

Pol Econ Qualifying Exam Questions – Part I

1. Explain the different ways in which private property rights can be explained. In your answer, summarize, compare and contrast the different approaches Veblen and Gintis take, drawing on respectively club theory and the bourgeois game.
2. Discuss the distinction Marx draws between the “sphere of exchange” and the “sphere of production” his conception of the firm. How is it both similar and different from the approach taken by neo-institutionalist economists such as Coase and Williamson, respectively. Present and critically discuss efforts by authors such as Bowles and Gintis to interpret Marx’s discussion of the capital labor conflict as a principle agent problem.