

HUL 316 Indian Economic Problems and Policies

Major Exam, 3 May 2015

(30 marks for major; additional 20 marks for remminor)

(Please note, I will read only the portions that are within the prescribed word/sheet limit indicated with each question. Please think and plan your answers before you start writing.)

A. Compulsory for all

I want you to reflect on the entire course and think of the five most important things you have learnt. E.g., what are the perceptions you had about India and development before you began the course which were shattered, which were confirmed or reinforced. Or, is there any issue on which you earlier had one opinion, which as a result of the course, has now changed. Or, is there any issue (e.g., growth, poverty, labour, education, health, etc) which was covered in class where you were exposed to a new dimension which you had not realized earlier? [10 marks, 3 sheets max]

B. For remminor students only (to be scaled to 20)

Poverty rates based on the poverty line have been used to determine the coverage of various government interventions (e.g., health, food security, housing). To what extent is this justified? If yes, why; if not, why not? [5 marks, 1 sheet max]

List two measures EACH of poverty and inequality. Explain briefly the advantages and limitations of each. [5 marks, 1 sheet max]

C. Please answer one out of two. [Reminor students to answer one fully; in the other answer the sub-question which is for 10 marks.]

1a. What are the three measures of unemployment that are commonly used in India? What are the limitations of these measures? [4 marks, 1 sheet]

1b. If you had to summarize the Anant et al study in five points to someone in your family, what would those five highlights be? [10 marks, 3 sheets max]

1c. What would you say are the key strengths of a government programme such as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act? [6 marks, 2 sheets max]

OR

2a. Explain the main theoretical/conceptual arguments in favour of, and against, food *and* cash. What does evidence from India suggest? [10 marks, 3 sheets max]

2b. Explain briefly how corruption in the PDS is calculated. What does the evidence from the past 10 years show as far as leakages are concerned? [6 marks, 2 sheets max]

2c. In the Dreze and Sen (2013) book, they discuss the demerits of private health insurance. Summarize their argument. [4 marks, 1 sheet max]

1. education
2. PDS
3.
4.
5.

1. Agriculture
2. PDS
3. 19

1. - sector
2. element
edu -

2. child
is a

PDS