List of potential questions for the course on Macroeconomics & Microeconomics in the Digital Age

**Essay Question Ideas**

**1. Foundations & Concepts**

* **Define** the difference between **microeconomics** and **macroeconomics**. How have digital technologies blurred or reinforced these distinctions?

*(Micro focuses on individual/business behaviour like supply, demand, pricing; macro on broader aggregates such as GDP and inflation.)*

* **Explain** the concept of the [**platform economy**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Platform_economy?utm_source=chatgpt.com). How do digital platforms like Amazon, Uber, or TikTok exhibit network effects, and what are their implications for competition and market structure?

**2. Innovation & Economic Dynamics**

* **Discuss** how digitalization has transformed innovation dynamics. What roles have [reduced costs of information and data-driven R&D](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/innovation-policies-in-the-digital-age_eadd1094-en.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com) played in this shift?
* **Analyze** Schumpeter’s concept of **creative destruction** in the digital era. How do modern innovations—like AI or platforms—reshape industries, displace firms, and influence macroeconomic growth? (Reflect on [Ufuk Akcigit’s work](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ufuk_Akcigit?utm_source=chatgpt.com).)

**3. Regulation & Market Power**

* **Examine** the [**Digital Markets Act (DMA)**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_Markets_Act?utm_source=chatgpt.com): What are its objectives, and how does it aim to regulate “gatekeeper” platforms in the EU digital economy? Consider obligations around data use, pre-installation, and competition.
* **Debate** whether regulation inherently stifles innovation or if, when well-designed, it can foster competition and stability. Draw on differing views, for instance, the [EU’s regulatory challenges](https://www.promarket.org/2024/12/11/the-false-choice-between-digital-regulation-and-innovation/?utm_source=chatgpt.com) versus the innovation environment in the U.S.

**4. Policymaking in the Digital Context**

* **Evaluate** how policymakers can balance **privacy**, **competition**, and **innovation incentives** in digital economies. Consider whether [regulation supports or hinders long-term sustainable growth](https://arxiv.org/abs/2504.02000?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* **Explore** the unique **macroeconomic challenges posed by AI and digitalization**, including labor displacement, inequality, shifts in monetary policy, and regulatory needs.
* **Propose** frameworks for [digital antitrust policymaking](https://itif.org/publications/2025/03/31/a-policymakers-guide-to-digital-antitrust-regulation/?utm_source=chatgpt.com), focusing on practical trade-offs and regulatory effectiveness in rapidly changing digital markets.

**5. Integration & Forward-Looking Perspectives**

* **Critically assess** how digital innovations challenge traditional economic tools used by governments, like fiscal and monetary policy, taxation, and labor regulations. How must policymakers adapt?
* **Predict** the future of economic governance in the digital age: What role should public institutions play in ensuring equitable innovation, protecting markets, and supporting long-term growth?

**Summary Table of Essay Questions**

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| **Category** | **Essay Question Summary** |
| Micro vs. Macro Foundations | Define and differentiate micro and macro in a digital context. |
| Platform Economy | Analyze network effects, business models, and market power in platforms. |
| Digital Innovation | Explore how digitalization reshapes innovation, referencing information economics. |
| Creative Destruction | Apply Schumpeterian ideas to digital transformation and growth. |
| Digital Markets Act (DMA) | Evaluate EU regulation of gatekeepers: aims, mechanisms, and impacts. |
| Regulation vs Innovation | Debate regulation’s dual roles in either fostering or restraining innovation. |
| Balanced Digital Regulation | Discuss frameworks balancing privacy, competition, and growth. |
| AI & Economic Policy | Assess macroeconomic implications of AI/digital tech: labor, policy, inequality. |
| Digital Antitrust Policy | Propose effective antitrust regulation suited for fast-evolving digital markets. |
| Future Governance | Envision economic policy evolution in managing digital-age economic challenges. |