

Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

Economics 3315 – International Economic Issues

The Country Profile and Scrapbook

For the country profile, you will select a country and profile that country's economy, government, recent economic performance, current concerns and future prospects. In terms of statistics that I would be interested in you reporting on, I would select growth, investment, consumption, budget balance, government debt, interest rates, exchange rate, trade balance and capital flows (including FDI).

You should download data into a spreadsheet and then construct graphs from the data for your country profile. The IMF, OECD, World Bank, EuroStat and national institutions all collect data which is freely accessible to the public. Please see me if you need some suggestions on which databases are likely to have the data that you need.

Once you have completed the profile, for the scrapbook, you will amass a collection of articles that describe changes in the economic, monetary and/or financial situation in the country concerned over at least the last year (that is, the period since the start of 2015).

You should obtain at least 12 articles from any legitimate source (The Economist, The Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, CNN, New York Times, BBC, etc), letters to the editor or editorials relating to the country concerned. The articles must be either printed from the internet, clipped or photocopied and be complete (with date). They should be pasted or permanently attached to a page in your scrapbook. The articles must also have an economics element, in that there must be an underlying economics issue that is either readily apparent or is brought out by you in your commentary on the articles.

The scrapbook commentaries can include background information (on how the particular issue has evolved over a longer period of time, if relevant), and can include articles from other sources, if this is not covered in wherever you obtained the article from.

Your country profile/scrapbook will be subjectively and objectively graded by the professor in comparison with other scrapbooks. Points for the assignment will be based on the following elements:

1. Creativity - part of your grade will be based on your creativity in producing the scrapbook. Use your imagination.
2. Introduction and conclusion– an explanation as to why you decided to choose the country you did, how you are going to present the material and the order in which they will be presented. In the conclusion you should draw together what you've done and ask how the topics you've chosen might evolve and what future issues might need to be addressed.

4. Number of Entries - Your scrapbook should include a MINIMUM of 12 articles/letters to the editor/editorials from reputable news outlets. I read the news daily so if I know certain important events happened in your country and you didn't report them, you will be penalized!
5. Entries - Write or draw the following information for each entry in the scrapbook:
 - the date the entry was published;
 - the source and page number (- if from a printed version, otherwise the section and URL in the electronic version)
 - out to the side list the economic concepts discussed in the article and draw an arrow from each concept to the place in the article where it is discussed – be specific

Any other information gathered and used in compiling the country profile/scrapbook should be documented in a bibliography at the end of the scrapbook, including relevant webpages that have been consulted.

- The structure of the profile/scrapbook should then be roughly as follows:
- i) Introduction to your profile/scrapbook – what is the country you chose and why?
 - ii) Country profile
 - iii) Recent economic performance
 - iv) Media articles (scrapbook section) with commentaries. Each entry should be presented separately, with the articles illustrating the evolution of the topic and how the issues raised by the topic relate to class material. Each topic should have a conclusion or questions as to how the topic or issue might evolve in the future and what economic considerations might arise.
 - v) Each article should be linked to the economic concepts discussed in class and any other pertinent information
 - vi) Future Prospects and Conclusion – at the end of the scrapbook, the student should draw together the topics covered in the scrapbook so as to sum up the events that occurred over the course of the semester.

The profile/scrapbook should be of whatever length necessary to tell the story that you want to tell. The profile/scrapbook should generally be double spaced and typed in a reasonably sized font (- usually 11 or 12 pitch) in black ink. I would be surprised if you could write a scrapbook that was 25 pages or less and cover all of the above. As part of the submission, I would also like you to email me a copy of the spreadsheet containing the data that you used to construct your graphics for the country profile section. Failure to send a data spreadsheet by the deadline will result in a 15% deduction.

The deadline for submitting the scrapbook and the data spreadsheet is 12/1. Without any accompanying material evidence, late submissions will not be accepted.