

STATE FINAL EXAM TOPICS 2023 (GLODEP COHORT 2021-2023)

Form of final oral state examination

- Each student chooses one topic in advance (to be reported to Mrs. Eva Žwaková when submitting the thesis at the end of May)
- For the final oral state exam, each student prepares a 2-3 minute presentation (oral) on one selected question within the chosen topic, and the committee will then ask questions about anything within the chosen topic in the discussion
- Duration of the examination: approx. 15 minutes

1. **MRS/SZZG1 - Sustainable Development and Foresight**

1. **History of futures research** (from futurology to foresight) and **foresight** - definition, key elements, use
2. **Characteristics of key steps of foresight** (framing, scanning, forecasting, visioning, planning, acting) **and characteristics of foresight methods** – Delphi method, scenarios
3. **Future studies** – forecasting, scanning and "weak signals", STEEP framework
4. **Sustainable development** (history and definitions, human values) **and indicators of sustainable development** (sustainable retreat)
5. **Demographic challenges** (Malthusian theory)
6. **Searching for the causes of environmental problems** (overpopulation, poverty and underdevelopment; weak institutions - the tragedy of the commons'; capitalism and market economy; communism and command economy)
7. **Selected environmental challenges - climate change** (climate history and governance, carbon budget, greenhouse effect: basic facts, actors & trends, interference of ocean and the climate, impact on society)
8. **Selected environmental challenges – biodiversity loss** (basic facts, distribution over planet, hotspots, past & recent extinction; trends, human influence on biodiversity loss)

2. MRS/SZZG2 - Development Studies

1. **Modernization theory and its latest neo-liberal project** (historical context; characteristics; assumptions and approaches; criticisms; case studies and policy implications)
2. **Dependency theory** (historical context; characteristics; assumptions and approaches; criticisms; case studies and policy implications) **and world-system theory** (historical context; characteristics; assumptions and approaches; criticisms; case studies and policy implications)
3. **Post-development theory** (historical context; characteristics; assumptions and approaches; criticisms; case studies and policy implications)
4. **Democracy** (concept(s); liberal democracy vs. minimal democracy; democracies with adjectives; limits and challenges to democracy: intrinsic and extrinsic) **and non-democratic regimes** (classification; characteristics of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes; hybrid regimes)
5. **Good governance** (definition; underlying values; measurement; difference between governance and government; examples of strategies to support good governance)
6. **Development concept and measurement** (classification of developing countries; global goals; welfare; development; well-being)
7. **Growth and sustainability** (population growth; economic growth; sustainability)
8. **Poverty and inequality** (concept and measurement; indicators; policy, inequality and development; global inequality; policy)
9. **Trade and aid** (trade and WTO; trade preferences to developing countries; development aid; non-aid development policies; effective altruism)

3. MRS/SZZG3 - Economics of Sustainable Development

1. **Food Security concepts** (basic dimensions; policy implications)
2. **Nutrition Security** (integration to the Food Security concept; pillars; examples of policy interventions)
3. **Food insecurity and vulnerability** (determinants; groups of policy interventions)
4. **Data sources** for Food Security and Indicators for Food Security
5. **Financing development** (main private and public financing tools; importance of the State; main taxes; tax structure; tax transition; VAT)
6. **Malthusian traps and violence** (theoretical framework, environmental scarcity)
7. **Energy resources** (energy transition, energy poverty)
8. **Carbon valuation and the global warming gridlock** (carbon budget, stranded assets, climate governance)
9. **The natural resource curse**