

### Essay Questions for Final

Four of the following ten questions will be randomly picked. You should allocate twenty minutes of exam time for answering each question. Your grade on these answers will depend on the coherence and completeness of the answer and on your demonstrating knowledge of the material covered in this course. Use equations, graphs, or diagrams to illustrate your points when helpful.

- (1) Why does household segregation by race and income occur, what are the economic effects of such segregation, and what can be done to reduce segregation (assuming that desegregation is a desirable goal)?
- (2) Give an example of a good or service that is currently generally provided by local government, explain the rationale for why it is provided by the government rather than by the private sector, and explain the rationale for why it is provided by local government rather than at the regional, state, or federal level. If you disagree with one or both of these rationales, explain why and say what should happen instead.
- (3) How can public policy affect the price and quantity of low-income housing?
- (4) Explain the pros and cons of selling off all existing public housing and switching to cash payments (which need not be spent on housing) as a national low-income housing assistance policy. Indicate whether or not you would vote for the policy, and why.
- (5) What are some recent initiatives that have been suggested to attempt to decrease inequalities in educational achievement? Which of these, in your view, is the most promising approach to reducing such inequalities, and why?
- (6) What are the one or two fundamental urban economic concepts that can be used to explain the evolution of transportation over the past century (as depicted in the video on The American Road)?
- (7) Discuss how government planning, taxation, and subsidization can affect individual choice between transportation modes.
- (8) How can one determine the optimum amount of crime?
- (9) Explain what fundamental concepts from the urban economics course are unique to the urban economics way of doing economic theory (i.e., what additional concepts you learned in this course relative to Econ 110/301). Give at least three examples.
- (10) How do you think the economist's view of urban planning and how to solve urban-related problems would differ from the point of view of noneconomists (such as urban planners, and local government officials)? Give at least three examples.