

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Faculty of Arts and Science

APRIL/MAY EXAMINATIONS 2004

ECO 201Y1 Y

The Economic History of Later Medieval and Early Modern Europe, 1250 - 1750

Aids Allowed: one letter-sized sheet, double-sided (21.5 cm by 27.5 cm), containing any data or information that the student wishes to supply. **Duration - 3 Hours**

Answer any **THREE** of the following **twelve (12)** questions, provided that they are **different** questions, spending no more than one hour on each. All questions are of equal value. You may answer questions related to your term essays. **But do not give similar answers to the questions selected; and thus do not select questions with similar themes, since many of the questions have overlapping topics.** Do not, for example, answer two questions involving population, agriculture, the Dutch, the 'General Crisis'.

Please number your questions properly; write legibly, on one side of the page only; and double-space your answers. Answer every question selected IN FULL, and answer all the questions as posed.

1. Why did Europe's population not experience a linear pattern of sustained growth from the Commercial Revolution era of the 13th century to the eve of the Industrial Revolution in the mid 18th century? Explain the fundamental causes and consequences of demographic fluctuations – of population growth, decline, recovery, renewed growth, and then demographic stagnation – during these five centuries. In your answer, consider this question in particular: did the pre-modern demographic history of Europe follow any (so-called) Malthusian patterns?
2. What various roles did 'large domesticated animals' (aka: livestock) – horses, cattle (oxen, cows, bulls), sheep, pigs, goats – play in the economic development of Europe from the 13th to 18th centuries. What roles did they play in the gradual shift of economic power from the Mediterranean basin to north-west Europe during these centuries, in terms of regional advantages/disadvantages? Note carefully: this question does not apply to just the agrarian sector of the economy.
3. Compare and contrast the structural changes in the European economy during two so-called Phase B periods, manifesting degrees of economic 'depression' or decline, deflation, or stagnation: i.e., during the so-called 'Great Depression' era of the later Middle Ages (c. 1320 - c. 1460) and the 'General Crisis' era of the 17th century (c. 1640 - c.1740). Focus upon major macro-economic changes: in particular, those involving population, money, prices, agriculture, and international trade during these two eras, medieval and early-modern.
4. Compare and contrast the evolution and then the decline of serfdom in England, from c.1280 to c. 1550, in England, with the history of serfdom in France and the Low Countries during this period. Explain why the decline of serfdom in late-medieval, early-modern England led to or facilitated the spread of large-scale enclosures there, much more so than in France and the Low Countries.
5. Guilds and textiles: to what extent do traditional views about the role of merchant and craft guilds in the medieval economy accord with the actual history of the textile industries in at least **two** of the

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following countries, from c. 1280 to 1520: England, the Low Countries, France, Italy. In particular discuss the role and status of women in these medieval textile crafts with guild organization.

6. Did the Church, or Christian churches, in their ecclesiastical doctrines and practices (including popular preaching), hinder or promote the development of European financial capitalism: in terms of the development of credit instruments and financial institutions in both the public and private sectors, from the 13th to the 18th centuries?
7. Explain the fundamental economic causes of the long sustained inflation, from ca. 1515 to ca. 1650, during what is popularly known as the Price Revolution era. In particular examine the merits of both the monetary and demographic models that various historians have utilized to explain this phenomena. Discuss also the consequences: who gained and who lost from inflation. Did inflation promote or hinder economic growth in western Europe during this period?
8. The century 1540 - 1640 has often been called Tawney's Century. Answer either (a) or (b):
 - a) How and how successfully did Tawney interpret the effective rise of modern European capitalism in terms of his two major theses: on 'The Rise of the Gentry' and on 'Religion and the Rise of Capitalism' (i.e., his interpretation of the Weber thesis), during this very period?
 - b) What are the similarities and contrast in Tawney's theses on the origins of modern capitalism in Tudor-Stuart England, during the 16th and 17th centuries, and Hobsbawm's views on the origins of modern European capitalism, in his 'General Crisis' thesis, for the later 17th and 18th centuries?
9. Why did both the heyday of the Dutch mercantile-financial economy and of western European Mercantilism occur during the so-called 'General Crisis' era of the later 17th and early 18th centuries? What relationships you can you delineate amongst these three economic phenomena – if you think that the term 'general crisis' has any validity in referring to changes in the European economy during this period?
10. Compare and contrast the changes, in terms of technology, land use, and landholding (tenures), in English agriculture and French agriculture (i.e., both northern and southern France) from the 15th the mid 18th century. Which country experienced the greater advances in productivity and output over these centuries, and why? What role did geography, climate, factor endowments, institutions and 'path dependency' play?
11. Compare and contrast the roles that Baltic and Mediterranean commerce played in the development of the European economy from the 13th to late 17th centuries. In your answer, explain why both the Italians and the Germans eventually lost the commercial-financial supremacy that each had once enjoyed, in their respective zones, during the later-medieval era.
12. Discuss the role of technological changes (including changes in industrial organization) in the development of at least two of the following industries, from the 15th to the 18th centuries: mining, metallurgy, shipbuilding, textiles, other consumer manufactures. In your answer discuss as well the impact that these industrial changes had upon the European economy during these three centuries: was there indeed an 'early industrial revolution' to be found during the 16th and 17th centuries?