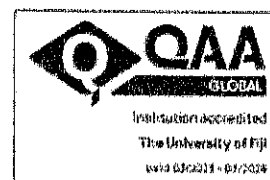


The University of Fiji
(An Entity of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji)



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Semester 2, 2025

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER

ECO200: CONTEMPORARY PACIFIC

Important Instructions to Students:

1. Read the questions, instructions carefully and answer the questions.
2. You are allowed an **extra 10 minutes reading time** (during this time, you are not allowed to write with pen) and **180 minutes (3 Hours)** to complete this paper.
3. Silent, non-programmable calculators are allowed, but not supplied.
4. Write all your answers in the answer booklet provided. If you need extra sheets, please ask from the supervisor. Write your name, course code and student identification number in the answer booklet and in the attendance sheet.
5. This paper contains three (3) sections A, B and C. All questions are compulsory to answer in Section A while Sections B and C have choices.
6. Write all your answers legibly. The marker has the right to award zero for answers that are not legible.
7. This is a **Closed Book Examination**. The University views plagiarism, cheating and dishonest practice as serious offences and if found, offenders are penalized.

Examination Paper Content (Format):

<u>Section</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Suggested Time</u>
A	1-30	Multiple Choice Questions	30	54 minutes
B	31-37	Conceptual Questions (Choose Any FIVE out of Seven)	50	90 minutes
C	38-40	Essay (Choose Any ONE out of Three)	20	36 minutes
		TOTAL	100	180 Minutes

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Registration Certificate Number (RGN0020/11)

Attempt all questions from this section. Each question is worth one mark. Circle the letter of the most appropriate answer in the grid sheet provided with the answer booklet.

1. Which of the following are the three major cultural groups of islands in the Pacific?
 - A. Australia, New Zealand, Fiji.
 - B. Polynesia, Melanesia, Micronesia.
 - C. Oceania, Micronesia, Polynesia.
 - D. Australasia, Melanesia, Polynesia.
2. Which of the following is *not* listed as a core function for a government to enhance economic and social welfare?
 - A. Provision of a stable macroeconomic environment.
 - B. Provision of institutional infrastructure (e.g., Property rights, Law and Order).
 - C. Direct management of all major commercial enterprises (e.g., mines, hotels).
 - D. Alleviation of poverty and improvement of welfare (e.g., Education, Health care).
3. According to the pottery art, which group of people are archaeologically shown to have settled in Fiji first, that is, before the Melanesians arrived approximately a thousand years later?
 - A. Lapita people.
 - B. The descendants of Lutunasobasoba.
 - C. Tongan Empire settlers.
 - D. None of the above.
4. The Solomon Islands acquired its name (*Islas de Solomón*) due to:
 - A. The abundance of silver mines found by the first Spanish explorer.
 - B. A tribute to the Spanish explorer, Álvaro de Mendaña de Neira.
 - C. The mistaken belief that the biblical King Solomon obtained gold for his temple from the islands.
 - D. The islands' peaceful nature which reminded explorers of a biblical paradise.
5. The nationalist movement that arose in the British Solomon Islands after World War II (1945–1950), which is credited with creating the movement towards independence, was known as:
 - A. RAMSI
 - B. The Tensions
 - C. Maasina Rule (Maasina Ruru)
 - D. The Guadalcanal Liberation Front
6. All of the following are true regarding governance EXCEPT:
 - A. It involves structures and processes that ensure people are held responsible.
 - B. It guarantees that authorities are transparent and responsive.
 - C. It encourages widespread participation of the population in governing.
 - D. It hinders the establishment of the rule of law and stability.

7. What do institutions typically encompass?
 - A. Governance practices and political stability.
 - B. Providing the foundation for private sector activities (like legal and financial systems, and infrastructure).
 - C. The reliability of property rights, contracts, and methods for resolving disputes within the legal system.
 - D. All of the above.
8. Which of the following is a key provision of the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons?
 - A. It bans only atmospheric nuclear testing.
 - B. It was ratified by every member state of the United Nations.
 - C. It requires all signatories to provide assistance to victims of nuclear weapons and begin to remediate contaminated environments.
 - D. It was drafted at the first World Nuclear Victims Forum in Hiroshima.
9. What was the primary purpose of nuclear testing?
 - A. To determine a device's effectiveness, yield, and explosive capability.
 - B. To measure the atmospheric pressure changes caused by a nuclear explosion.
 - C. To test the durability of military equipment in extreme heat.
 - D. To study the long-term effects of radiation on marine life.
10. Which statement accurately reflects the nature of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs)?
 - A. They are generally not an effective long-term model for ownership.
 - B. Policymakers worldwide are unaware of the persistent underperformance, financial burdens, and negative impacts of SOEs on growth and poverty reduction.
 - C. While SOEs attempt to mimic private sector incentives, they can never fully replicate the market pressures faced by private companies.
 - D. All of the above.
11. Customary legal systems of land ownership allocate rights based on:
 - A. An individual's social standing.
 - B. An individual's age and gender.
 - C. The number of spouses an individual has.
 - D. Options A and B are correct.
12. Which of the following is true regarding trade in the Pacific region?
 - A. The majority of exports historically and currently focus on tropical agricultural products, fish, some processed foods, tourism, and manufactured clothing.
 - B. Many Pacific nations are net food importers with trade deficits significantly larger than their export earnings.
 - C. As global tariff barriers decrease, the current trade advantages enjoyed by Pacific Island nations through trade agreements will likely diminish.
 - D. All of the above.
13. What might be a regional strategy to address trade limitations in the Pacific?
 - A. Facilitating the integration of small Pacific Island economies into the global trading system.
 - B. Promoting the development of goods and services (like tourism, labor-intensive manufacturing, back-office services) and agricultural development.
 - C. Encouraging private sector growth.
 - D. All of the above.

14. Fiji is not a member of which of the following trading groups?
- A. The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG)
 - B. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)
 - C. ASEAN Economic Community
 - D. The World Trade Organization (WTO).
15. The Pacific theater of World War II is distinct for:
- A. Primarily focusing on naval battles in the Atlantic Ocean.
 - B. Being the sole theater where atomic weapons were used.
 - C. Not involving any significant battles.
 - D. Featuring major battles such as Pearl Harbor, Midway, and Guadalcanal.
16. Which of the following Pacific Island Countries has no customary land at all, with all land being owned by the indigenous King?
- A. Fiji.
 - B. Samoa.
 - C. Tonga.
 - D. Vanuatu.
17. In most South Pacific Island countries, what is the predominant form of ownership for customary land?
- A. Solely individual ownership, registered in a central registry.
 - B. State ownership, managed by a Land Trust Board.
 - C. Collective or joint ownership by families.
 - D. Leasehold ownership under an expatriate title.
18. Which of the two main sovereign arms of the United Nations is formed by member countries, all having equal status, and holding full responsibility over all fields it deals with?
- A. The Economic and Social Council.
 - B. The International Court of Justice.
 - C. The Secretariat.
 - D. The General Assembly.
19. The term "Caldoche" in New Caledonia refers to:
- A. The indigenous Melanesian population (Kanak).
 - B. French nationals who only recently arrived in the territory.
 - C. Inhabitants of European ethnic origin who have settled in New Caledonia since the 19th century.
 - D. People of Wallis and Futuna origin residing in New Caledonia.
20. Which if the following countries have detonated nuclear devices in the Pacific region between 1946 and 1996?
- A. The United States, Russia, and China.
 - B. The United States, the United Kingdom, and France.
 - C. France, China, and Japan.
 - D. The United States, Australia, and New Zealand.

21. How are government budget deficits typically financed?
- A. Foreign aid.
 - B. Borrowing from domestic banks.
 - C. Superannuation Funds.
 - D. All of the above.
22. What is the most effective mechanism for achieving long-term improvements in State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) asset productivity?
- A. Increasing government subsidies and protection.
 - B. Appointing political figures to all board positions.
 - C. Privatization and commercialisation, supported by robust regulatory arrangements.
 - D. Requiring all SOEs to operate as non-profit entities.
23. Which of the following is cited as a major constraint to trade development for Pacific Island Countries (PICs)?
- A. Oversupply of skilled labor.
 - B. Low utility charges.
 - C. Abundance of investment finance.
 - D. Complex land ownership systems which can limit conventional capital formation.
24. What is a "partial plan" in the context of development planning?
- A. A plan that covers a limited geographical area.
 - B. A plan that focuses on specific sectors of the economy.
 - C. A plan that is not fully funded.
 - D. A plan that is implemented on a trial basis.
25. What is the primary reason for adopting development planning?
- A. To eliminate all forms of market failure.
 - B. To ensure the entire economy operates as a monopoly.
 - C. To provide incentives to overcome divisive forces and achieve widespread progress.
 - D. To prevent all foreign aid from being accepted.
26. Which of the following is identified as a key driver for State Owned Enterprises reform?
- A. The imposition of reform programs from outside agencies.
 - B. Competition with the private sector on an equal footing.
 - C. The absence of legislative and governance frameworks.
 - D. A lack of political commitment to enforce frameworks.
27. What is a significant non-traditional security concern for Pacific Island nations?
- A. Increased military rivalry between island nations.
 - B. The threat of inter-state conflict over territorial disputes.
 - C. Existential threats posed by climate change.
 - D. The rise of communism in the region.
28. Which of the following statements best reflects China's growing role in the Pacific?
- A. China's engagement is limited to cultural exchange programs.
 - B. China's influence presents only economic opportunities with no challenges.
 - C. China's increased economic engagement includes infrastructure projects and trade.
 - D. China is primarily focused on military alliances in the Pacific.

29. The term "creative destruction" refers to:
- A. Government intervention in private sector development.
 - B. The process of continuous innovation where new products and processes displace existing ones.
 - C. The stability of traditional business models.
 - D. Protectionist trade policies.
30. What is the main goal of market-seeking Foreign Direct Investment?
- A. To exploit a country's comparative advantage.
 - B. To promote long-term corporate objectives.
 - C. To reach local or regional markets.
 - D. To achieve cross-border product specialization.

Section B

Conceptual Questions

50 marks

Attempt any **FIVE (5)** questions from this section. Each question is worth 10 marks. Write at least 150 words to answer each question. You may provide relevant examples to support your answer.

31. Select two countries of your choice and discuss how land ownership operated in the English-speaking South Pacific region during colonial times. What were the traditional customs and practices surrounding land tenure and property rights among the indigenous communities?
32. Nuclear testing inevitably leaves its mark on the environment and the people nearby. What are the immediate and lasting consequences of these detonations?
33. Analyze the lessons learned for Pacific Island Countries in strengthening economic links with Asian economies, considering both opportunities and potential challenges.
34. Describe the Battle of Guadalcanal in your own words. Elaborate on the significance of this battle to the Americans. Why was the Battle of Guadalcanal so important for the Pacific History?
35. Discuss why there has been a preference for private markets in an economy rather than a heavily State regulated economy.
36. Besides trade agreements, what are some strategies Pacific Island Countries can use to overcome constraints to trade development?
37. A foreign investor, Mr. Brown, wants to build a new eco-tourism resort in a Pacific Island country. After identifying a suitable piece of land, he learns that it is customary land. Analyze the challenges Mr. Brown would likely face in acquiring and developing this land, and explain how these issues could be addressed.

Attempt only **ONE (1)** question from this section. Your essay must be approximately 300 words. Marks will be awarded for presentation and structure of the essay.

38. Elaborate on the concept of climate change and discuss its projected impacts on the economies of Pacific Island Countries (PICs), focusing on specific sectors and the overall economic outlook. Outline the policy recommendations for PICs to mitigate the economic impacts of climate change and build resilience.
39. Critically examine the core geopolitical challenges facing Pacific Island Nations today, distinguishing between existential non-traditional security threats and the pressures of great power competition exemplified by China's growing influence.
40. The contemporary global economy, including the Pacific region, continues to exhibit significant gender disparities in employment and business leadership. Critically analyse the multifaceted reasons for promoting greater inclusion of women in business and employment. Discuss the nature of the emerging gender gaps in the future job market, particularly within fields like Artificial Intelligence (AI), and explain the broader economic and social consequences of these disparities.

~THE END~

