Term Paper Description

due the last day of class

Overview

This project centers on your assigned country of study. The motivating question is this: suppose that the government of that country has hired you to give them three suggestions on specific, particular policies that they could adopt that would improve the long term economic performance of their country. The three suggested policies should be motivated by the particular needs of the country. Also, you should provide evidence from the experiences of other countries that have tried similar policies, or some theory that suggests it would be a good way to increase economic output. You should also provide some historical background on the historical causes of poverty in your country, and information on current challenges there.

Requirements

The paper should be between 5-6 pages, double spaced. This page count does not include data, graphs or bibliography. It should include all of the following:

1. Historical background and context, with at least one graph of historical data and at least one reference on the historical background of your country.
2. Current context: political background, major industries, GDP per capita, and any other measures that help to support your suggestions.
3. Three concrete policy suggestions that you believe would be beneficial to the economy of your assigned country. For each, provide data that supports the need for this policy. Also, provide theory and/or data (with references) that suggests that this policy could be effective.
4. References for all sources, including proper citation methods (parenthetical references with bibliography at the end). In total, you should cite a minimum of five sources. See https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/

The paper should be typed and printed, along with all graphs, and will be organized as follows:

1. Your name and country title at the top of the first page.
2. Body of the paper, not including any graphs or tables.
3. Bibliography on a separate page after the body.
4. Graphs, charts and tables with labels and numbers after the bibliography. In the body of the paper you can write things like, "Chart 1 shows …".

Grading Guidelines

Papers will be graded out of 100 points in the following categories:

1. Background (30 points): Was there a clear explanation of the current context that demonstrated *why* and *to what extent* poverty exists in the country today? Was this supported by a graph that gave good insight into this context?
2. Policies (20 points each): For each policy, was it a *specific* policy, as opposed to something general? For example, saying, "the government should find ways to increase the domestic savings rate" is too general; the policy suggestion needs to be a concrete course of action. Was data provided to support the need for this policy? Was evidence (either data or theory) given that supported the effectiveness of this policy (for instance, in other similar countries, or in theory)? Were the explanations of why this would work and how it important it would be both clear and convincing?
3. References (10 points): Were sources cited correctly? Were at least five sources cited?

Note

Automatically dropped from your final grade will be the lowest of: Midterm 1, Midterm 2, the Term Paper, or ½ the Final. You are allowed to not do the term paper and automatically drop it from your grade. If you elect to do so, please turn in a piece of paper with your name and write "Drop Term Paper" so that I do not think I lost your paper. Dropping the term paper has no further effect on your grade.