

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

First Semester Examinations 2000

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 forum for international trade discussions has the biggest impact on the entire Asia-Pacific region: WTO or APEC? Explain your answer.
2. What is meant when Taiwan's economic structure is described as "an army of ants"? How has this structure contributed to the growth and stability of the Taiwanese economy?
3. Give two reasons why the growth performance of some Asian economies in recent decades should be described as 'miraculous'. Now give two reasons why it should not.
4. Why is trade with East Asia so important to the Australian economy at the moment?
5. Describe the role of the 'just-in-time' system within the vertical *keiretsu*.
6. How has the nature of conglomerate enterprise changed during the last 10 years?
7. In what ways might corrupt payments be regarded as efficient behaviour in some Asian economies? Give some examples to support your answer.
8. What is the case for adopting free trade with countries that abuse human rights? What is the case against this position?

SECTION B.

Answer TWO (2) questions.

Each question is worth 30 marks.

9. What are the main economic problems facing China at the end of the 1990s? Which of these problems are likely to increase in the future and why? How could this affect the Asia-Pacific region?
10. What caused the 'Asian economic crisis' of 1997-98? Why did the crisis affect some countries more than others? Why did the economies of some of the badly affected countries recover quickly, while others languished?
11. "Australian companies should add more value to their exports to East Asia." What exactly does this statement mean? Don't Australian companies that export to East Asia "add value" to their products before exporting them? Explain your answers.
12. Why is Australia an exporter of education-related services to East Asia? Who reaps the benefits from this economic exchange? What do Australian producers and governments have to do to maintain and expand exports of these services?
13. Why do firms expand overseas? Assess with examples which of these factors best account for recent multinational activity in the Asia-Pacific region.
14. Give the arguments for and against applying 'black letter law' definitions of human rights to Asian economies. Is there a case for discriminating in the application of human rights law between Asian economies? Explain your answer.
