

ECON5335 – International Economics

Country Presentations, Country Reports and Case Studies

Presentations

All individuals that decide to do a Country Presentation should meet with me before giving their presentations, and are required to submit copies to the instructor of any powerpoints or handouts used during the presentation. All individuals should access and use an official database (the OECD, Eurostat, IMF IFS or national database depending on country and data availability) for their graphs and tables.

The presentation should cover the international situation, economic elements of interest and policies of the chosen country. Items that are expected to be addressed by the presentation include: the general economic situation of the country, the types of exports and imports that the country undertakes (on both merchandise and service accounts), the merchandise trade balance and current account of the country, the importance of foreign direct investment and capital flows to the country, a short history of the exchange rate of the country, the prospects for future growth in the country and how the country is positioned in relation to international organizations. Presentations will commence during the latter half of the semester. Each presentation should last at least 15 minutes, but should not be longer than 30 minutes. After the presentation, other students and the instructor will be able to ask questions for about 5 minutes. Evaluation of the presenters will be professorially assessed. A copy of the evaluation form I use for professorial evaluation of presentations is attached.

Country Reports

Country reports will profile the individual's chosen country and should be imaginative, include a wide-variety of information about the economy of the chosen country and should address events in that country over the recent past (meaning at least a 5 year timeline for that country). There should be a table of contents at the front of the report it should be made clear where information used to compile the report was obtained from. All data and references should be properly detailed in tables or in a bibliography at the end of the report and any recognized bibliographic style is acceptable. Once again, graphics should be constructed by the students based on data obtained from the OECD, Eurostat, IMF IFS database, or from national sources.

The report should include graphs on items such as GDP growth, consumption growth, private investment growth, productivity, trade balance, inflation, budget balance, exchange rate (where relevant), government budget balance, government net debt, FDI (where relevant), exchange rate fluctuations (where relevant), and any other pertinent information. Also the report should contain an assessment of how the country will do in the future.

An example of a report and how it could be structured is given below:

- i) Introduction to your chosen country – where is it? What are its geographical advantages and disadvantages? Natural resources? Climate? Recent wars/strife? What kind of political system and governmental structure?
- ii) Historical/political/demographic/social/religious background – any info that you think is pertinent should go here.
- iii) Recent macroeconomic trends – GDP (consumption, investment separated out as well), productivity, inflation rates, interest rates, wage inflation, unemployment rates, and money supply.
- iv) Government situation – budget balance, debt outstanding
- v) Recent external macroeconomic trends – merchandise exports & imports, trade balance, current account, exchange rates.
- vi) Prospects for the country – this is where you come in!
- vii) Conclusion

The report should be of whatever length necessary to tell the story that you want to tell. The report should be double spaced and typed in a reasonably sized font (- usually 11 or 12 pitch) in black ink. I would be very surprised if you could write a report that was 10 pages or less and cover all of the above.

Case studies

Case studies should take a topic discussed in the book or in class and apply it to a specific country/industry/sector or firm. The case study topic should be clearly defined and as such should be discussed with and approved by me beforehand. Again all materials used for the case study should be properly referenced in a bibliography. The case study should be double spaced in a readable font and should be submitted electronically to my email address.

Examples of possible case studies from material covered in the book and classes includes:

- i) the pattern of trade for a particular country and the gravity model
- ii) comparative advantage as applied to particular countries – there are quite a few studies on this to draw on.
- iii) study of how much a particular multi-national trades between the different parts of the company in different countries (- usually this can be obtained from a company's accounts.
- iv) study of why a multinational decides to outsource and what prompted its choice of location for production.
- v) a particular country's experience with an exchange rate regime.
- vi) the type of FDI flowing into a particular country and an assessment of benefits and costs for that country.
- vii) why certain countries decided not to join the euro, and their prospects for joining in the future.

Case studies can be more firm or industry focused, or can be more country or regionally focused – this I leave up to you. The length of the case study is entirely

dependent on the material that you're discussing. Do not hesitate to include graphs, charts, tables or other graphics if relevant to what you're looking at.

Case studies can be handed in any time up until the end of semester.

Patrick Crowley
Spring 2014

Student Presentation Assessment Sheet

Name of Presenting Student: _____

1. **Organisation (your weighting for organisation is 20%)**
How well was the presentation organised? Did you get a sense of a logical presentation of the material coming through?
Mark = _____(out of 10)

2. **Clarity (your weighting for clarity is 20%)**
How clearly was the material presented? Did you understand all the material that was presented, and how it fitted into the overall framework?
Mark = _____(out of 10)

3. **Delivery (your weighting for delivery is 20%)**
How did you rate the style of the presenter? Could you hear the presenter properly? Did the presenter speak in sentences? How focused was the presenter on his/her audience?
Mark = _____(out of 10)

4. **Content (your weighting for content is 20%)**
Did you learn anything that you didn't already know from the presentation? Was the presentation well researched?
Mark = _____(out of 10)

5. **Overall Impression (your weighting for overall impression is 20%)**
What was your overall general impression of the presenter? Did you like his/her style? Did they hold your attention? Did they respond to questions well? How adequately did they answer questions?
Mark = _____(out of 10)

6. **General Comments**

7. **Total Mark** (weight*mark, ensuring weights add up to 1.00)
Mark = _____(out of 10)