

DO NOT REMOVE THE QUESTION PAPER FROM THE EXAMINATION HALL

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

CENTRE FOR FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES

MSc Examination
for External Students

91DFMC389

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The Business and Economy of MENA

Specimen Examination

This is a specimen examination paper designed to show you the type of examination you will have at the end of this module. The number of questions and the structure of the examination will be the same, but the wording and requirements of each question will be different.

The examination must be completed in **THREE** hours. Answer **THREE** out of the following eight questions.

The examiners give equal weight to each question; therefore, you are advised to distribute your time approximately equally between the three questions.

You should, where possible, illustrate your answers with references and/or practical examples from the module and from your own experience.

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Answer **THREE** questions.

1. The concept of the Middle East has been applied to different geographical regions. Outline your understanding of the geographical components of the MENA region, and explain to what extent the economic development of the countries concerned is dictated by geography.
2. Good governance and the control of corruption have often been considered essential preconditions of positive economic development. How has the MENA region fared in a good governance perspective? Using a MENA country case of your choice, assess the quality of governance in the country in question, and assess whether improvements in governance mechanisms can give rise to a positive economic developmental dynamic in this country.
3. For much of the 1990s and 2000s, multilateral institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank have urged policy makers in MENA countries to reduce the role of the state in the economy. Characterise the policies that were to promote these endeavours, and discuss their success or otherwise with respect to a group of MENA countries of your choice.
4. You have been approached by a multinational that has submitted a bid to build a power plant in an Arab Gulf state. It is expected that the winning bidder will have to shoulder considerable offset obligations. Write a short report for the company, in which you outline the rationale for offset requirements, as well as exploring the opportunities and challenges that are involved in complying with them. You should conclude by recommending a promising strategy for complying with this requirement.
5. 'If only it were possible for all Arab countries to form a common free-trade area, most problems that hamper their development today would simply disappear.'

Do you share this optimistic assessment?

6. A European producer of agricultural machinery is wondering whether to establish a factory in Egypt. Elaborate on the country-specific problems in the areas of HR, staffing and industrial relations that the investor might face. What mitigating measures would be available to manage risks arising from these factors?

7. World Systems Theory (I. Wallerstein) suggests that the advanced economies of the industrial core dominate and exploit those of the periphery in the global economy. To what extent does the historical development of the banking sector in the MENA region support this assumption, and does it apply today?

8. Does the concept of Islamic economics provide concrete perspectives for economic development in a sub-region of the MENA region? Outline your understanding of the concept of Islamic economics, assess concrete attempts to implement it, and discuss its prospects within and for the region.

[END OF EXAMINATION]