

Exam 2: Important Terms, Concepts, and Ideas

SOC 321 (GIST 550) Wealth, Power and Inequality

There will be True/False or multiple choice questions, and short answer questions.

- Causes of Rising Inequality
 1. Changes in Top 10% & 1% income share over time in the US
 2. Changes in occupational distribution
 3. The skill biased technological change (SBTC) hypothesis: Evidence and Problems
 4. Computer and the SBTC
 5. History of income inequality in the United States
 6. Changes in minimum wage and union membership in the US
 7. Relations between union membership and inequality
 8. Changes in within- and between-country inequalities in the world
 9. Job polarization: Different trends across time in the US
 10. Routine vs. non-routine jobs
 11. Polanyi's paradox
 12. Change in the share of labor income and capital income over time in the US
 13. What causes the change in the labor share.
 14. Changes in the union membership and public sectors in the United States
 15. Definition of institution and structure.
- Global Inequality
 1. The impact of globalization on within-country inequality and between-country inequality
 2. Changes in global inequality over time.
 3. Different ways to compute global inequality.
 4. Elephant Curve
- Wealth Inequality
 1. Difference between wealth and income
 2. Difference between wealth inequality and income inequality (international comparison)
 3. Composition of wealth
 4. Historical change in wealth inequality
 5. The implication of $r > g$
 6. Piketty's 1st fundamental law of capitalism: $\alpha = r \times \beta$

7. Piketty's 2nd fundamental law of capitalism: $\beta = s/g$
 8. Patrimonial capitalism
- Poverty
 1. History of welfare
 2. UN/World Bank definition of poverty
 3. Absolute poverty vs. relative poverty
 4. Extreme poverty
 5. Stylized facts on poverty in the US
 - Mobility
 1. Mobility and Education: OED Triangle
 2. Definition of social mobility
 3. Immobility
 4. Upward and downward mobility
 5. Intra-generational and inter-generational mobility
 6. Modernization theory and mobility
 7. Perfect mobility
 8. Structural and circulation mobility
 9. Computation of mobility
 10. Absolute and relative mobility
 11. Stylized facts on the social mobility patterns in the US
 12. Income elasticity between parents and children
 - One of the following essay questions will appear in the 2nd exam.
 1. Comparatively, can we claim that the US is a land of opportunity? Describe the historical change of social mobility in the US. Are the decline in social mobility associated with the rise in income inequality? If so, how? If not, why not?
 2. Describe the changes in the poverty rates in the US in the 20th century. Compare the changes across different population groups. Discuss the factors that are associated with the changes.