

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

### Mid Year Test: January 2005

Answer **one** of the following **twelve (12)** questions, **while avoiding any question related to your first term essay**. Your essays should be about 2300 - 2650 words, or about 7-8 pages in typed form, and no more than 10 pages (with about 330 words per page), using double-spacing with 12-point font. Put your **name, student number**, and the **question number** at the top of the first page or on the title page of your paper. **Underline or capitalize your surname (printed)**. **Make sure that you clearly identify the question being answered, providing both the title and the question number**. Note that the topic of your first term essay has been recorded, along with your grade. Please prepare your answer on a word-processor or a typewriter.

The answer submitted must be *uniquely* your own work. 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.

**Your take-home exam is due on Tuesday, 11 January 2005, with no extensions permitted.** If you do not submit the exam by this date, you must instead do another and more formal term essay (i.e., with footnotes and annotated bibliography), which will be due on **Friday, 1 April 2005**.

### QUESTIONS:

1. The Hobsbawm thesis: to what extent did the European economy experience a 'general crisis' during the 17<sup>th</sup> century (or from ca. 1620 to ca. 1750), and one that 'paved the way' or provided essential foundations for the subsequent Industrial Revolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> century?
  - a) If you agree that there were such crises, do you also agree with Hobsbawm that the 'general crisis' produced its own solutions, solutions that proved to be the most effective in England, i.e., to explain why England was 'homeland of the Industrial Revolution'?
  - b) Whether or not you agree with Hobsbawm, how and why can one still argue that the true turning points to explain the origins of the Industrial Revolution are better found in and from the 1660s than in the 1760s?
2. Why is the period from ca. 1620 to ca. 1760 considered to be the 'hey-day' of western European Mercantilism? Since most of this period encompasses the so-called General Crisis era (in terms of the Hobsbawm thesis), what relationships can you find between mercantilist policies or economic philosophies and the economic circumstances of the General Crisis era?
3. Discuss the mercantilist thesis that 'Foreign Trade is the only means to enrich this Kingdom.' [Roger Coke, *A Discourse of Trade*, 1670]. To what extent did foreign trade enrich both the Netherlands (Dutch Republic) and England, from ca. 1620 to ca. 1760? In your answer, explain why the English became much more 'mercantilist' than the Dutch in foreign trade.
4. Was the economic decline of the Netherlands in the 18<sup>th</sup> century due to more to endogenous or to exogenous factors? Is there any relationship between the economic decline of the Netherlands and

the advent of the Industrial Revolution in the 18<sup>th</sup> century? Did one influence the other?

5. Discuss the economic and social interrelationships between the ‘Demographic’ and ‘Industrial Revolutions’ of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Did demographic growth promote economic growth and industrialization? And did it do so with, or without, the consequences that Malthus had predicted – as at least a possibility, without the intervention of ‘providential’ and/or ‘prudential’ checks to population growth?
6. Analyse the impact of demographic changes upon the agricultural sector in England from the 1660s to the 1870s: in terms of technological changes and changes in land use and land-holding, especially in terms of landlord-tenant relationships. Was there ever, over this long period, a genuine ‘Agricultural Revolution’? If so, explain when, where, how, and why it occurred, and with what consequences: economic and social.
7. Discuss and explain both the causes and consequences of enclosures in England, economic and social, from the 1660s to the 1830s. Were enclosures really necessary to increase agricultural productivity and to promote economic growth in general? Who gained and who lost from the English enclosure movements?
8. Was the British Industrial Revolution more of a supply-induced or demand-induced phenomenon? Did the Industrial Revolution create its own markets, capital, and labour forces? Or was the Industrial Revolution more dependent in its origin on external, exogenous, and especially demand-driven forces? Discuss in terms of the primary industries that did undergo a ‘revolution’ during the later 18<sup>th</sup> or early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
9. Compare and contrast the role of financial institutions in the economic development of the Netherlands (Dutch Republic), England, and Scotland, from the 1660s to the 1870s. [You need not continue your analysis of Dutch institutions past the French Revolution]. What were the most important strengths and weaknesses of these institutions in each of these three countries?
10. Compare and contrast the roles of the textile and metallurgical industries in the economic development of Great Britain from the later 17<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century: in terms particularly of technological changes, industrial location and organization, and market developments (domestic and foreign). To what extent did each undergo a genuine ‘industrial revolution’ during this long period?
11. Discuss the importance of changes in modes of transportation, by land and by sea, for the economic development of the Netherlands (17<sup>th</sup> to late 18<sup>th</sup> centuries) and Great Britain (17<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries).
12. Discuss the role of the state – in particular, government commercial, fiscal-financial, and monetary policies – in the economic development of England, and then of Great Britain (from 1707), from the 1660s to the 1840s. Discuss both the costs and benefits of these government economic policies. [Note: since Free Trade is chiefly a second term topic – the first topic of the second term – you need not cover any aspects not treated in first-term lectures.]