

Prof. John H. Munro
Department of Economics
University of Toronto

munro5@chass.utoronto.ca
john.munro@utoronto.ca
<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/>

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

Mid Year Test: Wednesday, 12 January 2011

Answer **ONE and only one** of the following **twelve** (12) questions, **provided that your choice is totally unrelated to your first term essay**. Note that the topic of your first term essay has been recorded, along with your grade. **If in doubt, choose another topic. Answer the entire question, and do so fully, as posed.** Your essays should be about 2300 - 2700 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 11 or 12-point font. Please prepare your answer on a word-processor (computer). 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. **Underline or capitalize your surname (printed). Make sure that you clearly identify the question being answered, by providing both the title and the question number.**

The answer submitted must be *uniquely* your own work. Your answer must not be a mere repetition of lecture notes and must show some evidence that you have read not only the lecture notes (imperative!) but also some of the recommended texts, books, essays, or articles for this course (on the reading lists for the major topics, especially). Footnotes and bibliographies are not required (but you may supply in-text references; or a brief list of references at the end).

Your take-home exam is due on Wednesday, 19 January 2011, with no extensions permitted. If you do not submit the exam by this date, you must instead do another and more formal term essay (with footnotes and annotated bibliography), which will be due on **Friday, 1 April 2011**.

QUESTIONS: note that all of the first-term A list essay topics are included in these questions

1. Which decade do you think was the more important in providing 'crucial turning points' for the origins of the English/British Industrial Revolution: the 1660s or the 1760s? In your answer, discuss, for both decades, the major economic and social changes that proved to be important in explaining why Great Britain became the 'homeland' of the modern Industrial Revolution. [If your arguments are sound in proving your case, do not worry about choosing the 'wrong' decade.]
2. Was population growth a contributory cause or a consequence of the British Industrial Revolution (from ca. 1760 - ca. 1830)? In your answer, explain both the principal causes of the 'Demographic Revolution' – and why it was a 'revolution' -- and its consequences for the main sectors of the British economy in this period.
3. To what extent can the major changes in England's agrarian sector be explained by the operation of demographic forces, from the 1660s to the 1830s: first the forces of demographic decline; and then the forces of demographic growth. In particular, explain the role of population changes in influencing the changes in both relative prices (micro-economics) and changes in the price level (macro-economics: in terms of deflation and inflation). Then explain how such price changes led to or induced economic changes in the agricultural sector: in bringing about the 'Agricultural Revolution'.
4. Analyse and explain both the **causes and consequences**, economic and social, of enclosures in the

English agrarian economy, from the 1660s to the 1820s. In particular, answer these two questions: (i) did these enclosures prove to be necessary for and make possible an ‘Agricultural Revolution’; and (ii) did these enclosures help to provide the necessary labour force for British industrialization in the 19th century?

5. Explain the importance of Mercantilist policies and Mercantilist philosophies in determining the economic fortunes of England and the Netherlands, from the 1660s to the era of the American and French Revolutions: particularly in the context of Hobsbawm’s thesis on ‘New Colonialism’.
6. Analyse and compare the costs and benefits of warfare for the English/British and Dutch economies from the 17th to the early 19th centuries. To what extent can the economic decline of the Netherlands and the origins of the British Industrial Revolution be attributed to such relative ‘costs and benefits’ of international warfare?
7. What were the ‘benefits and costs’ of Mercantilism – mercantilist economic policies, practices, and philosophies – for the growth of the English/British economy from the early 17th to the late 18th centuries? What, subsequently, were the ‘benefits and costs’ for the British economy in the government’s rejection of Mercantilism and adoption of Free Trade in and from the 1840s? Which economic policies proved to be the more conducive to economic growth, in the long run?
8. Why were the cotton and iron industries the twin spearheads of the modern Industrial Revolution in Great Britain? In your answer, compare the nature and consequences of both the technological and related organizational changes that both industries underwent during the 18th and early 19th centuries: and in particular explain why the cotton industry (as a consumer goods industry) became the paradigm of pure competition, while the iron industry (as a capital goods industry) became the paradigm of oligopolistic competition.
9. Discuss the importance of wool-based textiles (woollens and worsteds) for the development of the agricultural, commercial, and industrial sectors of the English/British economy from the 17th to mid 19th centuries.
10. Why were so many English industries rural in the early-modern era (16th to 18th centuries) and why did most of them become urban-based industries in the 19th century?
11. To what extent did the English/British economy undergo a ‘Financial Revolution’ in both public and private financial institutions, from the 1660s to the 1840s? In your answer, briefly compare the performance of the British and Dutch financial institutions in explaining the economic decline of the Netherlands and the origins of the British Industrial Revolution.
12. Discuss the importance of innovations in transportation, both maritime and land-based modes of transport, for the economic development of the British economy from the 17th to the later 19th centuries: OR compare the impact of innovations in maritime transportation (shipping) in the British and Dutch economies during this period.