

Written Exam Economics Summer 2021

Economic Sociology

Take-home exam

29 June 10 am – 30 June 10 am

This exam question consists of 1 page in total

Answers only in English.

A take-home exam paper cannot exceed 10 pages – and one page is defined as 2400 keystrokes

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.

Be careful not to cheat at exams!

Exam cheating is for example if you:

- Copy other people's texts without making use of quotation marks and source referencing, so that it may appear to be your own text
- Use the ideas or thoughts of others without making use of source referencing, so it may appear to be your own idea or your thoughts
- Reuse parts of a written paper that you have previously submitted and for which you have received a pass grade without making use of quotation marks or source references (self-plagiarism)
- Receive help from others in contrary to the rules laid down in part 4.12 of the Faculty of Social Science's common part of the curriculum on cooperation/sparring

You can read more about the rules on exam cheating on your Study Site and in part 4.12 of the Faculty of Social Science's common part of the curriculum.

Exam cheating is always sanctioned by a written warning and expulsion from the exam in question. In most cases, the student will also be expelled from the University for one semester.

Exam questions

According to Portes, power is the third general assumption grounding economic sociology, while social capital, social classes and social institutions are the three explanatory mechanisms.

Explain the role of power in economic sociology as presented by Portes – and extend the explanation by drawing on insights from Marx, Weber and Durkheim of how power plays a role in the functioning of capitalism and the modern society.

Explain how the concept of power is materialized in the more modern sociological theory of Bourdieu about different forms of capital including social capital, which is one of Portes' explanatory mechanisms. Compare the role of social capital as an explanatory mechanism in Bourdieu's theory to the role of social classes from Marx and Weber as an explanatory mechanism of societal differentiation.

Finally, use the understandings of power to discuss how one achieves market power according to Aspers. To what degree is Aspers' concept of 'economic identities' (which is Aspers' substitute for 'economic man') in the market based on power, and to what degree on social interaction between agents in the market?