

Exam module 2 SOCA26 – autumn 2023

The exam consists of four (4) questions. The questions can give a maximum of (10) points each. The total number of points is 40. Pass requires 15 points. The grade C requires 25 points. The grade B requires 30 points, and grade A requires 35 points or more.

The answers can be written in this compendium and/or on separate sheets where you clearly mark which question you address.

Tools/Hjälpmedel: It is permitted bring personal handwritten notes (handskrivna anteckningar), and a native tongue dictionary to english (en ordbok från modersmålet till engelska). The students must not exchange notes with each other. The handwritten notes are for personal use only.

It is also permitted bring the following course books:

Francis Fukuyama (2018) *Identity: The Demand for Dignity and the Politics of Resentment*, New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 240 pages

Kabeer, Naila and Caroline Sweetman (2018) *Gender and Inequalities*. Practical Action Publishing.

Portes, Alejandro (2010) *Economic Sociology: A Systematic Inquiry*. Princeton: Princeton, University Press. 320 pages.

Ramalingam, Ben (2013) *Aid on the Edge of Chaos: Rethinking International Cooperation in a Complex World*, Oxford, Oxford University Press. 480 pages

Bear in mind:

- Reflect on your answer before you start writing.
- The course contents should be reflected in your answers.
- Define key concepts.
- It is generally helpful to provide real world examples to illustrate your lines of thought.
- *Write clearly. If the answers cannot be read, they cannot be graded either.*

Good luck!

Olle

1. Describe the meaning of the concept 'institution' (from this course) and discuss how it has been used in development studies. For instance, consider the idea that states and markets rely on institutions. What does it mean that institutions spread across the world while at the same time, there may be considerable gaps between institutions and actual practices? Give example of how individuals' identities are linked to institutions (that can be both formal and informal). Describe the notion of institutional path dependency and provide an example of how it may shape the development of societies (10 points).

2. Describe the concept of social capital and consider its benefits (for individuals) and potential downsides (for individuals and communities). Discuss how the absence of institutions such as welfare entitlements, may influence individuals' need of social capital (or conversely, how well-established formal welfare benefits can diminish people's dependency on social capital). Give examples of how individuals' identities and class positions can be linked to social capital (10 points).

3. Describe the concept of complexity. What distinguishes a complex problem from a complicated problem. What distinguishes linear thinking about society from complexity thinking? Discuss why critics like Ramalingam contend that the Global aid community has approached complex issues with a mindset more suitable for simpler, complicated problems. Why does not one size fit all, from a complexity viewpoint? (10 points).

4. Essay question: Explore how a complexity approach can help us analyze different local and national contexts with different institutions with distinct identities and social networks (and related individual social capital). More specifically, you need to relate at least one concept discussed in the course (institutions, social capital, class, or identity) to one or several aspects of complexity theory (such as feedback effects, externalities, emergence, tipping points etc). In so doing you can draw on cases from our seminars, such as real-world policy- and/or development interventions. You can also give concrete examples of how formal and informal institutions, class and social capital interact and how this influences the preconditions of governance in different contexts. You may refer to your discussions in your answers to exam questions 1-3 (10 points).