

Review Guide for Mid-term Examination
Issues with which you should be familiar

‘Third world’: its origin, problematic assumptions that underlie usage of the term, and Isbister’s explanation of the utility of the term today regarding aid-receiving countries; economic and social role of colonialism in constructing the present global system.

The history of aid: how it evolved; the goals behind the Marshall Plan and Point Four Program; four distinct, key events influencing the origin of aid policies; the Bretton Woods institutions (e.g., World Bank, IMF) and the roles they were designed to play; Kuznets’ initial goal to lessen the gap between rich and poor through injections of capital.

Similarities and differences of the development theories we have emphasized: modernization theory, dependency paradigm, and world systems theory. How was modernization theory a foundation of much contemporary thought on development including Basic Needs, the MDGs and the SDGs?

What are the assumptions or “ways of thinking” behind Western views on development (particularly modernization theory)? What does Norberg-Hodge suggest as alternative approaches to development thinking, orientations and goals; in other words, what can we “learn from Ladakh?”

Development assistance trends in the post-colonial period and different ways of distributing aid; correlation of giving aid with maintaining relationships between former colonizers and colonies. How have priorities changed over time especially with the ending of the Cold War (e.g., the rise in greater multilateral aid emphasizing program assistance, and a greater role for INGOs, especially as implementing partners)?

Key components and forms of aid; project aid vs. program aid. Define: ODA, bilateral ODA, multilateral ODA, tied aid. Why (reasons, justifications) and how (through what processes) is aid given? In particular, what are the four reasons that ODA is given and what are the most important priorities for different kinds of ODA support?

What are the MDGs and SDGs and why did the global community create them? Why does Nelson argue that the MDGs did little to eliminate inequality, and how does he anticipate the SDGs will do more to eliminate inequality? What are the key priorities of the post-2015 Development Agenda? What is the most important utility of the SDGs for the global donor community?

Nelson argues that good governance and other political supports should be at the center of development discourse, along with developing more practical political economy tools and making wider use of such analysis in program planning. He and deHaan make connections between good governance and addressing global poverty and growth. Why have good governance and building political institutional structures become important development priorities today?

The five stages in the generic project cycle. How do larger organizations tend to change this and why?

Arjan deHaan develops different arguments to improve the goals and outcomes of development assistance. How does he recommend the global donor community change its economic and political orientations and priorities toward development? What specifics does he suggest?

Four problems associated with the assessment and evaluation process: sustainability; evaluation methodologies; measurement problems; frankness; what are possible ways to overcome these problems? What are the shortcomings, biases and blind spots of ‘rural development tourism?’ (spatial, seasonal, project, biases of personal contact, politeness and protocol, professional biases, ‘the unseen and the unknown’). How best can a practitioner offset these anti-poverty biases?

What are the benefits and challenges of inviting local people to participate in framing a development project? Why has participation become an important issue in both identifying and evaluating development projects? How could switching to bottom-up approaches to conducting evaluations help move the aid industry away from legacies of colonialism and ensure effectiveness, flexibility and enabling more local voices to be heard? What can help ensure this sustainability?

Problems associated with evaluation methodologies; why has the UNDP developed better *evaluative tools* than in the past (HDI, GDI and others)? What three specific indicators does the HDI measure?

The ‘development dance’ ensures credibility between donors and recipients in designing effective projects. What best enables donors and recipients to agree on the contours of aid and to design more effective ways of delivering aid to ensure its credibility and sustainability, according to Haley Swedlund?

Ashis Nandy sees colonialism as having a long-term impact on how the colonized view themselves; development assistance and interventions often reinforce that process. What is this effect (e.g., ideas of cultural inferiority, subserviency, being impoverished now, ‘colonization of the mind’), how does this impact development prospects and how might aid facilitate countering this effect?

Eduardo Galeano is concerned with the “impossible hopes” that are promised in the provision of development assistance and fears that environmental sustainability will lose out as development is undertaken. What is he recommending that the global donor community do to change its economic and political orientations and priorities toward development?