

URSP3050: Special Topics in Urban Studies I

Take Home Exam

This exam has three questions, each worth 10 marks each. You should be able to answer these by referring to *Take Back the Economy* (TBTE); your class notes; extra readings listed in the course syllabus or referred to directly in class; and general internet materials (for background reading for Question 1).

Each answer should be between 1,000 and 1,500 words. Please follow standard academic conventions for essay-writing (e.g. start with a brief introduction, finish with a brief conclusion, and make sure your paragraphs are structured around the main points).

Please include a reference list for readings in addition to TBTE. Please follow standard academic conventions of referencing.

Question 1

The Government of Hongstralia is establishing a Future Fund made up of taxes from mining activities and monies raised through the sale of government-owned land. The Secretary for Finance is considering options for how the funds could be invested and the sorts of returns that could be generated. The Secretary has recently heard of a new idea called 'Community Economy Return on Investment'. As the Secretary's Senior Advisor you are to research this new idea, and use it as the basis for writing a Briefing Note that identifies the top three priorities for investing the funds. You are to also justify these priorities based on the returns that would be generated for Hongstralia.

Question 2

In Lecture 2 (and 3), we were introduced to three types of politics: a politics of language, a politics of the subject and a politics of collection action. Now that you have read TBTE, you are to reflect on why these three forms of politics are important for taking back the economy.

Question 3

One of the criticisms of the community economies approach to taking back the economy is that these economies only exist at the local scale and are therefore insufficient to counter the hegemonic power of capitalism. How do you respond to this criticism?