

IPhD complex exam questions

Course: Regional Economics

1. Location theories: Alfred Weber's models of location choice. The model assumptions, and their implications.
2. The monocentric city model. The importance of the model, its assumptions and implications.
3. Models of regional development. The export base model, regional input-output models. The neoclassical model of regional development. Cumulative and endogenous processes in regional economic development.

Course: Development Economics

1. Outline the theories of economic growth from the perspective of developing and emerging countries, with particular reference to measures of economic growth and development. Analyse the theories of economic convergence and divergence in the context of developing and emerging countries and examine how these theories can be applied to explain the development gaps between the Global South and the Global North and the middle-income trap.
2. In what ways do geography and economic dependencies affect the dependent economic development of developing and emerging countries? What economic development strategies are needed to reduce economic dependency and achieve sustainable economic growth (examples from Latin_America, East_Asia and East_Central_Europe)
3. What are the links between development gaps, poverty and social inequalities in developing countries? Identify the key indicators used to measure poverty and inequality and explain how the institutional framework influences these phenomena.

Course: Entrepreneurship

1. What role does entrepreneurship play in economic development? Highlight the different outputs and development levels in your answer!
2. Analyze and evaluate the different approaches to entrepreneurship theory and their main characteristics!
3. Analyze the digital entrepreneurial ecosystem and its components on the basis of the Digital Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Index (DEEI)! What is the basis of the development policy of DEEI?

Course: Economic development aspects of tourism

Topic 1: The economic significance and systemic characteristics of tourism in the global economy

Question: In what ways has tourism evolved into a key sector of the global economy since the mid-20th century? Discuss the conceptual definitions, structural features, and intersectoral relationships of tourism as an economic system. How does the tourism sector interact with other areas of the economy, and what are the major international trends shaping its development?

Sources:

Fan, D.X., Theofanous, G., Bozat, M., Efthymiou, L., Thrassou, A., Vrontis, D. (2025). Elucidating Strategies for Global Tourism and Hospitality Resilience: A systematic Literature Review. In: Fan, D.X., Efthymiou, L., Thrassou, A., Vrontis, D. (eds) *Global Challenges and Uncertainty in Tourism and Hospitality*, Volume I. Palgrave Intersections of Business and the Sciences, in association with Gnosis Mediterranean Institute for Management Science. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-92405-7_11

Mirzekhanova, Z.G. (2024). Tourism in the New Reality: Development Guidelines. *Geogr. Nat. Resour.* **45**, 357–365 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1134/S1875372824700677>

Antonakakis, N., Dragouni, M., Eeckels, B., & Filis, G. (2017). The Tourism and Economic Growth Enigma: Examining an Ambiguous Relationship through Multiple Prisms. *Journal of Travel Research*, 58(1), 3-24. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0047287517744671>

UN Tourism Data Dashboard <https://www.untourism.int/tourism-data/un-tourism-tourism-dashboard>

Lectures of the course

Topic 2: Measuring and interpreting the economic impacts of tourism: the multiplier effect and tourism competitiveness

Question: How can the economic impact of tourism be measured at local, regional, and national levels? Discuss the multiplier effect of tourism and its role in regional income generation and employment. How do tourism competitiveness and sustainability interrelate in shaping tourism-led development?

Sources:

Rasool, H., Maqbool, S. & Tarique, M. (2021). The relationship between tourism and economic growth among BRICS countries: a panel cointegration analysis. *Futur Bus J* **7**, 1 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s43093-020-00048-3>

Rossana Strippoli, Teodoro Gallucci, Carlo Ingrao (2024). Circular economy and sustainable development in the tourism sector – An overview of the truly-effective strategies and related benefits. *Heliyon*, 10(17), e36801, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2024.e36801>

Ekonomou, G., & Halkos, G. (2025). Discussing the nexus between tourism competitiveness and tourism investment and revenues. *Journal of Policy Research in Tourism, Leisure and Events*, 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19407963.2025.2475952>

World Economic Forum (2024). Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Travel_and_Tourism_Development_Index_2024.pdf

Lectures of the course

Topic 3: Tourism as a driver of regional and local development: sustainability, governance, and policy challenges

Question: Discuss the mechanisms through which tourism contributes to regional and local economic development. What are the main opportunities and risks associated with tourism-led regional growth? How can tourism policy, governance, and sustainable development strategies foster balanced regional development?

Sources:

Sharpley, R. (2020). Tourism, sustainable development and the theoretical divide: 20 years on. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 28(11), 1932–1946. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09669582.2020.1779732>

Fei, F., Ha, VT. (2025). Multi-dimensional impacts of tourism on regional development: evidence from Vietnam's 63 provinces/cities. *GeoJournal* **90**, 297 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10708-025-11543-x>

Aryani, Y. (2025). Nordic coastal tourism: sustainability, trends, practices, and opportunities: edited by Christian Dragin-Jensen, Grzegorz Kwiatkowski and Ove Oklevik, Cham, Switzerland, Springer Cham, 2024, XV, 287 pp., EUR 159.99 (hardcover), ISBN: 978-3-031-73186-0. *International Journal of Spa and Wellness*, 1–3. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24721735.2025.2588509>

UN Tourism Data Dashboard <https://www.untourism.int/tourism-data/un-tourism-tourism-dashboard>

Lectures of the course

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