

Economics 303Y:

The Economic History of Modern Europe to 1914

Mid Year Test: January 2000

Answer **one** of the following eleven questions, avoiding any topics related to your term essays, for either term, in about 1500-1800 words, or about 7 pages in typed form, and no more than 10 pages, using double-spacing with 11- or 12-point fonts. Put your **name** (printed), **student number**, and the **question number** at the top of the first page or on the title page of your paper. **Make sure that you clearly identify the question being answered, providing both the title and the question number.** Please note that the topic of your first term essay has been recorded, along with your grade.

**Your take-home exam is due on Tuesday, 11 January 2000, with no extensions permitted. If you do not submit the exam by this date, you must instead do another and more formal term essay, which will be due on the last day of classes in April 2000. Nevertheless, you should attempt to do this take-home exam, as a relatively painless rehearsal for the final examination; for all of the questions on this take-home exam use the same format as that on the final exam, and I alone mark this take-home test. Try to compress your answer into one hour's worth of writing.**

Please prepare your answer on a word-processor or a typewriter. If you must handwrite your essay, write or print your answer legibly, using double-spacing, in no more than 12 pages; and write on ONE side of the page only. Illegible answers will be returned unread for rewriting.

The answer submitted must be *uniquely* your own work. Similar answers that appear to be the result of collaboration with other students will be returned with a zero grade, which may be appealed only with convincing evidence to the contrary. Beware also the other pitfalls of **plagiarism**: copying or transcribing with minimal changes the work of another.

**Your answer should not be a mere repetition of lecture notes and must show some evidence that you have read some of the recommended texts, books, essays, or articles for this course (on the reading lists to the major topics, especially). Footnotes and bibliography are not, however, required, though you may, if you wish, place the names of authors used in parentheses (with publication dates) within the text.**

QUESTIONS:

1. Analyse the causes, both endogenous and exogenous, of the so-called 'economic decline of the Netherlands' in the 18<sup>th</sup> century; and the extent to which: (a) the British contributed to their economic decline, from the 1660s; and (b) their economic decline was absolute or relative.
2. Why, according to so-many economic historians was the century ca. 1640 - ca. 1740 (or to 1760) both the 'Golden Age of Mercantilism' and an era of 'General Crisis'? Furthermore, why were the British much more 'mercantilist' in their economic policies than were the Dutch (the United Republic of the Seven Provinces)? Whose economic policies, especially in the sphere of international trade' proved to be more conducive to successful economic development and industrialization, in the long run, i.e. by the eve of the French Revolution in 1789?
3. In what several respects do the 1660s mark a significant 'turning-point' in the English economy, by commencing or establishing some of the important foundations for the 18th-century Industrial Revolution?

4. According to Eric Hobsbawm, one of the most significant aspects of the 'General Crisis of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century' was a 'crisis in Old Colonialism' whose resolution was found in the establishment of a New Colonialism, one that, in his view, helped pave the way for the modern era of industrialization. In the context of the Hobsbawm thesis, compare and contrast the colonial policies, colonial structures, and foreign trade (including colonial trade) of Great Britain and the Netherlands: i.e. which proved to be more conducive to modern industrialization, and why?
5. Was the British Industrial Revolution more of a supply-induced or demand-induced phenomenon? Did the Industrial Revolution create its own markets, capital, and labour forces; or was the Industrial Revolution more dependent for its origins on external, exogenous, and especially demand-driven forces? Discuss in terms of the major industries that did undergo a 'revolution' during the later 18th or early to mid 19th centuries, in particular explaining how they acquired their capital and labour supplies.
6. Analyse the changing fortunes of labour, particularly in terms of real incomes and living standards or living conditions, in England/Great Britain, from the 1660s to the 1850s. Explain in particular why and how a greater proportion of British society came to live from wage incomes alone by the 1850s. Furthermore: did the onset of industrialization in Great Britain lead to a fall in living standards of the so-called 'working classes,' as much of the Marxist economic history literature contends? *If you agree*, explain when, how, and why their real incomes subsequently did rise in the course of the 19th century.
7. Compare and contrast the *social consequences* – especially in terms of real-income changes, living standards, social and economic mobility, impacts on family structures, etc. – of the so-called Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions in Great Britain, from c. 1750 - c. 1830. Who gained and who lost, in these respects, from the economic and social transformations that resulted from the changes in these two sectors?
8. Analyse the principal causes and consequences, economic and social, of *demographic* changes in Great Britain (England in particular) from the 1660s to the 1830s; and discuss the extent to which the European Marriage Pattern played a significant role in these demographic changes, in terms of both fertility and mortality changes. In your view was the Industrial Revolution more a cause or a consequence of the population growth that did occur from the 1740s?
9. Analyse the principal causes and economic consequences of the major changes in England's agrarian sector from the 1660s to the 1860s, relating them in particular to the relevant demographic and industrial changes, over these two centuries. In particular, estimate, in terms of both causes and consequences, (a) the role that Enclosures played in effecting these agrarian changes; and (b) their specific contributions to modern urban industrialization.
10. Compare and contrast the role of banking and financial institutions in the Dutch, English, and Scottish economies, from the 1660s to the 1860s, and in particular the role that government institutions and government policies played in the financial sphere of their economies.
11. What were the rural, agrarian foundations of modern industry? Why were so many industries, such as the textile and metallurgical industries, predominantly rural in early-modern England (and in Europe generally); and why did they shift to predominantly urban locations during the later 18th and 19th centuries? How did such a change in location also involve a change in their industrial organization, by the 1850s?