

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

Mid Year Test: January 2006

Answer **one** of the following **ten (10)** questions, **while avoiding 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**. 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.

Your take-home exam is due on Tuesday, 17 January 2006, with no extensions permitted. If you do not submit the exam by this date, you must instead do another and more formal term essay (i.e., with footnotes and annotated bibliography), which will be due on **Thursday, 6 April 2006**.

QUESTIONS:

1. 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).
2. Discuss the possible relationships between the so-called Demographic and Industrial Revolutions, answering the following questions in doing so:
 - a) Why did England's population, having stagnated during much of the later 17th and 18th centuries, begin to grow again subsequently during the 18th century: before, with, of after the onset of the Industrial Revolution?
 - b) What roles did changes in mortality, marriage patterns, and fertility play in the demographic revolution?
 - c) How did demographic growth contribute to industrialization;
 - d) how did industrialization and economic growth promote (further) demographic growth?
3. Compare and contrast the commercial and financial sectors of the Dutch and British economies from the 1660s to 1815: did the British gain comparative advantages in these two sectors that help to explain the supposed 'economic decline' of the Netherlands and the onset of the British Industrial Revolution? Or were these two separate and independent economic phenomena?
4. Warfare and the state: Analyse the role of international warfare and the role of the state in conducting such warfare in determining the relative economic fortunes of the Netherlands, Great Britain, and France 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?

5. Analyse the role of price changes – both changes in the price level (i.e., deflation and inflation) and changes in relative prices – in influencing changes in the British agricultural sector, from the 1660s to the 1860s: in terms of both agricultural technology and agricultural organization. Include a discussion of the following issues, as well, in your answer:
 - a) was there an actual ‘agricultural revolution’: and if so, when did it take place – in the 17th, the 18th, or 19th centuries?
 - b) what contributions did these changes in the agrarian sector make to British economic growth?
 - c) did increased productivity and output succeed in feeding all of Britain’s increasing population: if not, how did Britain succeed in more than tripling its population from 1810 to 1914?
6. The Enclosure Movement from the later 17th to 19th centuries:
 - a) How did enclosures come to displace common or open fields in English agriculture? In your answer discuss and explain the costs and benefits of each form of agriculture.
 - b) Who gained and who lost from these Enclosures (and also: when and where)?
 - c) Were enclosures a requisite institutional change for British economic growth: what were the specific contributions that are attributed to enclosures?
7. In the context of the current ‘proto-industrialization’ debate, what were the rural or agrarian roots of modern industrialization (in Great Britain)?
 - a) what contributions did rural industries make to British economic growth, from the 16th century?
 - 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 19th 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 roles of the textile and metallurgical industries in the English/British economy from the 17th to mid-19th centuries, particularly during the Industrial Revolution era, in terms of the following:
 - a) the nature of the changes in technology and their relation to changes in industrial organization.
 - b) their contributions to British economic growth: their interactions with changes in other sectors.
 - d) their contributions to British foreign trade, from the 1660s to the 1850s.
9. Discuss the importance of changes in modes of transportation, by land and by sea, for the development of the western European economy, from the 17th to early 20th centuries.
10. 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?