

INR 3223: Japan and the US
Exam 2 Study Guide

1. General

- Exam 2, like the first exam, will consist of two sections: concept identification and short essays
- ID questions may include significant people, places, agreements, events or other concepts drawn from any part of the course. This part of the exam is cumulative, but it will focus heavily on the second half of the course. You will be allowed to choose from a list of terms to identify.
- Essay questions will address themes such as those discussed below

2. Economic Growth and Development

- What is a strong state, and what is a weak state? Why do states differ in this regard (e.g., what explains state strength historically)?
- What parts of the Japanese government exert the greatest control over economic policy making? Which parts of the US government do?
- How might state strength contribute to (or undermine) economic growth and development (see Chalmers Johnson)? What are some examples?
- What is a public good? How do redistributive coalitions affect the production of public goods and economic growth (see Mancur Olson)?
- What three financial objectives do states have (see Paul Krugman)? Why does Krugman say they cannot attain all three? How do the dilemmas faced by small states differ from those faced by big states? What does Krugman recommend to avoid a return to depression economics?
- Why have persistent trade problems emerged between Japan and the US? Is business war (see Thomas Zeiler)?
- Why has the Japanese economy recovered so slowly from recession in the 1990s?

3. Culture and Identity

- What are the defining attributes of a "civilization" (see Samuel Huntington)? Must civilizations clash, as Huntington argues? Why or why not?
- Are there distinctively "Asian" values? "American" values?
- In what way does Ivan Hall believe Japan is caught between East and West? What are the consequences for Japan? For the US?
- What are common images of Japanese national identity? Of US national identity? What are these images based on?
- How does culture and identity affect Japanese foreign policy? US foreign policy?