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

Mid Year Test: Tuesday, 8 January 2008

Answer **ONE and only one** of the following **ten** (10) questions, **provided that your choice is totally unrelated to your first term essay**. Note that the topic of your first term essay has been recorded, along with your grade. **If in doubt, choose another topic. Answer the entire question, and do so fully 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 11 or 12-point font. Please prepare your answer on a word-processor or a typewriter; or contact me if you cannot do so. Put your **name** (printed), **student number**, **e-mail address**, 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.**

The answer submitted must be *uniquely* your own work. Your answer must not be a mere repetition of lecture notes and must show some evidence that you have read not only the lecture notes (imperative!) but also some of the recommended texts, books, essays, or articles for this course (on the reading lists for the major topics, especially). Footnotes and bibliographies are not required (but you may supply in-text references; or a brief list of references at the end).

Your take-home exam is due on Tuesday, 15 January 2008, with no extensions permitted. If you do not submit the exam by this date, you must instead do another and more formal term essay (with footnotes and annotated bibliography), which will be due on **Friday, 4 April 2008**.

QUESTIONS: note that all of the first-term A list essay topics are included in these questions

1. Was the 18th-century Demographic Revolution, in Great Britain, a primary cause or a major consequence of the 'Industrial Revolution'? In your answer, analyse the interrelationships between demographic forces – both those pertaining to fertility and to mortality – and other economic and social forces that led to the Industrial Revolution, from the late 17th to early 19th centuries.
2. Analyse the economic and social interrelationships between **demographic and agrarian** changes in the English economy, from the 1660s to the 1820s. In your answer, discuss in particular the impact of demographic forces upon changes in relative prices, and (with monetary factors), changes in the price levels (deflation and inflation); and the role that such price changes played in influencing the nature and consequences of technological and institutional (organizational) changes in the agrarian sector. Did those changes produce a genuine 'Agricultural Revolution' during this period?
3. Analyse and explain both the **causes and consequences**, economic and social, of enclosures in the English agrarian economy, from the 1660s to the 1820s, and in particular answer this question: did these enclosures help to provide the necessary labour force for British industrialization in the 19th century? Or were demographic forces chiefly responsible for providing that growing labour force?
4. Analyse and explain the economic, intellectual, political, and administrative (i.e., the state) natures of western European and especially English 'Mercantilism', from the mid-17th to the mid-19th

centuries: in particular its costs and benefits for the English/British economy during this period. If England and then Great Britain benefited from mercantilist policies, why and how did Great Britain jettison Mercantilism to adopt Free Trade, from the 1840s?

5. Analyse the role of international warfare and the role of the state in conducting such warfare in determining the relative economic fortunes of at least two of the following countries, between ca. 1660 and 1815: England/Great Britain, France, and the Netherlands (Dutch Republic) 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?
6. Were the views of the British Classical School of Economics (aka: the Manchester School) on Free Trade and Laissez-Faire economically and intellectually compatible with the processes and consequences of British colonialism and Imperialism in the 19th century? Be sure to define clearly all these concepts.
7. In considering 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): especially social and political institutions (including those related to government, science, religion, and education); population and demographic structures; the agricultural sector; the commercial-and financial sectors.
8. Compare and contrast the roles of the textile and metallurgical industries in the economic development of England/Great Britain from the later 17th century to the mid-19th 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?
9. Compare and contrast the role of banks and other financial institutions, in both the private and public sectors, in the economic development of England, Scotland, and the Dutch Republic, from the 1660s to the 1870s (to 1815, only, for the Dutch Republic). What were the most important strengths and weaknesses of these institutions in each of these three countries?
10. Discuss the importance of changes in modes of both maritime and overland transportation for the economic development of western Europe from the 17th to the early 20th centuries, especially with the post-1820 application of steam power. You may focus your discussion on the Netherlands (Dutch Republic) and Great Britain.