

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Faculty of Arts and Science

APRIL EXAMINATIONS 2013

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

No Examination Aids Allowed.

Duration - 3 Hours

Answer ONE question from the FOUR questions offered in EACH of the following THREE parts, for a total of THREE questions, all of which are of EQUAL VALUE. DO NOT select questions with similar themes, and thus do not provide similar answers. Double-space your answers.

PART ONE: answer **one** and only one of the following four questions.

1. Compare and contrast the demographic experiences of Great Britain and France in the 18th and 19th centuries, clearly explaining why (a) Britain's population grew so much more rapidly than did France's population, from 1740 to 1914; and why (b) population growth proved to be a far more positive stimulus to agricultural, industrial, and general economic growth in Great Britain than in France during this period. How did both escape the 'Malthusian Trap' of population growth?
2. Compare and contrast the role of religion, religious beliefs, and religious networks in Great Britain, especially in terms of entrepreneurship, with the similar role of religion in France or in some other European country (one or more), from the late 17th to the early 20th centuries. Discuss the negative as well as the positive roles of religion in economic development during this era.
3. Compare the benefits and costs of the commercial and overseas colonial policies of both Great Britain, and the Netherlands (Dutch Republic) in the early-modern era. Then briefly explain: (a) why Great Britain came to jettison its Mercantilist policies to champion Free Trade in and from the 1840s; (b) why the economic consequences of doing so were positive or negative for Britain, up to 1914; and (c) why Britain's 'Imperialism of Free Trade' is a contradiction of the doctrines of 19th century Liberalism and of the Classical School of Economics.
4. What relationships can be found between these two seemingly related economic phenomena: the 'economic decline' of the Netherlands and the 'origins' and rise of the British Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, especially from the 1760s? To what extent were they independent phenomena, and to what extent was each dependent on separate endogenous and/or exogenous factors?

PART TWO: answer **one** and only one of the following four questions.

1. Compare and contrast the economic and social consequences of the so-called Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions, in Great Britain, from the 1760s to the 1860s. In particular, explain:
 - a) the interrelationships between the industrial and agricultural changes and their consequences.
 - b) changes in real wages and standards of living: who gained and who lost in this era?
 - c) the role of the following in influencing those changes – especially those in living standards: population growth; money and prices; warfare, including war-financing (public finances).
2. Discuss the economic and social 'costs and benefits' of both the Common or Open Field systems, and of Enclosures in northern Europe; and explain why both were found chiefly in northern Europe,

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in the early-modern era. Then explain why enclosures came to displace common fields in almost all of northern Europe by 1914. In your answer specify the experiences of at least **two** countries: England, France, Germany, Russia.

3. Analyse and compare the role of the state (national governments), and of state economic policies, for at least **two** continental European countries (e.g., France, Germany, and Russia) from ca. 1789 to 1914, concerning at least **two** of the following sets of economic policies:
 - a) agrarian policies: ‘peasant emancipation’ and land reform
 - b) national unification and market integration policies
 - c) foreign trade and tariff policies, for both industry and agriculture
 - d) transportation policies, for domestic and foreign trade
 - e) banking and financial policies

4. Analyse the roles of, and the relationship between, the state and of financial institutions in the context of the Gerschenkron thesis, in the industrialization of the following countries from the French Revolution to World War I: France, Germany, and Russia. Why was this alliance the most effective in Germany, and why was German industrialization the most successful of the three?

OR: discuss the roles, positive and negative, of banking and financial institutions, private and public, in the industrialization and economic development of TWO of the following countries, from ca. 1760 to 1914: Great Britain, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Russia.

PART THREE: Answer **one** and only one of the following four questions:

1. Compare the roles of the following industries in the industrialization of Europe from the 1840s to 1914: textiles, metallurgy (coal, iron, and steel), chemical, and electrical. Cite the experience of at least two European countries during this period: e.g., Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia.

2. During the period 1870 to 1914, did Great Britain experience ‘industrial retardation’, or relative economic decline, in comparison with current German and French industrialization? Explain the national differences in industrial performances, focusing on industrial scale, business organization, entrepreneurship, technological innovations, and product innovations (i.e., in capital and consumer goods). In what aspects of the economy did the British economy still remain ‘supreme’, or rank first, in comparison with all European countries in 1914?

3. Did the adoption and maintenance of the international gold standard lead to national economic growth and international economic development from the 1860s to 1914? Explain:
 - a) how the gold standard worked: and facilitated international trade and international capital flows.
 - b) how the international gold standard protected its member countries against unwanted price fluctuations – from deflation and inflation.
 - c) If so, how do you explain the international deflation of 1873-1896 and the international inflation of the ensuing era of 1896 - 1914, especially in terms of the impact that changes in world gold supplies had upon those two sets of price movements.
 - d) How and why did Great Britain benefit more than other European countries in adhering strictly to both the Gold Standard and Free Trade? Thus, did continental Protectionist policies therefore counteract or prevent the potential gains from having a gold-standard economy?

4. Compare the role of science and education in the modern industrialization of Great Britain (1760 - 1914) and Germany (1815-1914), and explain both their similarities and differences.