

## Economics and Policy of Networks

### Examples of possible exam questions

- Describe Bourdieu's definition of social capital.
- Which is the relationship between the different forms of capital (e.g. economic capital, human capital and social capital) in the work of Bourdieu?
- How is social capital accumulated (according to Bourdieu)?
- Illustrate Becker's theory of social interactions by explaining how social influences shape agents' utility functions.
- Highlight at least one difference and one similarity between Bourdieu's and Becker's conception of social capital.
- Describe Coleman's definition of social capital and list the 5 forms of social capital identified by the author.
- Describe Putnam's definition of civic community (social capital).
- Explain how Putnam measured civic community (social capital) and summarize the main results of his study about the Italian regions in two brief statements.
- Which is, according to Putnam, the relationship between civic engagement in the 1900, socio-economic development in the 1900, the current levels of these two variables, and the current institutional performance?
- How did Putnam measure civic engagement in the late nineteenth century?
- Briefly summarize (3 statements) the main results of the study by Putnam and Heliwell (1995) about the relationship between social capital and economic growth.
- Briefly explain the Olson-Putnam controversy about civic networks and how Knack and Keefer (1997) measured those networks.
- Briefly summarize the results obtained by Knack and Keefer (1997) in their cross-country analysis of the role of networks and trust in economic growth.
- Briefly summarize the main results obtained by Akcomak and ter Weel (2009) concerning the relationship between social capital, innovation, and growth in European regions and explain how, according to the authors, the transmission mechanism of social capital's influence on economic growth may work.
- Briefly explain which is the main factor determining the community's endowments of social capital in the work of Guiso, Sapienza and Zingales (2016).
- Explain how Guiso, Sapienza and Zingales measure civic networks and which is, in their claims, their relationship with economic development.

### ----- 1st midterm exam (reserved to students attending the lectures)

- Summarize the claims of Algan and Cahuc (2010) about the role of inherited trust in economic growth and briefly explain through which channels trust might influence the economic activities and, in the long run, growth (suggestion: in addition to the slides concerning Algan and Cahuc's work, give a look at slides 23-26 of lecture 8).
- Summarize the evidence collected by Guiso et al. (2009) about the relationship between culture – intended as religion – and trust and between trust and international trade (suggestion: slides 8-13 and slides 18 and 20 of lecture 10).
- Briefly summarize the extrinsic and intrinsic motivations for individual preferences for redistribution.
- Explain why, in absence of regulation, strong family ties would give employers a monopsonistic power on the labour market and describe the claims by Alesina et al. (2014) about the role of family networks in the regulation of labour markets.

- Explain why social networks may improve job matching processes and describe the findings by Cingano and Rosolia (2014) concerning the role of networks in reducing unemployment duration.

----- **2nd midterm exam (reminder: only students who already took the 1st midterm exam can take the 2nd one)**