

# 國立彰化師範大學 100 學年度博士班招生考試試題

系所： 地理學系

科目： 地理學論著評讀

☆☆請在答案紙上作答☆☆

第 1 頁，共 4 頁

請自下列 4 題中，任選擇兩題作答，每題 50 分(作答不限中、英文)

※回答超過兩題者，僅採計依作答順序前兩題之得分

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

“The ... role of space in our understanding of the poverty that afflicts Niger is rather more abstract and draws upon the Marxist tradition in economic geography. In short, it is possible to construct an argument that unevenness of wealth and development across space is not an anomaly that economic processes will eventually iron out--as assumed in the equilibrium models in economics. Instead, uneven development is a fundamental and necessary characteristic of the capitalist system through which our global capitalist economy is organized. Thus, rather than seeing equilibrium as a natural state of affairs, some would argue that unevenness is an inevitable outcome of capitalism. If we understand the global capitalist system in this way, then Niger’s poverty and hunger are necessary parts of the system. Only through such destitution are the raw materials that the country exports kept inexpensive. And only then are the lifestyles of those of us in wealthy countries sustained. For example, without Niger’s uranium, the nuclear power plants supplying electricity in many parts of the developed world could not operate. In a sense, then, *we need* the poverty of others in order to keep ourselves in affordable comfort”.

[Source: Coe, N. M., Kelly, P. F. and Yeung, H. W. C. (2007) Economic Geography: A Contemporary Introduction, Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA, USA.]

- (1) What, as the authors’ view, is the relationship (or difference) between the concepts of *equilibrium of the economy* and *evenness of development*? And what is the *actual* difference between the two?
- (2) According to the authors, what is the function and role the capitalist system played in the spatial distribution of wealth and development?

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2. Please read the following passage in “IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007 (AR4)” and give your comments.

With an explicit focus on real-world behaviour, assessments of adaptation practices differ from the more theoretical assessments of potential responses or how such measures might reduce climate damages under hypothetical scenarios of climate change. Adaptation practices can be differentiated along several dimensions: by spatial scale (local, regional, national); by sector (water resources, agriculture, tourism, public health, and so on); by type of action (physical, technological, investment, regulatory, market); by actor (national or local government, international donors, private sector, NGOs, local communities and individuals); by climatic zone (dryland, floodplains, mountains, Arctic, and so on); by baseline income/development level of the systems in which they are implemented (least-developed countries, middle-income countries, and developed countries); or by some combination of these and other categories.

From a temporal perspective, adaptation to climate risks can be viewed at three levels, including responses to: current variability (which also reflect learning from past adaptations to historical climates); observed medium and long-term trends in climate; and anticipatory planning in response to model-based scenarios of long-term climate change. The responses across the three levels are often intertwined, and indeed might form a continuum.

Adapting to current climate variability is already sensible in an economic development context, given the direct and certain evidence of the adverse impacts of such phenomena (Goklany, 1995; Smit et al., 2001; Agrawala and Cane, 2002). In addition, such adaptation measures can be synergistic with development priorities (Ribot et al., 1996), but there could also be conflicts. For example, activities such as shrimp farming and conversion of coastal mangroves, while profitable in an economic sense, can exacerbate vulnerability to sea-level rise (Agrawala et al., 2005).

Adaptation to current climate variability can also increase resilience to long-term climate change. In a number of cases, however, anthropogenic climate change is likely to also require forward-looking investment and planning responses that go beyond short-term responses to current climate variability. This is true, for example, in the case of observed impacts such as glacier retreat and permafrost melt (Schaedler, 2004; Shrestha and Shrestha, 2004). Even when impacts of climate change are not yet discernible, scenarios of future impacts may already be of sufficient concern to justify building some adaptation responses into planning. In some cases it could be more cost-effective to implement adaptation measures early on, particularly for infrastructure with long economic life (Shukla et al., 2004), or if current activities may irreversibly constrain future adaptation to the impacts of climate change (Smith et al., 2005).

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3. Please read the following paragraphs and give your comments.

Environmental Justice is a grassroots movement working toward improving living conditions of people of low socioeconomic status who have been found to face higher environmental health risks than the general public. Many low-income communities have suffered from various health problems due to the sitting of toxic waste incinerators or disposal sites, power plants, and other hazardous facilities in their neighborhoods. As a result, Environmental Justice requires that public policy be based on respect for all people, free from discrimination or bias, and demands that low-income and minority communities are involved in all levels of environmental decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement, and evaluation.

Minorities and low-income groups are expected to suffer a disproportionate amount from climate change. Individuals from these communities are less likely to leave urban areas during extreme heat events. Today, hospitalizations for asthma attacks are much higher among minorities and low-income groups than for the general public. These communities are more likely to already suffer from respiratory illnesses, while less likely to receive adequate health care. Warmer temperatures will aggravate the problem, placing more stress upon low-income communities and communities of color. The poor will also suffer as food, water, and other goods and services become more expensive.

The people expected to be most impacted by global warming will be urban dwellers, farmers, and residents of low-lying areas such as Bangladesh, the Maldives, and the South Pacific Islands. These poorer countries have already started to experience the devastating impacts of sea level rise and intense storms. Impacts include forced evacuation and loss of homes, destruction of cropland, and contamination of drinking water. In the future, millions more could be forced to flee their homes, triggering extensive financial and cultural losses as well as physical hardship. According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, developing countries lack the necessary health infrastructure and social resources to respond adequately to costly natural disasters and will therefore be less able to adapt to the climate changes produced by global warming. In 1998, there were more refugees created by environmental disasters than by armed conflicts. Today, 96% of all deaths caused by natural disasters occur in developing countries.

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4. Please read the following passage and illustrate your comments related to the role of department leadership in the development of geography.

At last spring's annual meeting I co-organized three panel discussions for department chairs, led the traditional chairs' lunch, and sat in on a number of other sessions focusing on similar issues. I was amazed by the rich discussions about strengthening and improving programs. Over the next few years I would like to increase these opportunities for sharing strategies and practice among department leaders, just as I have tried to improve professional development opportunities for early career faculty.

For this reason, I've co-organized a Chairs' Symposium for the Seattle meetings on "Making the Case for Geography" with the help of James W. Harrington, Jr., Audrey Kobayashi, David Lanegran, Alexander Murphy, and Nancy Wilkinson. This half-day session will focus on strategies for communicating geography's value to its varied audiences: university administrators, employers, students and their families, lawmakers, the media and the general public. Such communication is essential to building and sustaining strong programs as well as guarding against cutbacks in the current economic climate. To encourage the sharing of strategies and concerns, participants and panelists from many different types of colleges and universities will be included to promote wide-ranging discussion from multiple perspectives. The symposium will end with the traditional chairs' lunch. If we have good turnout, I will organize another symposium in 2012 on a different theme.

[Source: Foot, K., (2011) President's Column: Strengthening Department Leadership: Sharing Strategies and Practice, AAG newsletter volume 46, number 2.]