

ECON 461: Chinese Economy
Midterm Exam

In a large, clean blue book, answer four (4) of the following five questions, using material you learned from lecture, the readings, and the films. The quality, clarity, and specificity of your writing counts. 25% each.

1. How advanced was China's economy during the Song Dynasty? How did China compare with the rest of the world? Give evidence and examples.
2. What happened to China's population during the Ming and Qing Dynasties, and why? How was Chinese agriculture able to feed so many people? Why didn't the agricultural sector develop improved technology in response to this pressure?
3. What role did foreign trade and investment play in helping or hindering China's economic development? What other effects did the foreign presence have on China's development?
4. What is the Needham Paradox? To what extent can it be explained by imperial Chinese history, culture, and political institutions?
5. What were the basic economic conditions of China at the time of the revolution?

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Assignment: Sign up for and research one of the following current economic topics, or propose an alternative topic on a current issue of the Chinese economy. In your own words, write a professional paper based on your research.

Paper Due Date: Monday, June 4, 2007. Late papers will lose one-half grade per day.

Length: The paper should be approximately seven pages long, not including the cover page and any references or tables. This is just a target, and your paper can be a little bigger or smaller as needs be. This paper must be typewritten and double-spaced.

Format: Use APA style for your references and citations. Other format expectations can be found at <http://www.coba.unr.edu/faculty/parker/econ305/econ305f06paper1.html> (though the assigned topic is very different).

Choose one of the following *current* economic topics:

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| 1) China's automotive industry | 14) Privatization and consolidation in Chinese State-owned Enterprises |
| 2) China's software industry | 15) Chinese fiscal policy |
| 3) China's telecommunications industry | 16) Chinese monetary policy |
| 4) China's textile industry | 17) Why is China's savings rate high? |
| 5) Current conditions in Chinese agriculture | 18) China's banking industry |
| 6) The Impact of U.S. Food Exports to China | 19) Foreign banks in the China market |
| 7) Rural Demonstrations | 20) The Bank of China IPO |
| 8) Rural Elections | 21) Shanghai Stock Market |
| 9) The Chinese-U.S. Bilateral Trade Deficit | 22) Shenzhen Stock Market |
| 10) What would happen if the Yuan floated? | 23) Foreign investment in China's stock markets |
| 11) China's foreign exchange reserves | 24) China's educational system |
| 12) China's effect on world oil prices | 25) Science and technology in China |
| 13) How was China affected by the Asian Financial Crisis? | 26) How did WTO Accession affect China's exports? |
| | 27) How did WTO Accession affect China's imports? |
| | 28) Official Corruption in China |
| | 29) China's Growth Prospects |

Presentation: Prepare a ten-minute Powerpoint presentation on your research paper. You will present this the last week of class, and your presentation will be graded by both the instructor and your fellow students.