Information on the take-home exam (40%) available to the students on the Blackboard page

A dataset will be given to you, together with a research question that you are going to analyse with the given dataset. You might need to decide yourself which model you intend to adopt and to justify it. You can work alone or in groups of up to 4 students. A copy of the program used to analyse the data (stata do-file) must be enclosed.

There are no formal rules for the length of the take home exam paper. While roughly 3,000 words are likely needed for a careful paper, one could write great papers that are shorter and bad papers that are longer. So do not focus on word length in your exam and rather spend time thinking about what you want to say and finding the best way to say it.

Most empirical econ papers/thesis follow a standard structure. Chapter 19-5 in Woolridge's textbook also includes helpful hints on writing an empirical paper.

The expected (rough) structure of a take home exam paper is:

- A brief introduction to the problem, including:
    - One paragraph with the broad context
    - One paragraph describing what you do and results
    - One concluding paragraph
    - One paragraph indicating what you do in each section
- Data section, including:
    - A description of the sample you will use
    - Relevant tables/graphs with main patterns in the data and relevant description (usually providing mean,standard deviations, any relevant statistics such as min and max)
- A description of the basic empirical model chosen and empirical results:
    - Write down explicitly a regression equation, explain the variables used and assumptions invoked
    - Explain in detail the results
- Limitations and extensions:
    - Write in this section any extension you did. These include for example use of different estimators (e.g. IV) or other models to validate your main results.
    - Write possible limitations and further work. All work can be improved. You are not expected to write the perfect paper in 2 days, but you are expected to be critical and aware of pros/cons of techniques.
- Conclusions
- References
- A copy of the program used to analyse the data (the stata do-file) must be enclosed