

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Faculty of Arts and Science

APRIL/MAY EXAMINATIONS 2008

ECO 301Y1 Y

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

Aids Allowed: Time-Chart of European Economic History

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. **Do not, however, give similar answers to the questions selected; and thus DO NOT SELECT QUESTIONS WITH SIMILAR THEMES, since many of the questions have overlapping topics. Answer every question selected IN FULL, and answer all the questions as posed. Number your questions; write legibly, on one side of the page only; and double-space your answers.**

1. Analyse and compare the role of biological, social, economic and any other relevant factors – both exogenous and endogenous – in explaining both population growth and population decline in later-medieval and early-modern western Europe. Consider the following questions in your answer, clearly specifying the time and the place(s) concerned in your analyses:
 - a) why were phases of population growth always followed by those of population decline before the modern Industrial Revolution: were such demographic declines generally ‘Malthusian’ in nature?
 - b) how and why did the *nature and the consequences* of demographic growth and decline in later-medieval western Europe differ from those in early-modern Europe?
 - c) Was population growth the cause or the consequence of economic growth: how, why, and in both aggregate and per capita terms?
2. Compare and contrast the evolution and changes in the institution of manorial-serfdom, and the socio-economic consequences of those changes, in at least **two** of the following countries or regions, from ca. 1250 to ca. 1650: (a) England; (b) France – north and south; (c) the Low Countries; (d) Italy; (e) Germany and eastern Europe.
3. Compare and contrast the changing fortunes of the European economy – both west and east – during the so-called late-medieval ‘Great Depression’ (ca. 1320 - ca. 1460) and the so-called ‘General Crisis’ era of the 17th and early 18th centuries (ca. 1620 - ca. 1740). In your answer, consider some or all of the following issues: but do not replicate those already considered in any other questions answered.
 - a) the nature, forms, and consequences of economic crises and recessions: did any constitute a ‘depression’ or ‘general crisis’ (however defined)?
 - b) the role of major macro-economic factors in those economic crises: population, money, and prices (changes in price levels and relative prices)
 - c) warfare and state economic policies related to warfare (of defence)
 - d) international trade: via both overland continental and maritime routes
 - e) regional differences in terms of economic gains and economic losses, in these two eras.
4. Analyse the role of guilds as positive or negative forces in the economic development of western Europe, from the 13th to the 16th centuries. In your answer, discuss and explain the following:

Continued on page 2/....

- a) the differences between mercantile and craft guilds
 - b) their economic and social policies: were they economically justifiable – and successful?
 - c) the ways by which guilds gained and lost their powers in later medieval and early modern Europe
 - d) the role of women in such guilds, especially in craft guilds.
5. Discuss the role of religion, theology (in its various forms), and of the Church as an institution in the evolution of the European economy from the 13th to 18th centuries. How were the roles and influences of Protestant churches in early-modern Europe different from those of the Catholic Church, both medieval and early-modern, in terms of their impact on European economic development?
6. What are the origins of modern European ‘capitalism’? Discuss the historical literature on the contributions that **two** of the following debates made in explaining the rise of modern capitalism. Where relevant, discuss the debates between Marxist and non-Marxist historians on these issues. But do not choose any debates discussed in any other questions that you have answered:
- (a) The ‘Price Revolution’: the Hamilton Thesis
 - (b) The ‘Rise of the Gentry’: the Tawney Thesis
 - (c) The Weber-Tawney Thesis on ‘Protestantism and the Spirit of Capitalism’
 - (d) The ‘General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century’: the Hobsbawm Thesis
 - (e) the Nef Thesis on the ‘Early Industrial Revolution’ in Tudor-Stuart England.
7. Compare and contrast the role of agrarian socio-economic institutions and of the agricultural sector in the economic development of England and at least one other of the following countries, from the late 13th to the early 18th centuries: France, the Low Countries, Italy, Germany, eastern Europe. In your answer explain why England alone experienced enclosures on a relatively large scale from the 15th to 18th centuries: and the contributions that enclosures made to agricultural and general economic development. You should not do both this question and question no. 2, and thus risk the danger of duplications in parts of your answers (in both questions).
8. Analyse the role of both monetary and demographic factors during the Price Revolution era *and/or* the ensuing ‘General Crisis’ era, up to ca. 1740: explaining clearly the differences between causes and consequences.
9. Analyse the role of the financial sector, in terms of both private and public banking and other financial institutions, in the economic development of Europe from the 13th to the 18th centuries, with specific references to Italy, South Germany, the Low Countries, and England.
10. How did technological innovations in the industrial sector influence European economic development from the late 13th to the 18th centuries. Consider at least two of the following, for any region: (a) textiles; (b) mining and metallurgy; (c) coal-burning industries; (d) shipbuilding
11. How did the Venetians gain mastery in Mediterranean trade during the later Middle Ages; and how and why did they finally lose it by the later 17th century? How, and how successfully, did they respond to challenges from the following adversaries: the Mamluks (Egypt and Syria), Catalans, Ottoman Turks, the Portuguese, the Dutch, and the English?
12. Why were the English more ‘Mercantilist’ than the Dutch in early-modern Europe, and which was the more successful (and why) in establishing an overseas commercial empire? In your answer, be explicit in your discussion of ‘Mercantilist’ philosophies and economic policies, the influence of macro-economic factors on them, and their role in this international commercial competition.