

Junior Sophister 2019/20
ECU3 3031: EUROPEAN ECONOMY A
Test and Essay Handout

TEST/ESSAY HANDOUT

Test Questions

- (i) What do you think were the main factors behind the emergence of the European 'project' in the early post-war period? Is an understanding of these factors important to the debate on the future of the EU in 2019?
- (ii) What do you think have been the main policy issues arising in the EU from the end of the 1950s to 2014? Give reasons for your choice of issue.
- (iii) What are in your opinion the major issues facing the EU at present and over the next few years? Explain why.
- (iv) Outline what you think are some of the key steps needed to create a unified economic area in Europe and why? Include areas, if you wish, upon which there has been no real progress to date.
- (v) Outline clearly the different roles of the European Commission, Court of Justice and Parliament in the process of European integration to date. Do you think that the role of the Parliament should be increased and if so how? Could the Court of Justice be done away with, or its remit reduced somewhat?
- (vi) Why are common rules of engagement required for the four freedoms underlying the single market, namely freedom of movement of goods, services, people and capital in the EU? Use a sporting analogy to make your points. Outline at least one other argument for centralized EU decision making.
- (vii) What are the key arguments against/dangers of centralized EU decision making?
- (viii) Discuss the efficiency and fairness of EU decision-making procedures, including the blocking power of the veto. Should the veto power be restricted to less areas if the EU is to become more effective in addressing crises like for example trade agreements.

Essay Topics

1. Discuss the key characteristics and operation of EU labour markets, paying attention to the issue of migration between member states. Comment briefly on the refugee/non-EU immigration issue confronting the EU in this context.
2. Examine EU growth in terms of its determinants ($q = A \cdot f(k, h, i, r)$). Explain how liberalization of trade, the formation of the single market and the creation of monetary union should impact on this process. What do you think are the prospects for growth in the EU in the next few years?

3. Location effects in EU: facts, comparative advantage, agglomeration, and regional policy. Discuss.
4. Outline the key features of the EU agricultural sector, the problems with price support and policies to deal with this to date, and other policy issues of your choice arising in the food sector (e.g. food safety, damage to the environment).

ASSIGNMENTS

First Assignment (60 percentage points)

The first assignment will consist of a test, duration 90 minutes. The test will be held in Week 10, probably, Wednesday 30th October (17.15 to 18.45, venue to be confirmed)).

There will be five questions, answer five, and based on the eight short questions listed above. In other words, if you prepare material on these eight questions, five will come up in the test, allowing most people to write around 450-500 words per answer. Special arrangements will be put in place for students registered with the College Disability Service.

Second Assignment (40 percentage points)

An essay not exceeding 1,800 words in length (including footnotes and references but not graphs/tables) on one of the four topics listed above.

Essays should be submitted electronically to johagan@tcd.ie and in hard copy to the Economics office by 17.00 at the latest Tuesday 3rd December.

Essays exceeding the maximum word limit by more than 10 per cent will in most cases be returned for rewriting. There will be special classes devoted to essay preparation in Weeks 13 and 14.

J. O'Hagan,
September 2019

<https://www.tcd.ie/Economics/staff/johagan/teaching.php>