

ECO 231, Guidelines for Short Paper, Summer 2006 (Dr. Ruppel)

- A. Choose an country.
 - 1. Country will be assigned on a “first-come, first-served” basis.
 - 2. Your perspective is that of an employee with a company that is considering expansion to the country chosen above. Your supervisor asks you to provide him/her with preliminary macroeconomic information for that country (later analysis would require an in-depth market study).
 - 3. Choose a country in which you have some interest, but little prior knowledge.
- B. Source material
 - 1. Published material available in the library, such as encyclopedias, books, magazines, national and international newspapers
 - 2. Material that you must request by mail or phone from the Embassy or Consulate
 - 3. The Internet: Please note -- there is a difference between “search” and “research”
- C. Topics
 - 1. General information: History, Geography, Industry, Politics
 - 2. Macroeconomic data for the past 2-3 decades (or more?)
 - a. GDP (total and per capita, nominal and real), Prices, Unemployment, Interest rates, Money supply, Exchange rates (\$U.S., Other), Trade Balance, Indebtedness...
 - b. Tables and charts (index numbers with a base year may be helpful)
 - 3. Data Analysis (it helps to have plotted the data!)
 - a. Verbal description: trends, spikes, reversals
 - b. Data interactions
 - c. Causes behind data movements
 - 4. Present Conditions and Future Expectations
- D. Expectations
 - 1. Four to six pages of text, plus tables, figures, references
 - 2. Tables and/or charts may be helpful
 - 3. Headings and sub-headings
 - 4. Typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins
 - 5. List of references (plus "source notes" on tables and figures)
 - 6. Spelling, grammar, punctuation
- E. Due Date: Monday, July 24
- F. Scoring
 - 1. 10 point penalty for every day late (“school days”only): You may send your paper as an e-mail attachment, with a hard copy turn-in the next morning. If I have your paper on Tuesday morning, July 25 at 8 a.m. (e-mail or hard copy), no penalty. Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. is a 10 point penalty, Thursday morning is a 20 point penalty, etc.
 - 2. Twenty percent of your maximum possible points (10 out of 50, 8 out of 40, etc.) will be spelling, grammar, punctuation, and general format items. Eighty percent will be content. Not everything listed above needs to be included in “content”. You write the paper you want to write and I will judge whether you have adequately covered the topic.

Internet sources:

CIA World Factbook: <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

IMF: <http://www.imf.org/>

World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org/data/>

Affiliated Regional Banks:

European Bank <http://www.ebrd.com/>

Inter-American Development Bank <http://www.iadb.org/>

Asian Development Bank <http://www.adb.org/>

African Development Bank <http://www.afdb.org/>

Others:

Development Bank of Southern Africa <http://www.dbsa.org/front.htm>

Islamic Development Bank <http://www.iciec.org/>

Currencies: <http://www.oanda.com/>

OECD: <http://www.oecd.org/>

United Nations: <http://www.un.org/english/>

<http://www.un.org/esa/>

<http://www.fao.org/>

European Union: <http://europa.eu.int/>

World Trade Organization: <http://www.wto.org/>

The Dismal Scientist: <http://www.dismal.com/>