivity growth and the productivity growth in a given country fluctuates overtime. What are the principal ways in which growth theorists have modified the original Solow model to account for these discrepancies? Briefly explain and evaluate them.
5. Hirschman has argued that the mechanism of linkages is critical to the process of economic development . Would a developing country have more to gain by encouraging backward linkages or forward linkages? Why? Also linkages could be more fully developed by making them more extensive (a larger number of linkages) or more intensive (greater flows, on the average, for each linkage). Under what circumstances would intensive development be preferable to extensive development? Under what circumstances would extensive development be preferred?

PART II

6. Discuss and critique "sustainable development". What are the key factors that differentiate it from the classic growth and development models? How has the World Bank and other international development agencies addressed the problems of achieving sustainable development?

7. Deepak Lal in his book, "The Poverty Of Development Economics", attacks drigism as a development strategy. Set out the main points in Lal's argument and assess their strengths and weaknesses.
8. In Kenya and other developing countries crypto-currencies, such as bitcoins, have been a game changer because so many more people have mobile phones than traditional bank accounts. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the use of crypto-currencies for developing countries.
9. Lester Thurow in his book, "Fortune Favors the Bold", is not hopeful about Africa South of the Sahara. According to him, "The mechanics of development, the criteria that China meets, Africa fails to meet". What are these criteria?
10. Discuss Professor Nathan Nunn's publication, "The Long Term Effects of Africa Slave Trades". Describe the data and methodologies he employed to conduct his research. How does he answer the question, "can part of Africa's current underdevelopment be explained by the slave trades?"