

## ECO 303Y1: The Economic History of Modern Europe, to 1914

### Mid Year Test: January 2003

Answer **ONE** of the following **ten** questions, **while avoiding any questions related to your first term essay**. Your essays should be about 1800-2100 words, or about 6 - 7 pages in typed form (with about 300 words per page), and no more than 10 typed pages, using double-spacing with 11- or 12-point fonts. Put your **name** (printed), **student number**, **e-mail address**, 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, 14 January 2003, 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 2003. 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. Footnotes and bibliographies are not required (but you may supply in text references).

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why did the heyday, or full flowering, of the 'Age of Mercantilism', and the hegemony of the supposedly anti-Mercantilist Dutch both take place during the 'General Crisis of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century', or more particularly the period from the 1660s to the 1730s? Was there in fact any 'general crisis' – in particular one that had any bearing on the evolution of Mercantilism and the achievement of Holland's commercial-financial hegemony in this period?
2. Compare and contrast Hobsbawm's concept of New Colonialism (emerging from the 'crisis of Old Colonialism' in the 'General Crisis' era) and Ralph Davis's concept of the post-1660 'Commercial Revolution'. Why were the Dutch and the English the two leading commercial powers after 1660; and who gained the most or best exploited the opportunities provided by 'New Colonialism' or the 'Commercial Revolution' from the 1660s?
3. Explain the economic and political philosophies, policies, and practices underlying early-modern Mercantilism, in terms of the role that the state played in the economy. Whose government economic policies, and specifically which policies – mercantilist or anti-mercantilist – proved to be the most conducive to commercial-financial supremacy and economic growth, in the short-run, and in the longer run (by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century): those of England or those of Holland? Can such policies be used to explain both the 'Decline of the Netherlands' and the origins of the British 'Industrial Revolution'?
4. Explain why England (or Great Britain) had experienced a declining population in the later 17<sup>th</sup> century but then a rapid recovery and growth of population during the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries? To what extent does that population growth deserve to be called a 'demographic revolution'; and was it a contributing cause to or consequence of the 18<sup>th</sup> century 'Industrial Revolution'? Were there

(also) other social, and not purely economic causes, that would explain the ‘demographic revolution’?

5. Did England or Great Britain experience a genuine ‘agricultural revolution’ in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries – or had the agrarian changes deemed to be important begun much earlier and proved to be more evolutionary than revolutionary in nature? Whatever your answer, clearly explain the nature of the agrarian changes (in terms of land holding, economic organization, agricultural techniques and technology) and their economic contributions to the Industrial Revolution, particularly in terms of supplying industry with foodstuffs, other raw materials, labour, and capital. In discussing these agrarian changes, indicate who, within the agrarian sector, gained or lost the most: landlords, tenants, agricultural workers (proletarians), and consumers.
6. 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 in its origin on external, exogenous, and especially demand-driven forces? Discuss in terms of the primary industries that did undergo a ‘revolution’ during the later 18<sup>th</sup> or early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
7. Explain the relationship between commerce and banking, and in particular, the evolving relationship between commercial and financial supremacy, first in the Dutch economy of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and then in the British economy of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. In your answer, discuss the roles of private commercial and ‘state’ or government banking in both Holland and Great Britain, from 1660 to 1850 (in Holland, only until 1822).
8. Discuss the importance of changes in modes of transportation, by land and by sea, for the economic development of western Europe from the 1660s to the 1860s. You may focus your discussion on the Netherlands and Great Britain.
9. 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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries? How did such a change in location also involve changes in their technology, modes of production, and thus in their industrial organization, by the 1850s?
10. Why was Great Britain, rather than the Netherlands, or France, the ‘homeland’ of the modern Industrial Revolution? Discuss what you feel to have been the most important economic, social, demographic, political, institutional, and geographic factors involved; and discuss to what extent the major factors were endogenous or exogenous. Indeed, how were the ‘decline of the Netherlands’ and the beginnings of the British ‘Industrial Revolution’ related?