

SGO 2500

2016

Sensorveiledning

Guidelines for grading

Only two of the three questions shall be answered. Both answers must be acceptable, thus failing on one means failing the exam.

### **Question 1**

"As the debates about the food crisis deepened, many analysts judged the concept of food security to be too limited. Food sovereignty is a more helpful concept ...." (Young 2012, page 24)

After describing the meaning and content of the concepts "food security" and "food sovereignty", discuss the pros and cons of the latter concept for development in the South today.

By "food security" is meant that everybody always have access either by own production or income from other economic activities, employment or otherwise to adequate nutrition. In addition, the "right to food" includes access to a culturally pre-scribed diet. The answer to this first part of the question should include that the concept can be applied at various levels such as household, local community, nation and the world.

By "food sovereignty" is meant that a country should have the right to produce sufficient staple food for its own population, if it so chooses. This is in contradiction to the neo-liberal view of "free market" and "open economy". The answer should accordingly discuss the positive and negative effects of import protection of food for development in developing countries today. It then becomes necessary to include a definition of development, and how the concept is understood and chosen to be applied in the answer. The question opens for a discussion related to the short term effect of increased hunger when import tariffs are being raised, especially for the urban poor. In the longer term higher prices on imported food may result in higher domestic production that will allow for better nutrition in periods of spikes in world market prices due to for instance speculation (as in the 2008-11 food crisis).

The answer may include reflections on the difference between rural and urban populations regarding the impact of stronger import protection. Likewise, consequences of a lowering or removal of import tariffs on small-scale farmers in a country can be discussed; or for securing lower possible food prices for the urban workers (and thus for instance the opportunity for firms to pay low wages enabling improved competitiveness of exports of manufactured goods).

The discussion can also deal with issues such as food aid, dumping of food in the South by countries in the North and food value chains of big international companies. It is interesting to reflect upon how developing countries can overcome constraints imposed by the dominant power of these companies to achieve exports of processed food by their own companies. Another aspect that may be included is the environmental impact of less food traded internationally through for instance less transport as a result of a higher proportion of consumed food being short travelled.

## **Question 2**

"Underlying the ideas of a developmental state and of good governance are contested aspirations and assumptions about how the state could or should shape society and the economy." (Williams et al. 2014, page 265)

After describing the meaning and content of the phrase "the good governance agenda", discuss the role of this agenda for development in the South today.

The meaning of "the good governance agenda" depends on values and should be seen according to levels such as local, national and for instance urban authorities. Good may for instance stand for poverty reduction or less inequality of income. By agenda is implied a global consensus about the importance of governance for development more generally. Some of the following dimensions of the good governance agenda should be mentioned in the answer: Voice and accountability; political stability and absence of violence; effectiveness of governance; quality of rules and regulations and their application in practice; rule of law; and reduction in corruption.

The importance of good governance for development requires a definition of development as well as delimitation of the meaning of the concept for the present answer.

The answer should show for some of the above mentioned dimensions of good governance how they are important for improving development in the South today. Thus, some problems or barriers to development could be the point of departure. This would imply a discussion of internal development problems in a country in the South. Examples could be given.

External, or other countries' linkages to a country in the South, could include the importance of good governance as a condition for obtaining and successfully using international aid, credit from financial institutions, foreign direct investments and transfers of technology.

An issue that may be included is how to improve and reform governance in countries in the South. This is highly dependent on the national context, and the various development problems experienced .

It would also be valuable to reflect in the answer about for whom different understandings of good governance, its meaning and content, may be beneficial or not.

### **Question 3**

"Much of the work conducted within the Global South occurs within the informal economy ...." (Williams et al. 2014, page 206)

After describing the meaning and content of the phrase "the informal economy/sector", discuss the role of informality for development in the South today.

By informal economy / sector is meant non-registered economic activities that pay no taxes. Such activities are usually small-scale, employing few if any in addition to the self-employed person. Incomes are low, uncertain and volatile. Every type of work can be of the informal type. It may for instance be sub-contracting by the formal sector. Unionization is not part of the informal sector and legal workers' rights are not applicable. There is thus a lot of exploitation taking place in the sector. For hired labour there are no job security, no health benefits or any unemployment support, just to mention a few of the negative aspects of this wide-spread phenomenon in the South today.

Since the question asks for the role of informality in development, the concept development must be defined, and how it should be applied in the answer given. Development seen in the short term and at the level of individual can be said to be achieved with informal, easy to enter and no regulations, economic activities. However, in a longer term and in a more general sense development for a community or nation may not be easy to accomplish based on informal activities. On the other hand, entrepreneurial spirits may have a more easy arena in which to seek trial and failure and later success. The answer should include this debate on the positive and negative aspects of informality seen according to time and level.

It could be mentioned in the answer that the formal and informal sectors do not stand as separate entities in reality, there are links between them such as through sub-contracting. Furthermore, examples of typical informal economic activities can be mentioned such as home-based production; street-made tea; transportation; and hairdressing. Since the entry into informal activities is relatively simple, these activities require little or no education or special

skills. They are also more easy for unskilled women to engage in. However, since many people start informal activities, especially in services, the competition is very strong, and thus it is difficult to make a sufficient income from most of these activities. But what is the alternative?