

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

### Mid Year Test: January 2004

Answer **one** of the following **ten** questions, **except for and excluding any question related to your first term essay**. Your essays should be about 2300 - 2650 words, or about 7-8 pages in typed form, and no more than 10 pages (with about 330 words per page), using double-spacing with 12-point font. Put your **name**, **student number**, and the **question number** at the top of the first page or on the title page of your paper. **Underline or capitalize your surname (printed)**. **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, 13 January 2004, 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 **2 April 2004**. 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 15 pages; and write on ONE side of the page only. Single-spaced or otherwise illegible answers will be returned unread for rewriting.

The answer submitted must be *uniquely* your own work. 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 for the major topics, especially). Footnotes and bibliography are not, however, required, though you may, if you wish, place the names of authors (and publication dates) in parentheses within the text.

### QUESTIONS:

1. What impact did Anglo-Dutch commercial, financial, political, and military relations have upon the development of the British economy in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries? Did the Dutch economic hegemony hinder or promote – in terms of ‘challenge and response’ – the arrival or onset of the British Industrial Revolution; and does the advent of the British Industrial Revolution fully explain the ‘economic decline’ of the Netherlands?
2. Analyse the role of international warfare and the role of the state in conducting such warfare in determining the relative economic fortunes of France, the Netherlands, and Great Britain between 1760 and 1815. In terms of the state, discuss in particular the role of naval, military, fiscal, commercial and monetary policies in conducting such warfare. Who gained and who lost – and why?
3. For the ‘origins’ of the modern British Industrial Revolution, which decade do you think was the more important in providing ‘crucial turning points’: the 1660s or the 1760s? In your answer, discuss – for both decades – the significance of changes in some or all of the following (time permitting): population and demographic structures; the agricultural sector; the commercial-and financial sectors; social and political institutions (including those related to government, science, religion, and education).
4. Discuss the possible relationships between the so-called ‘demographic’, ‘agricultural’, and ‘industrial’ revolutions in Great Britain during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
  - a) did the onset of the demographic revolution precede or follow the other two ‘revolutions’?

- b) how did population growth, directly or indirectly, promote positive changes in the agricultural and industrial sectors of the British economy?
- c) in what ways did agrarian and industrial changes – and the more general economic growth that they promoted or induced – promote population growth?
- d) how did the British economy accommodate such an unprecedented growth in population from the 1740s to 1914?
5. Compare and contrast the roles of fertility and mortality, and also the relevant roles of social institutions, such as the European Marriage Pattern, in explaining why England's population declined or remained relatively stagnant during the later 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and then why, from the 1740s, it experienced a growth unprecedented in European economic history.
  6. Analyse the costs and benefits, economic and social, of agrarian changes in England, in particular the Enclosure Movements, from the later 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, discussing in particular:
    - a) the extent to which these agrarian changes were responsible for providing urban industrialization with its greatly augmented labour supply.
    - b) other ways or in which these agrarian changes contributed to British industrialization.
    - d) the 'gainers' and the 'losers' within the agrarian sector itself: i.e., why did some gain while others lost (in terms of real incomes, social status), from these changes, from c.1760 to c.1850?
  7. What were the rural or agrarian roots of the British Industrial Revolution, particularly in the context of the current 'proto-industrialization' debate?
    - a) did the development of rural handicraft industries, as the proponents of this debate contend, help to lay the necessary foundations for the Industrial Revolution?
    - b) why was so much industrial manufacturing rural in its location before the Industrial Revolution; and thus how and why did such industrial locations become principally urban during the 19<sup>th</sup> century Industrial Revolution era?
    - c) how did such changes in industrial location also influence or require changes in industrial organization?
    - d) to what extent did urban industrialization depend upon an influx of labour from rural areas, and thus depend upon agrarian changes that liberated such labour, or increased the elasticity of the labour supply for urban industries?
  8. Compare and contrast the commercial and in particular the overseas colonial structures of the Netherlands and England (Great Britain from 1707) during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries; and explain:
    - a) why the English commercial and colonial policies were more conducive to modern industrialization than were the Dutch;
    - b) why the English were more 'mercantilist' in their commercial and colonial policies;
    - c) whether the ultimate English success in its overseas commerce was due essentially to such mercantilist policies – or to other factors, such as relative naval power.
  9. To what extent did modern industrialization, in particular the origins and development of the British Industrial Revolution, depend upon major changes in financial institutions and financial networks?
    - a) Why, therefore, did Dutch supremacy in banking and finance, with apparently superior institutions, not promote a similar 'industrial revolution' in the Netherlands?
    - b) What were the important differences among and between Dutch, English, and Scottish banking and financial institutions?
    - c) In particular, did the evolution of financial institutions in England and Scotland involve or produce defects that provided hindrances to British industrialization and economic development?
    - d) To what extent were these defects or hindrances corrected or remedied by the 1840s?
  10. Discuss the importance of changes in modes of transportation, by land and by sea, for the economic development of western Europe from the 17<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. You may focus your discussion on the Netherlands and Great Britain.