**HOWARD UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

**CODE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES­­­\_\_\_\_**

**DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION: Spring 2018 MA/PhD COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**EXAMINERS:**

1. **Dr. Zhun Xu,Chairperson**
2. **Dr. Mika Kato**
3. **Dr. Mary Kay Perkins/Omari H. Swinton**
4. **The examination is scheduled between the hours: 9:00 a.m-12:30 pm**

**ALL STUDENTS ARE TO BE SEATED BY 9:00 a.m.**

1. **YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ANSWER ONLY FIVE (5) QUESTIONS.**

**Any additional questions answered over the required number from each category will NOT receive credit.**

1. **Correct answers to questions NOT asked will receive NO credit.**
2. **Be sure to write the Code Number assigned to you in the TOP LEFT HAND CORNER OF THIS SHEET AND ON EACH ANSWER SHEET. DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON ANY SHEET OF THE EXAMINATION.**
3. **Begin each question on a new page. Number each page used in sequence. Write only on one side of the paper.**
4. **Write clearly and illustrate your answers with graphs whenever and wherever possible.**
5. **USE ONLY BLACK INK PENS.**
6. **At the end of the examination, please indicate the total number of pages being submitted in the space provided in the TOP RIGHT HAND CORNER of this sheet.**

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1. **Bring your pens, pencils, calculators and rulers.**
2. **No briefcases, book bags or sacks, no handbags larger than 10 x 6 of any form are to be brought into the examination room.**
3. **No books, notes or other study material are to be brought into the examination room.**
4. **During the Examination there is to be no communication between or amongst students for any purpose. All questions must be directed to and channeled through the faculty member conducting the examination.**
5. **Only the scrap paper provided by the proctor is to be used for the examination. Scrap paper should bear the code number assigned to each student, and be handed over to the proctor along with the examination.**
6. **Students are not expected to leave the examination room before completing their examination and turning it in to the proctor.**
7. **NO FOOD OR SMOKING is permitted in the examination room.**
8. **It is the student’s responsibility to remove any coffee or water containers taken into the examination room.**
9. **NO CELL PHONES ARE ALLOWED.**
10. **EXAMINATION RESULTS WILL ONLY BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS WHO ARE REGISTERED.**

**CODE NUMBER\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**STUDENTS: PLEASE CIRCLE ONLY THE QUESTIONS ANSWERED AND PROVIDE THE PAGE NUMBERS.**

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| **QUESTIONS** | **PAGE NUMBERS** |
| **1.** |  |
| **2.** |  |
| **3.** |  |
| **4.** |  |
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Howard University

Department of Economics

MA/PhD COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SPRING 2018

Answer five questions. PhD students must at least two questions from Part 1. M.A. students must answer at least one question from part 1.

Part 1

1. Explain and critically evaluate the idea of unequal exchange from at least two sources (different organic compositions of capital and different bargaining power of the workers).
2. Write down the classical growth model with conventional wage share. Using comparative statics, show the effects of an increase in wage, as well as a decrease in capital-labor ratio. Then use the conventional wage share version of the classical model. Analyze the effect of an increase in the wage share, on the choice of technique and other variables.
3. Drive the results of the Marglin-Bhaduri model (wage-led vs profit led growth). Discuss how the model explains the Golden Age experience of the US economy.
4. Kuznets curve has been an influential hypothesis for decades. What is the logic behind the inverted-U relationship? What is your assessment of the Kuznets curve? How could inequality affect growth positively and/or negatively?

Part 2

1. What are the major difficulties in estimating a poverty line? What is the vicious cycle between poverty and work capacity? What are the recommended policies to tackle the vicious cycle?
2. There is a resurgence of interest in the concept of “secular stagnation”. Critically evaluate the theories of secular stagnation from Schumpeter, Sweezy, Gordon and Summers.
3. In contemporary literature, interventions, regulations and industrial policies are often considered as unproductive for development. Explain and critically assess the logic and evidence of rent-seeking and developmental state theories.
4. To what extent there has been a food regime under capitalism? Elaborate this with a historical overview of the pattern change in the production and distribution of food since the 19th century.
5. What is the major driver for growth in the Lewis model? Does the Lewis model imply an urban bias in development policies? How does the neoliberal logic challenge the Lewis model?Explain what would be Baran’s critique on the Lewis type models?
6. In Kenya and other developing countries crypto-currencies such as bitcoins have been a game changer because so many more people have mobile phones then traditional bank accounts. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the use of crypto-currencies for developing countries.
7. Discuss Professor Nathan Nunn’s publication “The long-term effects of Africa’s slave trade.” 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 trans-Atlantic slave trade? What do you think?