

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
**Faculty of Arts and Science**

**APRIL/MAY EXAMINATIONS 2008**

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

**No Aids Allowed:**

**Duration - 3 Hours**

**Answer ONE question from the FOUR questions offered in EACH of the following THREE parts, for a total of THREE questions, all of which are of EQUAL VALUE. DO NOT give similar answers to the questions selected; and thus DO NOT select questions with similar themes. Double-space your answers. Write legibly on one side of the page only; and number or identify your questions properly.**

**PART ONE:** answer **one** and only one of the following four questions.

1. According to Wrigley and Schofield: 'Before 1800 matters fell out much as Malthus had insisted they must. [But after 1800] an increase in poverty was no longer the price of an increase in numbers'. Did Western Europe continuously experience Malthusian crises, as the inevitable consequence of population growth, until after the first phase of the Industrial Revolution? If so, evaluate the role of the following factors or forces in terminating the threat of 'Malthusian crises' by the mid-19th century:
  - a) The forces of economic growth that resulted, finally, from the modern Industrial Revolution
  - b) The European 'Marriage Pattern' from the 1660s.
  - c) any other relevant economic, social, medical, or political (state) factors from the 1660s.
2. Did the 'working' and lower classes, experience a rise — or first a decline and then finally a rise — in real incomes and living standards in Great Britain, from ca. 1760 to ca. 1850? In your answer discuss the most important of the following factors that influenced changes in real wages and living standards during this era, explaining the reasons for your choices.
  - (a) population growth
  - (b) Enclosures and the labour supply for urban industrialization
  - (c) warfare and war-related fiscal and monetary policies
  - (d) inflation and then deflation
  - (e) 'capitalism' and financing the early phases of the Industrial Revolution
  - (f) social and medical changes involving nutrition, sanitation, and other health issues.
3. Discuss the role of warfare, and the financing of warfare (and defence), in both the 'Age of Mercantilism' and the era of the Industrial Revolution, from ca. 1660 to ca. 1820: and in particular discuss their consequences for English/British economic development, in terms of the financial, commercial, and industrial sectors of the economy.
4. Compare the economic and political significance of overseas colonies in these three eras: the Age of Mercantilism (17th & 18<sup>th</sup> centuries), the era of the 'Imperialism of Free Trade' (ca. 1820 - 1870), and the era of the 'New Imperialism' or 'Capitalist Imperialism' (1870 - 1914). In adopting 'Free Trade' how much of its Mercantilist past did Great Britain in fact abandon?

**PART TWO:** answer **one** and only one of the following four questions.

1. Compare the role of both demographic and agrarian changes – changes in both agricultural institutions and agricultural technology – in the agricultural and thus economic development of both

**continued on page 2/...**

England and France from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to the late 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (1660 - 1890).

2. Discuss the role of the state, in terms of both positive and negative contributions, in establishing peasant emancipation, land reforms, and agricultural growth in France, Germany, Poland, and Russia, from or during the period 1789 to 1914. To what extent did historical ‘path dependency’ prevail over state actions in terms of the agrarian changes that took place?
3. Compare the role of financial institutions, both private and public, and the role that the state played in the performance of those institutions, in the economic development of **one** of the following sets of countries, during the period so indicated, in *either* (a) or (b):
  - a) the Netherlands (the Dutch Republic), England, Scotland, and France, from ca. 1660 to 1850.
  - b) Great Britain, France, Germany, and Russia, from ca. 1830 to 1914.
4. How important were natural-resource endowments in permitting the industrialization of first Great Britain and then of other European countries from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries? In your answer discuss the experiences of Great Britain and of at least **two** continental countries: the Netherlands, France, Germany, Russia. In doing so, compare their relative success in exploiting those resources or in compensating for disadvantages in natural resource endowments.

**PART THREE:** Answer **one** and only one of the following four questions:

1. Compare the roles of entrepreneurship and business organization in the economic development of at least **two** of the following countries from ca. 1850 to 1914: Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia. In particular, what economic, social and political factors — i.e., the role of the state — influenced the scale of enterprise, and how was that scale related to entrepreneurship?
2. Analyse the role of technological change in European industrialization from ca. 1760 to 1914, with a particular focus on the following industries: textile, metallurgical, chemical, electrical. In particular compare British, French and/or German achievements in each of these industrial advances.
3. Did the British or European economy experience a ‘Great Depression’ during the period 1873-1896?
  - a) How does the performance of the British economy compare with the French and German economies in this period – and then from 1896 to 1914?
  - b) If the British economy did not experience ‘a great depression’, did it experience ‘industrial retardation’ – in comparison with other countries, and with its own past?
  - c) Did contemporaries and subsequent historians confuse deflation with depression, during the period 1873-96? What were the causes and economic consequences of this deflation?
4. Discuss the roles of international trade (Free Trade vs. Protectionism), the Gold Standard, and of capital exports in the British and continental European economies from ca. 1850 to 1914. How are the following issues related to the following debates? You may focus on just two of these issues:
  - a) the debate about economic changes and ‘globalization’ during the era of ‘Capitalist Imperialism’ (aka: ‘the New Imperialism’).
  - b) the debate about the comparative roles of domestic and foreign capital investment and of entrepreneurship in the performance of the British and German economies in this period.
  - c) the debate about the role of monetary and real factors in influencing long-term price movements of inflation and deflation: the role of gold, in particular.
  - d) the debate about the Law of Comparative Advantage in international trade.