

ECON430 Family Economics

Mid-term assessment

Write a 1500 word essay on one topic chosen from the list below.

Hand in, typed and printed, during the class on 4 April.

Essays must rigorously answer the question, must be properly structured and referenced to literature on the reading list, discussed in class and strictly related. Referencing to blogs, newspapers, Wikipedia and random online links will not be acknowledged as more than anecdotic.

Projects can be carried out in groups of 3 students at maximum.

Any delay in submission will be penalized by 5% drop in mark per each day of delay.

Topics:

1. Theory of quantity-quality trade-off in fertility helps us understand the relationship between the growth of incomes and the demographic transition. Discuss based on theory and empirical evidence.
2. Decline of the sexual division of labor and the resulting changes in time use in the family have contributed to the falling happiness of women relative to men. Discuss in the context of theory and empirical evidence.
3. What epidemiological approach to studying cultural transmission really tells us is that socioeconomic environment shapes people's preferences that survive even if socioeconomic environment changes. Discuss in the context of theory and empirical evidence.
4. Nature predisposes us towards certain socioeconomic outcomes. Does that mean that concern for nurture and policies aimed at improving socioeconomic environments are obsolete? Discuss in the context of gender gap or child upbringing or both.