

# Joint Master in Global Economic Governance & Public Affairs

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Seminar: 30 hours = 4 ECTS

## Country Risk & Governance quizz 2021-22

### SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION

**Quiz 1-** - Warming up: 13 + 1 questions to test your Country Risk knowledge

*Q1: Your investment strategy aims at the country with the highest GDP per capita ppp currently. Which country boasts the largest per capita income currently in 2021?*

- Vietnam
- Tunisia
- Morocco

*Q2: Goldman Sach's chief economist Jim O'Neill came up with the concept of BRICS in a 2001 research paper. The acronym stands for Brazil, Russia, India, and China, to which South Africa was added more recently. Clearly, these five fast growing countries share a lot of economic, financial, and institutional similarities!*

- True
- False

*Q3: The "Paris Club" is a forum of Debt restructuring negotiations between developing countries and OECD developed country governments*

- True
- False

*Q4: Economic liberalization leads to rising trade openness ratio (trade flows/GDP) in most developing countries. In addition, trade liberalization coupled with financial deregulation leads to socio-economic development and shrinking wealth gap.*

- True
- False

*Q5: The share of developing countries in global GDP is rising fast and today reaches roughly 59% compared to only 41% for so-called 34 "advanced developed countries" of the OECD, on a PPP basis.*

- True
- False

*Q6: Socio-political volatility risk and Global income inequality: After declining in the first half of the 20th century, income inequality makes a comeback since the mid-1980s in many developed countries. The share of top 1 percent in income distribution reaches nearly 20% currently.*

- True
- False

*Q7: Coface is both an insurer and a country risk analysis company that provides ratings and rankings.*

- True
- False

*Q8: Rating agencies such as Moody's, Fitch, Coface, INCRA, Dagong, and S&P's are reliable sources of early warning of mounting country risk volatility!*

- True
- False

*Q9: Is China's soft economic landing working in 2021? Since 2014, China's economic and monetary authorities initiated a rebalancing strategy of the country's economic growth driving engines, by boosting private consumption with lending surge, hence relying less on fixed investment and export revenues. Yet much of the riskiest credit, including loans to local governments, property developers and coal miners, has migrated to the shadow banking system, increasing the risk of a looming financial crisis.*

- True
- False

*Q10. China's growth is about to reach 7,6% in 2021, according to a number of forecasts (Goldman Sachs, IMF, WB, Brookings, OECD). Meanwhile, India's growth is accelerating to nearly 9,5% growth rate!*

- True
- False

*Q11. What Bouchet calls "Hyperfinance" is the byproduct of deregulation and globalization of the financial system since the 1980s. The "too big to fail" systemic risk stems from the rising share of banking assets in GDP, well above 200% in most developed and developing countries, including the EU, China and in Japan.*

- True
- False

*Q12. The IMF's latest World Economic Outlook is rather bearish regarding global growth forecast, i.e., 6.0 percent in 2021 and declining to 4.9 percent in 2022, due to geopolitical and commodities uncertainties.*

- True
- False

*Q13: Despite the global financial crisis, the number of countries that enjoy a Triple A rating from rating agencies keeps increasing, currently reaching 25.*

- True
- False

Q14- Bonus point: Who is Germany's current president?

- Angela Merkel
- Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Joachim Gauck

## SESSION 1: What is risk? What is uncertainty?

TEST 2: Check your understanding of the historical emergence of risk taking: the various stances of Keynes, Knight, Mandelbrot, Stiglitz, Taleb, and Krugman regarding risk.

Q1. *Keynes emphasizes the non-linear nature of risks and the danger of expecting the future as simple projection of the past, adding the role of animal spirits in volatility spill-over and herd behavior!*

- True
- False

Q2. *Knight in 1921 stipulates that Risk stems from a deficit of information, hence randomness of results*

- True
- False

Q3. *Following Mandelbrot, Nassim Taleb concludes that major catastrophes are just events that started small and did not stop growing to develop into extreme sizes. These events are unpredictable, in the sense that the final size of a future event cannot be forecasted in advance*

- True
- False

Q4. Minsky considers that global risks can be mitigated by the spontaneous adjustment and self-regulation of financial markets.

- True
- False

Q5. Stiglitz concludes that in the long-run market globalization reduces wealth gaps within and between countries.

- True
- False

Q6. Krugman analyzed a number of market crises in Mexico (1994), in Asia (1998), in the US and in Europe (2008-2012) concluding that market globalization generates volatile capital flows, speculation, deregulation, and costly socio-economic disruption.

- True
- False

Q7. *Ulrick Beck stresses the emergence of a Global risk society where current decisions and technological developments trigger long-term global impact, including warming, terrorism, pollution, and financial deregulation.*

- True
- False

Q8: According to Alvin Harvey Hansen (Harvard University), the risk of secular stagnation is the byproduct of negative structural forces in the aftermath of the deep recession of the early 1930s

- True
- False

Q9: In a nutshell, the neo-Keynesian schools emphasizes the following key points: No self-correction of markets, hence risk of protracted depression; Governments must inject extra spending to provide stimulus and shorten level and duration of crisis (multiplier); Markets need regulation to correct unequal income and wealth distribution and to promote sustainable full employment; and financial intermediation must be regulated to provide long-term financing to the real economy.

- True
- False

Q10: Stiglitz, Sachs, Krugman, and Dani Rodrik consider that there is a positive loop between openness to global capital flows, higher capital efficiency North-South, technology spillover, and financial market liberalization, all leading to dynamic foreign direct investment, hence higher GDP.

- True
- False

Q11: J. Stiglitz and P. Krugman consider that Globalization increases instability and volatility, makes countries more vulnerable to external shocks, reduces long-term growth, and increases poverty, hence socio-political turmoil.

- True
- False

### **SESSION 3: The key components of Country Risk and the main types of Risk exposure**

QUIZ 3-The key components of Country Risk in the globalization

Q1: In a nutshell, Country Risk is mainly composed of financial risk

- True
- False

Q2: When looking at long-term macroeconomic growth projections, the three winners are Germany, Japan, and the US!

- True
- False

Q3: To sum up, Country Risk is actually only a matter of concern for foreign creditors and bondholders!

- True
- False

Q4: Risk rating agencies play a key role in assessing risk but also in worsening country risk due to spill-over effect.

- True

- False

Q5. Country Risk boils down to debt payment default!

- True
- False

Q6: Domestic economic agents also face Country Risk that stems from inflation, negative real rates of interest, abrupt devaluation, and socio-political turmoil.

- True
- False

Q7: Exporters are exposed to a number of risks, including payment delays, capital controls, customs bribes, and exchange rate devaluation!

- True
- False

Q8: Since the global financial crisis, with a weak and uneven recovery, one still faces the prospect of long-term stagnation. In 2020, nominal global GDP was still lower than in 2018!

- True
- False

Q9: For GEGPA CIFE students, it is crucial to understand the declining trend in economic and trade globalization since the late 1990s. In 2021, the global trade openness index, that is, the ratio of total exports to global GDP, keeps shrinking to only 26%, well below the 2013 threshold of over 30%!

- True
- False

### **SESSION 3: Country Risk and rising wealth gap within and between nations**

TEST 4: Country risk and wealth gaps

Q1: According to the World Bank, extreme poverty is defined at around \$1,90/day

- True
- False

Q2: All in all, the GINI index of revenue inequality has worsened for many OECD countries since the global financial crisis (including France)

- True
- False

Q3: In a nutshell, secular stagnation is the byproduct of negative structural forces as described by Alvin Harvey Hansen (Harvard University) in the aftermath of the deep recession of the early 1930s

- True
- False

Q4: Since the mid-1980s and the worldwide extension of the market economy, one faces an unprecedented distortion in value-added distribution in developed countries due to the rising share of profits in GDP and the falling share of wages: income equality has worsened!

- True

- *False*

*Q5: According to Bouchet, Hyperfinance's emergence in the 1980s coincides with the shrinking share of income for capital owners and top executives, hence improving income gaps!*

- *True*
- *False*

## **SESSION 4: Country risk assessment: Information and Economic intelligence gathering**

TEST 5: The main sources of information regarding Country risk assessment

*Q1: The Bank of International Settlements (BIS) provides key sources of Country risk intelligence including its International Banking statistics (quarterly) and the Annual BIS report*

- *True*
- *False*

*Q2: The BIS, the IMF and the OECD are crucial sources of information regarding real effective exchange rates fluctuations!*

- *True*
- *False*

*Q3: The Paris Club is an ad-hoc forum of debt negotiations between OECD country creditors and sovereign debtors. It only deals with official or officially-guaranteed credits (Coface, Hermes, ECGD, SACE, US Eximbank...).*

- *True*
- *False*

*Q4: The UNDP provides GEGPA CIFE students with the annual human development index that measures corruption in developing countries*

- *True*
- *False*

*Q5: GEGPA CIFE students can find in the World Bank's Doing Business index a comprehensive and highly reliable measure of the business, governance, and regulatory conditions in 190 countries.*

- *True*
- *False*

*Q6: At COFACE, country risk analysis is expressed in a rating/ranking format but based on a qualitative analysis aimed at integrating the socio-political and economic specificities of each country.*

- *True*
- *False*

## **SESSION 5: Country risk assessment Methodologies –Balance of payments analysis**

TEST 6: Understanding the balance of payments in country risk assessment

*Q1: The BOP is the accounting record of all economic and financial flows that take place between residents of the reporting country and the rest of the world*

- True
- False

*Q2: Changes in the stock of reserve assets, emergency financing, payment arrears... or debt default, will balance the national accounts!*

- True
- False

*Q3: IFIs are always considered domestic residents while tourists are foreign residents if they stay in the reporting country > 1 year*

- True
- False

*Q4: A country that saves > it invests at home sends its surplus abroad to purchase foreign assets or it increases its official reserve assets*

- True
- False

*Q5: The Current account plays a role similar to a private company's income statement= country's economic performance vis-à-vis the rest of the world*

- True
- False

*Q6: A trade imbalance is always rooted in low savings and excessive domestic spending (absorption).*

- True
- False

*Q7: Non-financial services include Freight, insurance, passenger services, tourism, and travel.*

- True
- False

*Q8: Investment income excludes income derived from the ownership of foreign financial assets (interest and dividends for portfolio investment)*

- True
- False

*Q9: Private unrequited transfers refer mainly to immigrant workers' remittances to their country of origin as well as gifts, inheritances, and charitable contributions.*

- True
- False

Q10: Over the 2010 decade until 2021, developed countries have hardly balanced their current account, that is, their ratio of current account to GDP fluctuates around 0,5%, mainly due to the US structural deficit with the rest of the world!

- True
- False

## **SESSION 6: Assessment Methodologies – Capital account, external financing and Country Risk**

TEST 7: Understanding the role of balance of payments in external deficit and debt crisis!

Q1: External financing sources include LT debt, equity/FDI, international borrowing in the capital markets (Eurobonds, Eurocredits), official financing, ODA, and short-term flows

- True
- False

Q2: A country's official reserves include hard currency assets + Monetary gold (gold held by the authorities as a financial asset) + SDRs

- True
- False

Q3: Net errors and omissions (E&Os) are statistical gaps involved in gathering balance of payments data. Other sources of E&Os are leads and lags in trade flows, underinvoicing of exports, overinvoicing of imports, and undeclared short-term capital movements, i.e., capital flight!

- True
- False

Q4: Special drawing rights (SDRs) are reserve assets created by the United Nations and the World Bank. They are credited to the accounts of member countries according to national quotas

- True
- False

TEST 8: Check your understanding of external financing, liquidity and solvency ratios

Q1: Gross Capital Inflows = Long-term + Short-term capital flows, while Net Flows = Gross Inflows - Debt Repayments

- True
- False

Q2: Net Transfers are equal to Net Flows + Interest Payments

- True
- False

Q3: The Solvency ratio Debt/GDP must always > 75% while the Debt/Exports ratio must always be > 150%

- True
- False



Q4: Liquidity = The Debt Service ratio must remain < 33% of export revenues!

- True
- False

Q5: Stabilizing solvency ratios requires a diversified export base, diversified markets as well as long-term debt maturities and no currency mismatch!

- True
- False

Q6: Emerging markets and developing economies have managed to stabilize their financial account balances between 2010 and 2020, shifting to a substantial surplus in 2020, mainly due to rising commodity prices and despite shrinking direct investment inflows!

- True
- False

## **SESSION 7: Country Risk and Debt Restructuring**

TEST 9: Understanding the complexity of external debt negotiations

Q1: Private sources of external financing include FDI, Portfolio Investment, London Club (International bank loans), Working capital lines, ST Trade credits, as well as Bonds & International debt securities

- True
- False

Q2: Default, Debt cancellation, and Payment Arrears are also external deficit financing sources!

- True
- False

Q3: In 2021, Greece 's Debt/GDP ratio is still over 200%

- True
- False

Q4: In 2021, the combination of higher interest rates together with uneven growth (and volatile trade and investment) and higher oil and commodity prices, increases the threat of large-scale defaults

- True
- False

Q5: Official bilateral debt (government to government) is renegotiated under the auspices of the Paris Club since 1956. As of today, the 21 Paris Club creditors have reached 433 agreements concerning 90 debtor countries, roughly \$590 billion.

- True
- False

Q6: Though the Paris Club includes mainly OECD countries, Russia joined in 1997 and Brazil in end-2016, as sizeable lender in African countries such as Nigeria, Angola and Mozambique.

- True
- False

Q7: *The Paris Club preserves the comparability of treatment between different creditors: The debtor country cannot grant to another creditor a treatment less favourable for the debtor than the consensus reached in the Paris Club.*

- True
- False

Q8: *Since the 1970s, countries facing default have used the London Club process to restructure sovereign debt owed to banks. The London Club has evolved as an ad hoc forum for restructuring negotiations. Each London Club is formed at the initiative of the debtor country and is dissolved when a restructuring agreement is signed.*

- True
- False

Q9: The Institute of International Finance, Inc. (IIF), is the world's only global association of financial institutions. Created in 1983 in response to the international debt crisis (with Bouchet as Senior Economist ☺), the IIF represents a key source of Country risk intelligence.

- True
- False

Q10: The US debt to GDP ratio in 2021 is around 130% while that of Japan is still higher, namely 250%, but these two countries can borrow and repay in their own currencies, a formidable privilege, while the debt of Japan is mainly held by national residents!

- True
- False

## **SESSION 8: Assessment Methodologies - Political risk analysis**

TEST 10: Where does political turmoil come from?

Q1: *Sustained economic growth remains the single most important determinant of rising societal living standards. GDP growth has led to higher living standards for millions of people in EMCs, particularly in India & China, though with a growing wealth gap!*

- True
- False

Q2: *According to S. Huntington's "Political order in changing societies", violence and instability stem from rapid social change and the mobilization of new groups into politics coupled with the slow development of political institutions. The primary problem of politics is the lag in the development of political institutions behind social and economic change.*

- True
- False

Q3: *Aging will reduce aggregate annual economic growth by almost one percentage point in 2020-25 in both developed and emerging market economies, due to shrinking labor force, decline in household savings rates, and falling fertility rates. However, this declining trend does not affect countries such as Germany, Russia, Japan, and China.*

- True
- False

Q4: *In the US the labor force participation rate (share of working population in total population) is dropping to around 63%, back to its level in the mid-1970s.*

- True
- False

*Q5. In China, despite the aging process in China's population, the working age population keeps increasing and the demographic dynamics will sustain economic growth at least till 2050.*

- True
- False

*Q6. In the US, about 75% of total employment is at risk of being replaced by machines over the next two decades, with disastrous impact on low-skilled jobs.*

- True
- False

*Q7: According to Daniel Bell, Polarization and social tensions between work and consumption create social pressures: capitalism is inherently instable!*

- True
- False

*Q8: Political risk includes the following threats: Contract repudiation, capital controls, currency inconvertibility, sham contracts and bribery, corruption, blocked funds, ideological shift, political upheaval, strikes, expropriation, nationalization, coup d'état, martial law, and revolution!*

- True
- False

*Q9: Freedom House publishes an annual assessment of the state of freedom in all countries in the world, based on a checklist of questions on political rights and civil liberties*

- True
- False

*Q10: TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL's CPI measures long-term development variables of both industrial and developing countries.*

- True
- False

*Q11: Bouchet defines sustainable development as Economic growth + those conditions that make growth sustainable over the long-term, that is, life expectancy, education, health, infrastructure, institutions, and good governance*

- True
- False

## **SESSION 9: Assessment Methodologies : Ratings and Rankings**

TEST 11: Risk Ratings and crisis prediction: Test yourself on the accuracy and usefulness of risk rating agencies!

*Q1: EUROMONEY's Rating includes a 75% weight for political risk!*

- True
- False

Q2: *The International Country Risk Guide (ICRG) rating comprises 22 variables in three subcategories of risk: political, financial, and economic, for roughly 140 countries.*

- True
- False

Q3: *Governance is based on Corruption, Regulatory framework, Business conditions, Transparency, as well as Corporate and sovereign rules and regulations.*

- True
- False

Q4: Overall, looking at a number of sovereign debt crises, one can conclude that rating agencies (i.e., Moody's, Fitch, S&P's) have sent reliable and helpful early warning signals!

- True
- False

Q5: *The annual HDI is published by the UNDP. It is a composite index measuring average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development—a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living.*

- True
- False

Q6: *Institutional Investor publishes a semi-annual Rating of 179 countries' creditworthiness based on survey of 100 leading international bankers*

- True
- False

Q7: *Despite the global financial crisis, the number of countries that enjoy a Triple A rating from rating agencies keeps increasing, currently reaching 25.*

- True
- False

## **SESSION 10: Country Risk mitigation strategies**

TEST 12: Check your understanding regarding managers' risk mitigating options

Q1: *National and international private and public insurance agencies such as OPIC, MIGA, Platus, Lloyds, Berne Union (ECAs), Hiscox, COFACE... provide insurance coverage against political risk*

- True
- False

Q2: *The ICSID is the International Center for the Settlement of investment disputes. It represents an autonomous international institution established under the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes with 155 signatory States. The multilateral treaty was formulated by the Executive Directors of the World Bank. It entered into force on October 14, 1966*

- True
- False

Q3: *OPIC is the Overseas Private Investment Corporation: Independent US Federal government agency in Washington, D.C., that provides political risk insurance to encourage and assist US private investment in 160 developing nations.*

- True
- False

Q4: MIGA (established in 1988) is the investment insurance affiliate of the World Bank. It promotes the flow of capital and technology into developing countries by providing political risk insurance against non-commercial risks (currency transfer restriction, expropriation, breach of contract, war and civil disturbance) and technical assistance.

- True
- False

## **SESSION 12: CONCLUSION: Country Risk - In search of early warning indicator**

TEST 13: Check your understanding of the links between corruption, governance and Country Risk

Q1: Clearly, the 1998 Asian crisis was anticipated by rating agencies that downgraded the Asian countries well before the sharp devaluation and the banking crises.

- True
- False

Q2: Capital flight in both developed and emerging market countries respond to underlying both push and pull forces

- True
- False

Q3: Capital flight is an elusive concept and by definition cannot be measured given that private capital outflows use illegal channels.

- True
- False

Q4: Capital flight can be tackled by focusing on private deposits in international banks

- True
- False

Q5: A reliable source to assess and measure private capital outflows comes from the Basel-based Bank for International Settlements

- True
- False

## **Country risk seminar: Wrap up Session!**

FINAL TEST 14: Overall check of your understanding of the whole issue of Country Risk Assessment

Q1: In the most recent corruption perception ranking of Transparency International of 179 countries in 2020, Brazil and India have better rankings than China!

- True
- False

*Q2: Since the mid-1980s and the worldwide extension of the market economy, one faces an unprecedented distortion in value-added distribution in developed countries due to the rising share of profits in GDP and the falling share of wages: income equality has worsened!*

- True
- False

*Q3: All in all, assessing Country Risk requires a combination of market consensus (rating agencies), macroeconomic analysis, balance of payments analysis: liquidity & solvency, socio-political analysis, business environment (corruption, bureaucracy, institutions, transparency), and Economic Intelligence!*

- True
- False

*Q4: Coface is both an insurer and a country risk analysis company that provides ratings and rankings.*

- True
- False

Q5. Overall, looking at a number of sovereign debt crises, one can conclude that rating agencies (i.e., Moody's, Fitch, S&P's) have sent reliable and helpful early warning signals!

- True
- False

*Q6: In the BOP, non-financial services include freight, insurance, passenger services, tourism, and travel.*

- True
- False

Q7: In the BOP, private unrequited transfers refer mainly to immigrant workers' remittances to their country of origin as well as gifts, inheritances, and charitable contributions.

- True
- False

Q8: The Institute of International Finance is the world's global association of financial institutions. Created in 1983 in response to the international debt crisis (with Bouchet as Senior Economist ☺), the IIF represents a key source of country risk intelligence.

- True
- False

Q9: The "Paris Club" is a forum of Debt restructuring negotiations between developing countries and OECD developed country governments

- True
- False

*Q10: In the BOP, interest payments on external debt can be found in the capital account!*

- True
- False

*Q11: A reliable source to assess and measure private capital outflows comes from the Basel-based Bank for International Settlements*

- True
- False

*Q12: According to Daniel Bell, Polarization and social tensions between work and consumption create social pressures: capitalism is inherently instable!*

- True
- False

*Q13. Overall, looking at a number of sovereign debt crises, one can conclude that rating agencies (i.e., Moody's, Fitch, S&P's) have sent reliable and helpful early warning signals!*

- True
- False

*Q14: MIGA (established in 1988) is the investment insurance affiliate of the World Bank. It provides investors political risk insurance against non-commercial risks (currency transfer restriction, expropriation, breach of contract, war and civil disturbance).*

- True
- False

*Q15: Stabilizing solvency ratios requires a diversified export base, dynamic markets as well as long-term debt maturities and no currency mismatch!*

- True
- False

*Q16: The most recent corruption perception ranking of Transparency International of 179 countries in 2020 shows that France does not manage to fight corruption efficiently, given that its ranking remains stubbornly at around 23, well below that of Japan, Germany, Belgium, and Scandinavia!*

- True
- False