

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Faculty of Arts and Science

APRIL/MAY EXAMINATIONS 2000

ECO 201Y1 Y

The Economic History of Later Medieval and Early Modern Europe, 1300 - 1750

No Aids Allowed

Duration - 3 Hours

Answer any **THREE** of the following **Twelve (12)** questions, spending about one hour on each question. **ALL QUESTIONS ARE OF EQUAL VALUE. You may answer questions related to your term essays.**

WARNINGS: **DO NOT** give similar answers to the questions selected; and thus **DO NOT** select questions with similar themes. If you do, you risk getting a low mark on your answers.

DOUBLE-SPACE YOUR ANSWERS: write on only one side of the page; and number or identify your questions properly. Take care to write legibly!

1. Discuss the significance of the European Marriage Pattern, as both a consequence and as a partial or contributory cause, of the demographic changes that the European economy experienced from the Black Death (or from the Great Famine of 1315-17) to the eve of the Industrial and Vital Revolutions. In your answer, consider the two following aspects of these demographic changes:
 - a) the extent to which, and why, over this five-century period, the evolution of a European Marriage Pattern helped to modify or ameliorate periodic threats of a 'Malthusian Crisis'.
 - b) the extent to which, and why, the European Marriage Pattern had a greater impact on demographic changes in north-west Europe than in eastern or southern Europe.

2. Evaluate and compare the role of both **monetary and real forces** in determining the behaviour of long-term aggregate price-movements, inflationary and deflationary, in the European economy from the 13th to early 18th centuries. If you wish, you may focus your answer on two of the following eras (preferably contiguous):
 - a) The 'long thirteenth century', ca. 1180 - ca. 1320
 - b) The 'Great Depression' of the late Middle Ages (14th and 15th centuries)
 - c) The Price Revolution era, ca. 1520 - ca. 1640
 - d) The 'General Crisis' era of the 17th-18th centuries, ca. 1640 - ca. 1740

3. Analyse the causes and the major consequences, economic and social, of the spread of serfdom into eastern Europe from the 14th to the 18th centuries, in terms of (a) commercial models, (b) demographic models, (c) institutional models, (d) Hobsbawm's Marxist model for the so-called 'General Crisis' of the 17th century, discussing the strengths and weaknesses of each model. In particular, to what extent was Hobsbawm justified in contending that this spread of serfdom produced a serious and general 'crisis' in 'eastern' markets, by the 17th century?

4. Compare and contrast the social, institutional, and legal aspects of the declines of serfdom in England, Flanders, and France from the 13th to 15th centuries, explaining why, as possible consequences of those differences, the English peasantry (copyholders) were more likely to fall victim to Enclosures in England than were peasants in the other two regions, or indeed more so than anywhere else in Western Europe, from the 15th through the 17th centuries.

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5. Discuss the economic impact or consequences of the ‘Tudor-Stuart’ Enclosures, over the period c.1460 to c.1720, upon both the agricultural and industrial sectors of the economy, interpreting those changes, including the Enclosure movements themselves, in terms of (a) demographic changes, (b) commercial changes (changes in markets, etc.), and (c) monetary and price changes, i.e. changes in both relative prices and in aggregate price movements. In your answer, or in the conclusion, discuss the particular relevance of these changes for the current ‘Proto-Industrialization’ debate on the relationships between agrarian, demographic, and industrial changes in this period.
6. The role of socio-political institutions: Discuss the impact of both Church and State – feudal monarchies, principalities, republics, and national states – upon European economic development from the late 13th to 17th centuries, in terms of some of the following: (a) the impact of warfare and war-related policies; (b) fiscal, monetary, and commercial policies, both before and during the era of ‘Mercantilism; and, in particular (c) monetary philosophies, with particular relevance to the evolution of European commercial-financial institutions and of Mercantilist policies.
7. Explain the *nexus* between European commerce and finance, and why those who dominated long-distance trade also tended to dominate European financial and banking institutions, from the late 13th to 18th centuries, focusing in particular, and in chronological order, on (a) the Italians, (b) the South Germans, (c) the Dutch, and (d) the English.
8. Analyse the changing patterns of Mediterranean-based trade, and the changing patterns of overland and maritime trading routes in conducting that commerce, from the 13th to 18th centuries, discussing in particular the various roles played by: (a) the Italian maritime republics, (b) the Iberians (Catalans, Castilians, and Portuguese), (c) the Muslim powers, and in particular the Ottoman Turks, (d) the Dutch, and (e) the English. Discuss in particular the comparative or relative advantages that each enjoyed in the exercise of sea power in conducting long-distance trade.
9. Compare and contrast the relative economic declines of Spain and Italy before and during the ‘General Crisis’ era of the 17th and early 18th centuries. To what extent were these independent phenomena, and to what extent were they integral features of that ‘General Crisis’?
10. Explain how and why the Dutch (Hollanders) gained commercial supremacy over both the Hanseatic German towns and the English during the late-medieval and early-modern eras (14th - 16th) centuries, and how and why the Dutch ultimately lost their commercial supremacy to the English by the early to mid 18th century.
11. Compare and contrast the changes that the metallurgical and textile industries underwent, in terms of technology, industrial organization, and impact on European economic development, from the 15th to early 18th centuries, explaining in particular why these two sets of industries became the ‘spearheads’ of early modern industrialization and why they thus provided the industrial origins of the modern Industrial Revolution. To what extent do these industrial changes accord with Mendels’ ‘Proto-Industrialization’ thesis (or with the views of its other proponents)?
12. Discuss the importance of money, monetary, credit, and banking instruments, for both private and public finance, in European economic development from the 14th to 18th centuries. Discuss in particular the technological and institutional changes that monetary and credit instruments underwent over these four centuries. [Do not answer this question along with question 7, unless you can make the scope of your answers totally different from each other.]