

Economics 303Y:

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The Economic History of Modern Europe to 1914

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Mid Year Test: January 1999

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Answer **one** of the following 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.**

**Your take-home exam is due on Tuesday, 12 January 1999, 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. Thus you certainly may choose to do another essay instead of this take-home exam. 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. Try to compress your answer into one hour's worth of writing.**

Please prepare your answer on a word-processor (using 11 or 12 point fonts) or a typewriter. If you must handwrite your essay, write or print your answer legibly, using double-spacing, in no more than 12 pages. 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 within the text.**

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Compare the economies of the Netherlands and of Great Britain (principally England) in the 18th century; and explain why Great Britain was the more likelier of the two to become the 'homeland of the modern Industrial Revolution'.
2. In the context of the ongoing debate about the 'General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century', whether or not you personally believe that the Europe experienced such a 'general crisis', explain why England fared better than most other nations in coping with and surmounting the various economic difficulties of this era: e.g. the Thirty Years War and other warfare; demographic stagnation and decline; agrarian recession; monetary contraction; commercial disruptions to major established trading patterns.
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; and to what extent, *if any*, are these 'turning points' a response to aspects of the so-called 'General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century'?

4. Compare and contrast the effects of warfare upon the English and Dutch (or French) economies from the 1660s to the end of the Napoleonic Wars, in 1815, particularly in terms of the role that the state or government agencies played in these wars. In what respects did warfare hinder economic development; and in which ways did it foster innovation and economic growth?
5. Discuss the connections between the ongoing debates about 'The General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century' and the 'Proto-Industrialization' thesis, in particular concerning crises and transformations in the agrarian sector, including rural industries as an adjunct of agriculture, in 'paving the way towards modern urban industrialization,' during the Industrial Revolution era. In other words, analyse the rural roots of modern urban industries, in the context of these two debates.
6. In the context of both the ideologies and contemporary practices of Mercantilism, during the later 17th and 18th centuries, explain why and how Britain's overseas commerce and colonial empire ultimately proved to be more conducive to modern industrialization than those of the Netherlands (or France, and/or Spain). Discuss in particular the roles of overseas colonies in these countries' economic development and in the ideologies of Mercantilism.
7. What role did money, monetary instruments (credit), and monetary forces play in West European and more especially British economic development from c. 1660 to the 1850s?
8. Analyse the major causes and consequences, both economic and social, of Enclosures in England during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Analyse in particular the economic and social gains and/or losses of each of the major participating groups in the agricultural sector, from landlords to labourers. Who undertook Enclosures, and why? What happened to agricultural lands after Enclosure? What economic and social transformations resulted from these Enclosures, up to the 1840s?
9. Analyse the relationships to be found between demographic, agrarian, and industrial changes within England, from the 1660s to the 1840s. Thus, to what extent did transformations of the agricultural sector produce demographic, industrial, and general economic growth in England during this period?
10. 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 1840s. Explain in particular why and how a greater proportion of British society came to live from wage incomes alone by the 1840s. 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 eventually rose in the 19th century.
11. Compare and contrast the role of both government and private banking-financial institutions, positive and negative, in the economic development of the Netherlands, England, and Scotland, from the 1660s to the 1840s, particularly in terms of financing modern industrialization.
12. Compare and contrast the economic transformations of the textile, metallurgical, and transportation industries in Great Britain, from the 1660s to the 1840s, especially in terms of technological innovations, industrial organization/scale, and productivity.