

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

Mid Year Test: January 2002

Answer **one** of the following **twelve** questions, **except for and avoiding any related to your first term essay**. Your essays should be 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.** Please note that the topic of your first term essay has been recorded, along with your grade.

Your take-home exam is due on Tuesday, 15 January 2002, 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 2002. 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, and I alone mark this take-home test. Try to compress your answer into one hour's worth of writing.

Please prepare your answer on a word-processor or a typewriter. If you must handwrite your essay, write or print your answer legibly, using double-spacing, in no more than 12 pages; and write on ONE side of the page only. 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 for the major topics, especially). Footnotes and bibliography are not, however, required, though you may, if you wish, place the names of authors (and publication dates) in parentheses within the text.

QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the relationship between the 'economic decline' of the Netherlands and the beginnings of the British 'Industrial Revolution' during the 18th century. Focus on the following questions:
 - a) Did the earlier Dutch economic hegemony delay the onset of the British 'Industrial Revolution'?
 - b) Did the 'economic decline' of the Netherlands promote the onset of that 'Industrial Revolution'?
 - c) Did the onset of the British 'Industrial Revolution' and the development of Britain's commercial and financial sectors contribute to the 'economic decline' of the Netherlands?
 - d) Was the 'economic decline' of the Netherlands due more to exogenous or endogenous causes?
 - e) Was the 'economic decline' of the Netherlands relative or absolute?
2. Analyse the role of international warfare and the role of the state in conducting such warfare in determining the relative economic fortunes of France, the Netherlands, and Great Britain between 1760 and 1815. In terms of the state, discuss in particular the role of naval, military, fiscal, commercial and monetary policies in conducting such warfare. Who gained and who lost – and why?
3. For the 'origins' of the modern British Industrial Revolution, which decade do you think was the more important in providing 'crucial turning points': the 1660s or the 1760s? In your answer, discuss – for both decades – the significance of changes in some or all of the following (time permitting): population and demographic structures; the agricultural sector; the commercial-and financial sectors; social and political institutions (including those related to government, science, religion, and education).

4. Analyse and explain the major demographic changes that Great Britain underwent from the mid-17th to early 19th centuries: the population decline or stagnation before the mid-18th century and the ‘demographic revolution’ that ensued from the mid-18th century. Discuss both the causes and consequences, economic and social, of these demographic changes. Was this ‘demographic’ revolution a primary cause or major consequence of the Industrial Revolution?
5. What role did agriculture (the agrarian sector) play in promoting British economic growth from the 1660s to the 1850s? In your answer, discuss:
 - a) both the causes and the consequences, economic and social, of these agrarian changes, particularly those involved with the post-1750 Enclosure movement.
 - b) the role of demographic factors, as both causes and consequences of these changes
 - c) who gained and who lost from the agrarian changes, over this period
 - d) how increased agricultural productivity specifically contributed to the Industrial Revolution
6. To what extent did the urban industrialization of the modern Industrial Revolution era have rural and agrarian routes (dating back to the 17th century)? In particular, discuss to what extent:
 - a) the development of rural handicraft industries, those in particular that are the subject of the ‘Proto-Industrialization’ debate, helped lay the necessary foundations for the Industrial Revolution
 - b) industrial manufacturing had shifted – and why it shifted – from rural to urban locations by 1850
 - c) urban manufacturing drew upon rural immigration for its labour supply – and why – by 1850.
 - d) the shift from rural to urban industrial locations also involved changes in industrial organization and industrial scales, by 1850.
7. Compare and contrast the commercial and in particular the overseas colonial structures of the Netherlands and England (Great Britain from 1707) during the 17th and 18th centuries; and explain:
 - a) why the English commercial and colonial policies were more conducive to modern industrialization than were the Dutch
 - b) why the English were more ‘mercantilist’ in their commercial and colonial policies
 - c) whether the ultimate English success in its overseas commerce was due essentially to such mercantilist policies – or to other factors, such as relative naval power.
8. Compare and contrast the role of banking and financial institutions, both private and state-oriented banks, in the economic development of at least two of the following countries, from the 1660s to the mid 19th century: the Netherlands, England, and Scotland. Explain the differences and their consequences for the economic fortunes of the two or three countries chosen for your answer.
9. Analyse the changes in both industrial technology and industrial organization in the ‘Industrial Revolutions’ that cotton textile manufacturing and iron manufacturing underwent during the later 18th and 19th centuries. Compare and contrast these changes that took place in both industries, in technology and industrial organization, and the extent to which these changes were induced more by supply or by demand factors.
10. Discuss the importance of changes in modes of transportation, by land and by sea, for the economic development of western Europe from the 1660s to the 1860s. You may focus your discussion on the Netherlands and Great Britain.
11. What role did monetary factors and changes in prices – in both price levels and in relative prices – play in inducing economic changes, especially technological changes, in the English/British economy, from the 1660s to the 1860s?
12. To what extent was the British ‘Industrial Revolution’ – in terms of its technological changes in agriculture and industry – a response to Malthusian forces, and to the Law of Diminishing Returns in particular? How did these changes economize on the use of scarce resources?