

**КЕНЖЕҒАЛИ САҒАДИЕВ
АТЫНДАҒЫ
ХАЛЫҚАРАЛЫҚ БИЗНЕС
УНИВЕРСИТЕТІ**



**UNIVERSITY
KENZHEGALI SAGADIEV
UNIVERSITY OF
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS**



**ENTRANCE EXAM PROGRAMME FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES
(ESSAY SECTION, MAJOR-SPECIFIC EXAM QUESTIONS)
FOR THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME 8D04101 «ECONOMICS»**

Almaty, 2025

The programme of the entrance exam for doctoral studies (essay block, examination questions on the profile) is based on the Standard Rules for Admission to Educational Organizations Implementing Professional Educational Programs for Postgraduate Education, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 31, 2018 (with amendments and additions), for conducting entrance exams for doctoral studies in the educational programme 8D04101 Economics".

The programme was discussed and received a positive decision at a meeting of the Department of Finance and Accounting (Minutes No. _8_ dated March 20, 2025).

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1. General Provisions

This programme is designed for the doctoral entrance exam for the educational programme 8D04101 "Economics."

The purpose of the exam: to assess the level of theoretical and practical training of applicants, their ability for independent scientific research, analysis of applied economic problems, and understanding of contemporary trends both at the national and global levels. The exam consists of questions covering key areas of economic science and its practical application.

General requirements for applicants:

- Deep understanding of fundamental theories and concepts of economics.
- Ability to critically analyze current problems and trends in the economic development of Kazakhstan and the world.
- Skills in applying quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis.
- Ability to formulate research hypotheses and propose solutions.
- Proficiency in academic writing and citation.

2. Sample list of essay topics and exam questions

2.1 Sample ESSAY topics

Macroeconomics and development

- The impact of global supply chains on inflation and economic stability in a post-pandemic world.

- The role of fiscal and monetary policy in conditions of high uncertainty: lessons from recent crises.

- New approaches to measuring economic growth and well-being in the digital age.

Microeconomics and behavioral economics

- Behavioral aspects of decision-making in conditions of high inflation.

- The impact of digital platforms on market structure and competition.

- The attention economy and its implications for consumer behavior.

Finance and new economic realities

- The impact of government debt on long-term economic stability and inflation in developed and developing countries.

- Welfare economics in the context of growing inequality: new approaches to assessment and policy decisions.

- Economic consequences of population ageing and changes in pension systems.

Econometrics and research methods

- Application of Big Data in economic analysis: new opportunities and limitations.

- Cause-and-effect relationships in economics: using machine learning methods.

- Econometric analysis of the economic consequences of pandemics and global crises.

Institutional economics and development

- Corruption and its impact on economic development: new approaches to measurement and control.

- The role of public administration in stimulating innovation and digital transformation.

- The economics of sanctions: effectiveness and long-term consequences.

Recommended ESSAY length: 700-800 words.

Evaluation criteria:

- Depth and completeness of the topic.

- Logicality and argumentation of the presentation.
- Availability of critical analysis and original ideas.
- Use of relevant literature and sources.
- Compliance with academic style and design requirements.
- Ability to defend your point of view during an interview.

2.2 Content and Topics of Exam Questions

The exam covers key areas of economic science and practice, divided into three main blocks:

Block 1. Fundamental concepts and models of microeconomics, macroeconomics and basics of data analysis.

Microeconomics: Questions concern the behavior of consumers and firms, various market structures (perfect competition, monopoly, oligopoly), pricing, information asymmetry, externalities, public goods and elements of behavioral economics. The applicant must demonstrate an understanding of the principles of optimization, equilibrium and efficiency in various market conditions.

Macroeconomics: Questions test knowledge of the main macroeconomic indicators (GDP, inflation, unemployment), models (circular flow, IS-LM), instruments of fiscal and monetary policy, as well as theories of economic growth and business cycles. An understanding of the mechanisms of formation and stabilization of the national economy is expected.

Fundamentals of Data Analysis: Includes questions on the basic assumptions of classical linear regression, problems of violation of these assumptions (multicollinearity, heteroscedasticity, autocorrelation), as well as principles of parameter estimation and testing of statistical hypotheses. It is important to demonstrate knowledge of the methodological apparatus for quantitative economic analysis.

Block 2: Current economic issues at the national level

National development: Questions cover factors and barriers to economic growth, the role of human capital, issues of poverty and income inequality, industrialization strategies and the transition to a knowledge economy. Assesses understanding of challenges and opportunities for development at the level of an individual country.

Institutional economics: Includes questions on the role of institutions (formal and informal), the quality of public administration, corruption, property rights, and the application of the theory of institutional change to real economies.

Modern technologies and economics: Covers the impact of artificial intelligence, the gig economy, platform companies, big data, robotics and cybersecurity on labor markets, production processes and the structure of industries at the national level.

Social aspects: Questions concern demographic challenges (aging population, migration), as well as the role of education, healthcare and social capital in economic development.

Applied Policy: Assesses understanding of specific fiscal and monetary policy instruments in the context of national objectives (e.g. combating inflation, stimulating SMEs), as well as the concepts of sustainable finance and public-private partnerships.

Block 3. Current Trends in the Development of the Global Economy and International Relations

International Trade and Finance: Questions cover theories of international trade (comparative advantage, Heckscher-Ohlin), barriers to trade, exchange rates, foreign direct investment, the role of TNCs and global value chains. Understanding of the mechanisms and consequences of international exchange is assessed.

Economic Integration and Institutions: Includes questions on the forms and benefits of economic integration (customs unions, free trade areas), the role of international economic organizations (WTO, IMF, World Bank).

Global Challenges and Risks: Covers the economic consequences of climate change, pandemics, geopolitical risks, sanctions, energy transition and food security. Understanding of global issues and their impact on the global and national economies is assessed.

Digital Transformation and Emerging Phenomena: Covers the impact of the digital economy, the digital divide, and technology development on international economic relations.

Social and non-traditional aspects: Includes questions about the "green" economy, the "happiness economy", social entrepreneurship at the global level, as well as the problems of financial inclusion and the "brain drain".

Evaluation criteria:

Completeness and depth of the answer: How fully the topic of the question is covered, knowledge of the main concepts, theories and models.

Logic and structured: Clarity of presentation, consistency of arguments, ability to systematize information.

Analytical skills: Ability to analyze the presented data, identify cause-and-effect relationships, make reasonable conclusions.

Application of knowledge: Ability to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations, including the specifics of the economy of Kazakhstan and global trends.

Erudition and critical thinking: Possession of additional information, ability to critically evaluate various approaches, operate with modern data and research.

Academic style of presentation: Correctness of terminology, absence of ambiguities.

Basic literature

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6. Gujarati, Damodar N., Porter, Dawn C. Basic Econometrics. 5th ed. McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 2009.
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9. Todaro, Michael P., Smith, Stephen C. Economic Development. 13th ed. Pearson, 2020.
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12. Ostrom, Elinor. Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action. Cambridge University Press, 1990.
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14. Hill, Charles W.L., Hult, G. Tomas M. International Business: Competing in the Global Marketplace. 13th ed. McGraw-Hill Education, 2022.

Additional literature

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2. Thaler, Richard H., Sunstein, Cass R. Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness. Yale University Press, 2008. (Anniversary ed. with new preface: 2021).
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6. Rajan, Raghuram G. Fault Lines: How Hidden Fractures Still Threaten the World Economy. Princeton University Press, 2010.
7. Brynjolfsson, Erik, McAfee, Andrew. The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies. W. W. Norton & Company, 2014.
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9. Erikson, T., Prince, D. "The Effects of AI on the Labour Market." Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 33, No. 3, 2019, pp. 203-228.
10. Бобков, В.Н. и др. Неравенство доходов и качество жизни населения России. Экономика, 2018. (This specific title is in Russian as it refers to a Russian context).
11. OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development): Annual reports like OECD Economic Outlook (e.g., latest 2024 edition) and specialized reports on digital economy, employment, climate. Available at www.oecd.org.
12. World Bank: Annual report World Development Report (e.g., 2019 "The Changing Nature of Work", 2023 "Migrants, Refugees, and Societies"). Available at www.worldbank.org.
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