

ECON742: Questionnaire 8

"Politics, Markets and Schools: Quasi-Experimental Evidence on the Impact of Autonomy and Competition from a Truly Revolutionary UK Reform"

The questions are based on Clark, D. (2005), "Politics, Markets and Schools: Quasi-Experimental Evidence on the Impact of Autonomy and Competition from a Truly Revolutionary UK Reform".

1. Why would the autonomy of schools impact academic performance of students? Describe several mechanisms. Would it be ok to run a simple regression of the autonomy of a school on the performance of its students? Would it be ok to run a regression of student performance on the vote of the parents?
2. Describe the methodology used by Clark. Explain why this technique works by describing it with a specification. Describe the assumptions under which the estimate is consistent.
3. Explain Figure 4. Why is it central to the identification strategy?
4. Explain Figure 5. Is it reassuring?
5. Explain Figure 6. Why is it central to the identification strategy?
6. Explain the main result in Figure 8.
7. Comment Table 3a. Which column do you prefer? Why does the the author run a regression of `dpass` on `win` and `vote`, then on `win`, `lose_vote`, and `win_vote`? Could `lose_vote` have been defined as the multiplication of `lose` by `vote`? Why? How can we interpret the results? Why does the author only keep the schools where the votes were between 15% and 85%? How do the results change if all the schools are kept?
8. Look at Figure 14 and Table 5. Are there spillover effects?
9. Conclude.