

Take-home exam for the M.Sc. in Economics Summer 2016

Advanced Development Economics: Micro Aspects

Re-Exam

20 August 10:00 am – 21 August 10:00 am

(24-hour take-home exam)

This exam consists of 2 pages in total (including this front-page)

Please note that the language used in your exam paper must correspond to the language of the title for which you registered during exam registration. I.e. if you registered for the English title of the course, you must write your exam paper in English. Likewise, if you registered for the Danish title of the course or if you registered for the English title which was followed by “eksamen på dansk” in brackets, you must write your exam paper in Danish.

If you are in doubt about which title you registered for, please see the print of your exam registration from the students’ self-service system.

The paper must be uploaded as one PDF document. The PDF document must be named with exam number only (e.g. ‘1234.pdf’) and uploaded to Digital Exam. Your exam paper must not exceed 10 normal pages (1 normal page = 2400 keystrokes). You are allowed to include up to 5 pages of relevant appendix material. Note that the appendix information is only considered if directly referred to (in a relevant manner) in the main text of your exam paper. Stata program codes should be added at the end of the document, and is not counted in the total number of pages.

Focus on Exam Cheating

In case of presumed exam cheating, which is observed by either the examination registration of the respective study programmes, the invigilation or the course lecturer, the Head of Studies will make a preliminary inquiry into the matter, requesting a statement from the course lecturer and possibly the invigilation, too. Furthermore, the Head of Studies will interview the student. If the Head of Studies finds that there are reasonable grounds to suspect exam cheating, the issue will be reported to the Rector. In the course of the study and during examinations, the student is expected to conform to the rules and regulations governing academic integrity. Academic dishonesty includes falsification, plagiarism, failure to disclose information, and any other kind of misrepresentation of the student’s own performance and results or assisting another student herewith. For example failure to indicate sources in written assignments is regarded as failure to disclose information. Attempts to cheat at examinations are dealt with in the same manner as exam cheating which has been carried through. In case of exam cheating, the following sanctions may be imposed by the Rector:

1. A warning
2. Expulsion from the examination
3. Suspension from the University for a limited period or permanent expulsion.

The Faculty of Social Sciences
The Study and Examination Office
October 2006

Overall theme: The land market

Question 1: (25%)

- Please outline briefly the theoretical pros and cons of re-distributional land policies/reforms?
- Describe how the mechanisms of re-distributional land reforms are normally (best practice) tested in the literature.

Question 2: (50%)

Answer the questions below using the Besley & Burgess (2000) dataset (you are allowed to use the tutorials when needed). Besley & Burgess (2000) uses a measure of cumulative land reforms to test the impact of land reform on poverty elimination.

- Briefly describe the empirical strategy in Besley & Burgess (2000) and comment on whether you find that their empirical strategy convincing? Please comment on their cumulative land reform measure as you go through the empirical strategy.
- Comment on the economic magnitude of the effects found in the study? How robust are results to changes in the assumption about the timing of the cumulative land reform measures? Is the assumption reasonable?
- Governments who implement land reforms could also be more generous in their re-distributional policies compared to governments who do not implement land reforms. How could this confound the analysis? How would you test whether this is driving the results? Comment on what you find using the data at hand?
- How and why do Besley & Burgess (2000) argue that land reforms have not had an influence on land redistribution? How would you test this yourself?
- Given the combined evidence in Besley & Burgess (2000) and your own analysis what are your thoughts on the effectiveness and efficiency of land reforms in India?

Question 3: (25%)

- Write a short policy note (recommendation) for a developing country leader wishing to combat high rates of extreme poverty among landless tenants and wage-employed agricultural workers. In your recommendation you should include empirical evidence of efficiency and equity effects. As the recommendations are made, briefly discuss if previous land policy reforms generally have been considered a success and discuss why/why not?