Problem Set 2

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This problem set is meant to help you prepare for the qualifying exam and encourage group discussions.

I encourage you to discuss these questions broadly among you. If you work in groups, each of you must submit a separate document, and you should write who did you work with.

Rubric: You should answer each question in **maximum** one short paragraph. Unreasonably lengthy answers will get you zero points.

You will get a check plus if you submit an admissible answer for four or more papers, a check if you submit an answer for 3 out of the six papers, and a check minus if you submit an answer for 2 or fewer papers.

1. What is the research question?

2. Why is the research question worth asking?

3. Which methods is the paper employing?

4. If the paper uses a model, what are the main features of the model. If the paper uses data what is the underlying research design and data?

5. Why are the methods a good approximation to the research question? If you disagree with the claim, you can make your case.

6. If the paper uses a model, please name one critical assumption of the model. If the paper uses data, please verbalize the identifying assumption behind the research design.

7. What is the main result of the paper?

8. What did you learn from the paper that you did not know before? *Nothing* is a valid answer, but I ask you for an explanation of why you learned nothing in this case.

List of eligible starred papers:

- Khwaja and Mian (2008)

- House and Shapiro (2008)

- Fazzari Hubbard Petersen (1988)

- Chodorow-Reich (2014)

- Bernanke Gertler (1989)

- Moll (2014)