

考試科目	專業英文	所別	社會所	考試時間	5月>>日(六)第 / 節
------	------	----	-----	------	---------------

Please read the texts carefully and answer the following questions in clear and succinct way. Either Chinese or English will do.

1. Where norms and networks of civic engagement are lacking, the outlook for collective action appears bleak. The “always defect” social equilibrium may represent the future of much of the world where social capital is limited or nonexistent. For political stability, for government effectiveness, and even for economic progress social capital may be even more important than physical or human capital. Many of formerly communist societies had weak civic traditions before the advent of Communism, and totalitarian rule abused even that limited stock of social capital. Without norms of reciprocity and networks of civic engagement, the Hobbesian outcome—amoral familism, clientelism, lawlessness, ineffective government, and economic stagnation—seems likelier than successful democratization and economic development.

Recent theorists of economic history have dubbed this feature of social systems “path dependence”: where you can get to depends on where you are coming from, and some destinations you simply cannot get to from here.” Path dependence can produce durable differences in performance between two societies, even when the formal institutions, resources, relative prices, and individual preferences in the two are similar. In the context of these two paragraphs,

- (a) could you make a clear and better sense of “social capital?” (15%)
- (b) elaborate the meaning of “path dependence,” in what way is it applied to social change? (15%)
- (c) could you imagine what would be the most likely consequences of democratization and marketization after the communist regimes collapsed? (15%)

考試科目	專業英文	所別	社會所	考試時間	5月>>日(六)第 / 節
------	------	----	-----	------	---------------

2. In developed market economies, formal rules and regulations governing economic transactions are buttressed by informal norms of honesty and fair exchange. When formal and informal norms are closely coupled, it is often difficult to demarcate the boundaries between formal and informal social control. The close coupling of formal and informal norms results in lower transaction costs because monitoring and enforcement can be accomplished informally. By contrast, the greater the reliance on the state for monitoring, the higher the transaction cost.

For certain types of organizations, particularly those for which there is not a competitive market for their output, formal organizational rules will be largely ceremonial, designed to satisfy external constituents that provide the organization with legitimacy. Independent of this ceremonial formal structure, informal norms will arise to guide the day-to-day business of the organization.

The lack of convergence in organizational forms across societies where similar technologies and environmental constraints exist, offers a strong puzzle: if there is so much globalization, why is not there more convergence?

- (a) Provide a clear definition of transaction cost in sociological analysis of social interaction. (10%)
- (b) Why is it the case that relying on the state for monitoring generates higher transaction cost than on the coupling of formal and informal norms? (15%)
- (c) Can you make sense the meaning of the second paragraph? What types of organizations might fit such cases? Could you think of any cases in which informal norms might evolve into opposition norms that encourage individuals to directly resist formal norms? (15%)
- (d) Provide a sensible and clear answer to the question of the third paragraph, from an institutional perspective. (15%)