

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

First Semester Examinations 1999

ECHI1005 BUSINESS AND ECONOMY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Study Period: 15 minutes duration

Writing Period: TWO (2) hours duration

Permitted Materials: Unmarked English and English/Foreign language dictionaries

Answer FOUR (4) questions from Section A and TWO (2) questions from Section B.

SECTION A:

Answer FOUR (4) questions.

Each question is worth 10 marks.

1. Which international trade agreements affect the Asia-Pacific region most? Explain your answer.
2. What is the main difference between the industrial structures of South Korea and Taiwan? What are the strengths and weaknesses of both?
3. What were the main economic reforms made by the government of The People's Republic of China between 1978 and 1988?
4. What are the main impediments to Australia's exports of agricultural commodities to East Asia?
5. Why is trade with East Asia so important to the Australian economy?
6. What are the main obstacles which firms encounter when they seek to expand beyond their national borders?
7. What has happened to the size and character of the state owned sector in the People's Republic of China over the last decade?
8. In what ways does the failure of some Asian countries to provide a comprehensive system of law of contract act as an impediment to the exploitation of new technology in the economies for these countries? Briefly explain your answer.

SECTION B.

Answer TWO (2) questions.

Each question is worth 30 marks.

9. In what ways did Japan's rapid economic growth after World War II benefit the economic development of other nations in the Asia-Pacific region, including Australia? In what ways did it hamper their development?
10. In what ways did the 1997-1998 economic crisis in some Asian countries herald the end of the 'East Asian miracle'? What impediments to development do many East Asian countries still have to overcome to secure economic recovery and/or continued economic growth?
11. What are the main factors that propelled Australia's growing economic and political engagement with the Asia-Pacific region? Does that mean that Australia is trying to become 'part of Asia'? Explain your answers.
12. Why exactly is Australia a major exporter of tourism-related services to East Asia? What reasons lead you to believe that these exports can or cannot be taken for granted? What does Australia have to do to maintain and expand exports of these services?
13. Assess the costs and benefits of Japan's system of lifetime employment and enterprise unionism.
14. Examine the pressures currently facing Asian conglomerates.
