

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Faculty of Arts and Science

APRIL/MAY EXAMINATIONS 2005

ECO 301Y1 Y

The Economic History of Later Medieval and Early Modern Europe, 1250 - 1750

**Aids Allowed: one letter-sized sheet, double-sided (21.5 cm by 27.5 cm),
containing any data or information that the student wishes to supply.**

Duration - 3 Hours

Answer any **THREE** of the following **twelve (12)** questions, provided that they are **different** questions, spending no more than one hour on each. All questions are of equal value. You may answer questions related to your term essays. **Do not, however, give similar answers to the questions selected; and thus do not select questions with similar themes, since many of the questions have overlapping topics.**

Answer every question selected IN FULL, and answer all the questions as posed. Please number your questions properly; write legibly, on one side of the page only; and double-space your answers.

1. Compare and contrast the role of biological, social, and economic factors in the cycles of demographic growth and decline, in western Europe, from the later 13th to early 18th centuries. Was population growth more a cause or a consequence of economic growth; and did population growth inevitably mean a 'Malthusian trap', with falling living standards, increased poverty, malnutrition, and mortality from famines and disease, before the modern Industrial Revolution?
2. Compare and contrast the history of manorialism and serfdom in western and eastern Europe, from the 13th to 17th centuries, explaining why serfdom declined and withered away in the West, from the later-medieval era, while it subsequently spread and expanded its geographic scope in the East. Discuss in particular the validity of various commercial, demographic and institutional models in explaining these changes in western and eastern serfdom, and thus their importance in European economic history – indeed, to modern times..
3. Compare and contrast the nature, forms, and roles of economic crises in explaining the evolution of the European economy during the so-called 'Great Depression' era of the 14th and 15th centuries, and of the so-called 'General Crisis' era of the later 17th and early 18th centuries. Are these terms – 'Great Depression' and 'General Crisis' – historically relevant for either (or both) eras?
4. Analyse the role of warfare and of warfare-related government economic policies in the evolution of the European economy from the late-medieval 'Great Depression' era to the early-modern 'Age of Mercantilism'. [Do not answer both questions 3 and 4].
5. Compare and contrast the role of money and monetary changes in explaining the evolution of the European economy during at least two of the following eras: the late-medieval 'Great Depression' era; the 'Price Revolution' era (c. 1520-c.1640), the 'General Crisis' era (ca. 1640- ca. 1750). In particular, to what extent were long-term, sustained changes in the price level – in terms of inflation and deflation – primarily monetary or 'real' in nature; and to what extent did such movements of the price-level behave like a 'seismograph that not only measures economic tremors but sometimes brings them about'?
6. On money, banking, and financial institutions in the evolution of the European economy: **a or b**

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- (a) Compare and contrast the role that European philosophies on money, and its role in the economy – emanating from Church, State and popular opinion – had on the development of banking and financial institutions, from medieval to early-modern times. **OR:**
- (b) Compare and contrast the roles that the Italians, South Germans, Dutch, and the English played in the development of banking and financial institutions. Compare and contrast as well the role that these institutions played in their respective economies.
7. Analyse and explain both the **causes and the consequences, economic and social**, of enclosures in Tudor-Stuart and early-modern England. In terms of causes, explain why English landlords found it so much easier to implement enclosures than did landlords in any other European region, in the context of the economic, social, legal, and institutional ingredients of what enclosures displaced: manorial common-field peasant farming. In your comparisons, discuss briefly the agrarian history of at least one other country (e.g., France, Italy, eastern Germany and Poland). In terms of consequences, discuss the role of enclosures in promoting English economic growth: were enclosures necessary for agrarian and economic advancement?
8. Why did most (if not all) European economies in which livestock played a predominant role in their agricultures achieve a greater degree of economic advancement than those in which the role of livestock was relatively minor (from the 13th to 18th centuries)? How did the effective use of livestock contribute to greater agricultural productivity; and how did that in turn promote economic growth? [Note: make clear how and why livestock were effectively employed in these economies. Do not do both questions 7 & 8, or 8 & 9, unless you can make them distinctly different.]
9. In the context of the ongoing ‘proto-industrialization’ debate, discuss the role of rural industries, especially textiles, in the development of the European but especially the English economy during the late-medieval and early-modern eras. Answer the following questions:
- (a) why did so many textile industries that had been predominantly urban in medieval Europe become largely (if not entirely) rural during the early-modern era? Thus, compare the economics of industrial locations in both eras.
- (b) how and why did England gain primacy in both producing and marketing woollen textiles?
- (c) was Franklin Mendels justified in asserting that that the ‘rapid growth of traditionally organized but market-oriented, principally rural industry ... induced the passage to modern industry’ and ‘paved the way for factory industrialization’?
10. Were the ‘economic declines’ of Iberia (Spain & Portugal), and Italy aspects of the more ‘General Crisis’ of the 17th century – or independent phenomena? In your answer, explain briefly the debate about the 17th century ‘General Crisis’, and then compare and contrast the changing economic fortunes of Iberia and Italy with those of England and the Dutch Republic during from the later 16th to early 18th centuries.
11. Compare and contrast the role of maritime trade and sea-power in the following three regions, in the economic development of later-medieval and early modern Europe: the Mediterranean, the Baltic, and the Atlantic regions. Why did the third region provide the origins of European imperialism? [Do not answer both questions 10 and 11, unless you can make them distinctly different].
12. On the origins of industrial capitalism in early-modern Europe. Compare and contrast the roles of innovation – in terms of both industrial technology and industrial organization – in the development of at least three of the following industries during this period: mining, metallurgy, ship-building, textiles, fuel-based manufacturing industries. What constituted ‘industrial capitalism’ in this era; and did any such changes justify the term ‘industrial revolution’?