

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

Mid Year Test: 10 January 2007

Answer **one** of the following **ten (10)** questions, **while avoiding any question related to your first term essay. If in any doubt, chose another question. Be sure to answer the entire question, and as posed.** 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.** 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, 16 January 2007, 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, 6 April 2007.**

QUESTIONS: the first six questions are based on the A-List Essay Topics.

1. Did western Europe experience a 'General Crisis', at least in its economy during the 17th century, or more particularly from the period ca. 1620 - ca. 1740? In your answer consider the following:
 - a) what is the economic evidence for at least periodic crises: in foreign trade, in agriculture, in demography, in the behaviour of prices (inflation and deflation)?
 - b) In Hobsbawm's Marxist-oriented 'General Crisis' thesis, he analysed the nature of crises and their resolution in four areas: the crisis of 'feudal capitalism', the 'crisis in the home markets', the 'crisis in eastern markets' and the crisis in foreign markets: i.e. the crisis of Old Colonialism and its resolution in New Colonialism.' Which of these has the greater claim to validity? [Select one only]
 - c) In Hobsbawm's view, the General Crisis prepared the way for the Industrial Revolution: how, in his view; and if you agree, in your own view?
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 and political circumstances of the General Crisis era?
3. According to the English mercantilist, Roger Coke [*A Discourse of Trade*, 1670]. 'Foreign Trade is the only means to enrich this Kingdom.' Comment on his statement, explaining:
 - a) Why did foreign trade provide the essential essence of at least English mercantilism: what were the perceived mercantilist goals to be achieved by foreign trade?
 - b) To what extent did foreign trade enrich both the Netherlands (Dutch Republic) and England, from ca. 1620 to ca. 1760?
 - c) Why did the English become much more 'mercantilist' than the Dutch in foreign trade, and overseas colonialism?
4. What are the economic relationships between the economic decline of the Netherlands and the

- coming of the British Industrial Revolution in the 18th century? In your answer, discuss the following issues:
- a) did the British Industrial Revolution, or the processes and changes leading up to that Revolution, 'cause' or at least influence the economic decline of the Netherlands?
 - b) conversely, did the economic decline of the Netherlands facilitate Britain's success in achieving the Industrial Revolution?
 - c) Whose successes in overseas trade and colonialism proved to be the more conducive to modern industrialization: how and why?
 - d) In conclusion, was the economic decline of the Netherlands due more to endogenous (internal) or exogenous (external and accidental) factors?
5. British Population Growth in the 18th century: a cause or consequence of the Industrial Revolution? In your answer consider the following:
- a) if economic growth promoted demographic growth, explain how and why.
 - b) if demographic growth promoted economic growth and industrialization, explain how and why.
 - c) Which were the more important in the Demographic Revolution: fertility or mortality factors?
 - d) What role did the development of a European Marriage Pattern play?
6. The British 'Agricultural Revolution', the Enclosure Movements, and the Labour Supply for the British Industrial Revolution: Explain the interrelationships, in terms of the following:
- a) Was there an 'Agricultural Revolution' – and when and how did it take place?
 - b) Were Enclosures a necessary ingredient of this Agricultural Revolution: explain how and why the Enclosure movement was changed and completed between 1750 and 1820, in terms of the causes, the institutional and technical changes, and their consequences.
 - c) Which was the more important in supplying the labour force for urban industrialization after 1820: the Enclosure movements or the Demographic Revolution?
7. 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?
8. Compare and contrast the Industrial Revolutions, and their interrelationship, in steam power, metallurgy, and cotton textiles: in terms especially of changes in industrial technology, industrial organization, and their impact on both the domestic economy and British foreign trade (to 1850).
9. Discuss the nature and economic impact of the three Transportation Revolutions in the British Economy, from 1760 to 1914.
10. Why was Great Britain, rather than the Netherlands, or France, the 'homeland' of the modern Industrial Revolution? Discuss what you consider to have been the most important economic, social, demographic, political, institutional, and geographic factors involved; and also:
- a) the extent to which the major factors were endogenous or exogenous.
 - b) whether the crucial turning point was the 1660s or the 1760s.