

Economics 301Y1

Economic History of Late-Medieval and Early-Modern Europe, 1250 - 1750

Year-End Review, April 2012

Ignore those questions (or parts of questions) involving topics not covered this year. Only those topics covered by lectures and and the A-list Essays will be examined this year. Note also that several variants of essentially the same question are given in the following list. Nevertheless, do read and study all the variants: because each question may, by its wording, offer important clues in answering other questions. These questions may reveal, or may recall to your attention, important major themes and theses advanced in this course, about the nature of modern European industrialization in its historical context. **READ ALL THE QUESTIONS WITH CARE!**

1. What are the origins of modern European 'capitalism'? Discuss the historical literature on the contributions that **two** of the following made to the development of modern capitalism; and where relevant discuss the debates between Marxist and non-Marxist historians on these issues:
 - (a) The Decline and Fall of Manorialism and Serfdom
 - (b) Enclosures
 - (c) The 'Price Revolution': the Hamilton Thesis
 - (d) The 'Rise of the Gentry': the Tawney Thesis
 - (g) The Weber-Tawney Thesis on 'Protestantism and the Spirit of Capitalism'
 - (e) The 'General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century': the Hobsbawm Thesis
 - (f) Nef's 'Early Industrial Revolution' Thesis
 - (g) Mercantilism
2. In what respects did the medieval institutions of feudalism, manorialism, serfdom, and the Church provide serious impediments to European economic development from the 13th to early 16th centuries? How, why, and to what extent were these barriers overcome by the sixteenth century?
3. Explain how, when, where, and why the medieval institutions of feudalism, manorialism, and serfdom rose, flourished, and then ultimately declined in western Europe -- especially Europe between the Loire and Rhine rivers. In your answer discuss the meanings of these terms, the relationships among and the differences between these socio-economic institutions.
4. Compare and contrast the evolution and decline of manorialism and serfdom in three of the following regions or countries of medieval and early modern Europe (from c.1200 to c.1600): Italy, northern France, southern France, the Low Countries, Germany, and England.
5. Analyse the economic and social causes and consequences of the *decline* of serfdom in western Europe and of the *rise* of serfdom in eastern Europe, from the 14th to the 16th centuries. In particular discuss the validity of commercial or market-oriented, demographic, and institutional models that various historians have utilized to explain these two contrasting phenomena.
6. In what ways did the decline of serfdom in late-medieval and early-modern England facilitate the spread of enclosures, especially in the Midlands region of early Tudor England? Explain also what peculiar factors in the decline of English serfdom, especially those concerning 'freedom' and property rights, help explain why enclosures were more prevalent there than elsewhere in early-modern Europe. Was the English peasant of 1500 better off than his ancestors of 1300? If so, explain how and why.
7. Compare and contrast the evolution and the decline of serfdom in England, from c.1280 to c. 1550,

in England, with the history of serfdom in France and the Low Countries. In particular, explain why the decline of serfdom in late-medieval, early-modern England led to or facilitated the spread of large-scale enclosures there more so than in France and the Low Countries.

8. Discuss the economic benefits and costs of serfdom, for both landlords and peasants, explaining why serfdom, having reached its 'peak' in Carolingian Europe, declined from the 13th century, and was virtually extinct in the West by the 16th century, while from about that time, or earlier, serfdom began spreading into eastern Europe (east of the Elbe). Discuss in particular the validity of various commercial, demographic and institutional models – those governing relations between landlords, peasants, and governments -- in explaining these changes in western and eastern serfdom.
8. Compare and contrast the ways in which economic historians have utilized **demographic** and/or **market** models to explain the following socio-economic phenomena in European agriculture:
 - (a) the decline of serfdom in late-medieval England;
 - (b) the decline of serfdom in late-medieval continental western Europe;
 - (c) the rise of serfdom in eastern Europe from the later Middle Ages.
 What contradictions are apparent in the applications of these models? How would you reconcile those apparent contradictions or paradoxes?
9. Compare and contrast the decline of serfdom and manorialism (seigneurialism, seigniorialism) in England, the Low Countries, and France, north and south, during the 14th and 15th centuries; and explain, particularly in terms of property rights, why the changes in peasant land tenures more easily led to enclosures in England (specifically in Tudor England), than elsewhere in western Europe.
10. Compare and contrast the changing patterns of land-ownership and estate management, from the upper ranks of the aristocracy to the lower ranks of peasant 'yeoman,' in England and France from c. 1450 to c. 1750. To what extent do such changes explain differences in the productivity of each country's agrarian sector (Total Factor Productivity), and the contributions that the agrarian sector made to the economic development of each country over these three centuries?
11. How did the various regional economies of eastern Europe, east of the Elbe (Pomerania, Brandenburg, Prussia, Poland, Lithuania, Livonia-Courland, Russia, Bohemia, Hungary, etc.) differ from those of western Europe, especially in their agrarian institutions, commercial structures, and demographic histories. In particular explain the importance of those regions bordering on the Baltic Sea for the Western European economy (especially for the Low Countries and England).
12. Discuss the general significance of demographic changes for European economic development, from the 13th to the 18th centuries. Can these demographic changes be compared to a 'seismograph that not only registers earth tremors, but sometimes brings them about'?
13. Analyse the patterns of population changes in Western Europe from the fourteenth to eighteenth centuries, to the eve of the Industrial Revolution, and the role of demographic factors in European economic development, commenting on at least one of the following quotations..
 - a) 'The economy of modern Europe would never have come into existence on the basis of population decline.' (Ralph Davis)
 - b) 'Early modern historians are divided between those who equate growing population with prosperity and those who take the contrary view.' (D. M. Palliser)
 - c) 'The key to Malthusian faith continues to be the belief that population growth lowers living standards.' (Peter Lindert)

What role did the evolution of the European Marriage Pattern play in subsequently alleviating or even preventing economic problems from potential 'overpopulation'?

14. 'The movement of pre-industrial populations cannot be understood except in relation to the law of

diminishing returns.’

Discuss the validity of this statement in analysing the major trends in the West European economy from the Black Death to the eve of the Industrial Revolution inclusive, including demographic trends, trends in economic growth and development, and trends in West European living standards.

15. Analyse the chief causes, endogenous and exogenous, and the consequences, economic and social, of **demographic** changes in the European economy, from c.1290 to c.1520. In particular:
 - (a) did western Europe ever experience a Malthusian crisis during this later medieval era?
 - (b) If so, how, when, where, and why were Malthusian pressures ‘relieved’?
 - (c) How did these demographic changes affect real incomes and living standards; and how did they in turn affect the future course of demographic changes in western Europe?
16. Why did the population of western Europe generally cease to grow from the early to mid-14th century? Did western Europe then experience a Malthusian crisis, from endogenous forces; or were the late-medieval demographic crises more exogenous in nature? In your answer explain when, where, and why the era of demographic crises finally ended, to be followed by renewed population growth.
17. Discuss the role of famine, disease, and warfare, in relation to other key economic factors, in determining or strongly influencing the cycles of demographic growth and decline in the western European economy, from the mid 13th to mid-18th centuries (c.1250 - c.1750). In your view, was population growth the cause or consequence of economic growth; and did population growth inevitably meant a decline in real incomes, and thus an increase in malnutrition, disease, and mortality (and declining fertility): i.e., a Malthusian trap?
17. Explain the causes and consequences, economic and social, of the demographic catastrophes and the ensuing population decline that afflicted Europe during the later Middle Ages, from c. 1290 to ca. 1520. In particular, were the causes of population decline and of the subsequent recovery *endogenous* or *exogenous* to the European economy?
18. Analyse both the causes and/or the consequences, economic and social, of population growth in western Europe from the 15th to 17th centuries. In your answer consider at least two of the following (sub)questions:
 - (a) Did western Europe experience a ‘Malthusian Crisis’ in this period? Did the west European economy experience population pressures as severe as those of the late 13th century?
 - (b) Who gained and who lost from the consequences of population growth: what social and economic groups or social strata?
 - (c) To what extent did demographic changes promote or encourage structural changes or innovations in both agriculture and industry, in western Europe?
19. Discuss and analyse the major secular swings in price-levels in western Europe, from c.1290 to c.1520 -- i.e. the periodic inflations and deflations -- in terms of both **monetary and real factors**, analysing their roles as active and/or passive agents. In your answer, discuss both the causes and the economic consequences of those secular price changes. [N.B. ‘secular’ means long-term, and is related to the French word for a century: siècle]
20. Analyse and compare the significance of **either monetary or demographic forces** in the changes that European economy underwent during any two of the following eras: (a) the late-medieval ‘Great Depression’ (1320-1520); (b) the ‘Price Revolution’ (1520 - 1640); (c) the ‘Seventeenth-century General Crisis’ (1640 - 1740).
21. Did western Europe experience, from the 1290s, a series of international economic crises and then a genuine ‘Great Depression’, or at least an economic contraction, lasting into the 15th century? **Discuss this question in two parts.**

- (a) How general and prolonged was the 'economic contraction'? Evaluate the role of some or all of the following factors in inducing and prolonging that contraction: (i) the Black Death, demographic crises, and population decline; (ii) feudal warfare, feudal/ state fiscal and monetary policies, and disruptions to international trade; (iii) monetary crises and monetary contractions; (iv) cycles of inflation and deflation, and their impact on factor prices; (v) agrarian crises and crises in the fortunes of landowners and peasants.
- (b) how, when, where, and why did the European economy recover from this prolonged economic contraction, if not 'Great Depression'. [N.B. Do not answer both questions 1 and 2]
21. Analyse the impact of demographic forces upon the structural changes that European economy underwent during any two of the following eras: (a) the late-medieval 'Great Depression' (1320-1520); (b) the 'Price Revolution' (1520 - 1640); (c) the 'Seventeenth-century General Crisis' (1640 - 1740). How relevant are the economic theories of David Ricardo and Thomas Malthus in explaining these structural economic changes, in particular those related to agricultural prices, rents, and wages, in terms of both their causes and consequences?
 22. Discuss the validity of the two following propositions in European monetary history, in analysing secular (long-term) trends in European economic development from the 14th to the 18th centuries:
 - (a) 'No explanation of long-term changes in the price level can be given in terms of either purely monetary or purely real factors alone'.
 - (b) 'Monetary phenomena are like a peculiar seismograph that not only registers earth tremors, but sometimes brings them about'.
 23. What role did money and monetary instruments -- gold and silver coinages, bullion, and credit instruments -- play in the West European economy from the 13th to early 16th centuries; and in particular how did monetary forces interact with real factors to produce or determine long-term or 'secular' swings in the price level (as measured by the Phelps Brown and Hopkins and other consumer price indices)?
 24. Explain the role of precious metals and other monetary forces in the oscillating long-waves or cycles of inflation and deflation that the European economy experienced from the 13th to mid-18th centuries, analysing the particular but changing relationships between monetary and real factors in explaining these long-term or secular price-movements.
 25. Analyse the role of bullion, coined money, credit, financial institutions, and of monetary forces in general in the development of the European economy, from the late 12th to early 16th centuries. Did credit instruments always succeed in counteracting periodic shortages of coined money and bullion?
 26. Analyse the role of towns, in particular the urban institutions of town governments, craft and mercantile guilds, as positive and/or negative forces in the economic development of western Europe, from the 13th to 16th centuries. In your answer, explain why, for example, the role of merchant guilds differed from those of craft guilds, and why, in the latter, textile guilds differed from those of, say, butchers' guilds.
 27. What roles, positive or negative, did urban governments and urban institutions play in the economic development of western Europe from the 13th to 17th centuries? How and why did urban governments and urban institutions come to lose their economic powers and influence by the 16th and 17th centuries? In your answer, compare the experiences of at least two European principalities, regions, or countries over this period (e.g. Italy, the Low Countries, France, England).
 28. Discuss the role of technological innovations, in two or more of the major economic sectors (agriculture, industry, trade and transport, and finance), in European economic development from c.1250 to c.1520. In your analysis, try to explain both the causes and consequences of those technological innovations and their relative significance.

29. Analyse the role of woollen textiles in the economic development of one or more of the following countries during later Middle Ages (c.1280 - c.1520): Italy, the Low Countries, England, France. In your answer, demonstrate the interrelationship of textile-based changes -- the backward and forward linkages -- amongst the industrial, agricultural, and commercial sectors of the European economy.
30. Why did textiles play such a leading role in the development of the economies of the Low Countries and England, from the 13th to the 18th centuries, especially in influencing the development of their agricultural, industrial, and commercial-financial sectors; and how did England, eventually gain supremacy over the Low Countries, first in the Old Draperies, and then in the New Draperies?
31. Discuss and analyse the major structural changes in European international trade during the later Middle Ages, from c.1280 to c.1520, and the relative impact of those changes on the commercial economies of **two or more** of the following countries or regions: Italy, Germany, the Low Countries, England, and Portugal. Did those changes ever amount to a 'Great Depression'? And if so, who were the major gainers and the major losers?
32. Did the European economy, and in particular its commercial sector, and international trading networks undergo a 'Great Depression' during the later Middle Ages; and if so, did it commence before, during, or after the Black Death? In your answer, try to demonstrate the impact that demographic, agrarian, monetary, financial, and political changes -- in terms of warfare and government fiscal, commercial, and monetary policies -- had upon the structure of international trade during the 14th and 15th centuries, including both the Mediterranean and Baltic Sea regions.
33. According to many traditional 'periodizations' of European economic history, the era of the medieval 'Commercial Revolution' (c.1000 - c.1320) was followed by the era of the medieval 'Great Depression' (c.1320 - c.1470). Do such concepts or perceptions necessarily mean that the later-medieval economy experienced further or less significant innovations in the commercial and financial sectors of the economy -- i.e. in comparing those that took place before and after 1320?
34. In terms of the Van der Wee thesis, explain the economic impact, for western Europe, of the structural changes in international trade that involved overland continental and maritime routes; and in particular the role of warfare in influencing those changes, from the 13th to the 17th centuries. Thus in your answer discuss the relative advantages and disadvantages of overland trade vs. maritime trade, including technological innovations in shipping and navigation.
35. Discuss the role of money, credit instruments, and financial institutions in European economic development during the later Middle Ages (to c. 1520), providing examples of significant changes or innovations for at least two major regions or countries.
36. What changes did west European agriculture undergo from the later 13th to early 16th centuries, in terms of land tenures, field systems, crop rotations, crops and cultivation methods? In your answer, make a comparison between at least one northern and one southern country or region: England, the Low Countries, Germany, Poland, France, Italy, and Spain.
37. Discuss and explain the major changes in the agricultural sectors and agrarian institutions of at least **two** major western European countries or regions, from the late 13th to 17th centuries, explaining the differences, both in terms of causes and consequences, economic and social. In particular, for the country or region chosen, discuss the importance of any agricultural innovations for their economies during this period.
38. Explain the primacy of Italy, especially of the leading Italian city states (Genoa, Florence, Venice, Milan), in European commerce and finance during the later Middle Ages; and explain how and why they lost that economic hegemony during the early modern era.
39. Analyse the changes that occurred in the forms and patterns of commerce in the Mediterranean basin

and the Iberian peninsula, from the 13th to early 16th century, explaining in particular *both* the supremacy of Venice and the beginnings of Portuguese overseas commerce, explorations, and colonizations during the 15th and 16th centuries

40. How did the overseas trade, explorations, and colonizations of the major Atlantic powers -- Portugal, Spain, France, the Netherlands, and England -- *and* the expansion of the Turkish Ottoman Empire affect the economy of the Mediterranean basin from the later 15th to later 17th centuries; and in particular how did the Dutch and the English come to surpass Venice in international trade by the end of this period?
41. How and why did the Italians – in particular the Venetians – gain mastery in Mediterranean trade during the later Middle Ages; and how and why did they lose such mastery by the later 17th century? In your answer, discuss how, why, and with what consequences the Italians responded to challenges to their commercial hegemony from: the Mamluks, Catalans, the Ottoman Turks, the Portuguese, the French, the Dutch, and the English? You may choose to focus on just some of these.
42. Compare and contrast the major changes in the patterns of long-distance international trade in the Mediterranean basin and the Baltic-North Seas regions during the 14th, 15th, and early 16th centuries, explaining why the Italians, principally the Venetians, gained mastery in the former, and why the Dutch in the latter (i.e. the Dutch victory over both the Hanseatic Germans and the English).
43. Why were the Italians the leading financial innovators and merchant bankers of the later-medieval European economy; and how did they lose their European hegemony in banking and finances in the early modern era?
44. Compare and contrast the economies of England and the Low Countries (Flanders, Brabant, and Holland), as they had developed by c.1500.
45. Analyse the role of money and of monetary-credit instruments in explaining the price-movements and economic fluctuations in at least two or three of the following periods:
 - a) The late-medieval ‘Great Depression’, c. 1350 - 1450
 - b) The first Age of Overseas Exploration, c. 1450 - c.1550
 - c) The Sixteenth Century Price Revolution era (c.1520 - c.1640)
 - d) The General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century (c.1620 - c.1740)
46. Analyse the economic and social consequences of inflation in western Europe during the Price Revolution era (ca. 1520 - ca. 1640). Who gained and who lost from inflation? What economic sectors were particularly affected, positively or negatively, both by inflation and the changes in relative prices that accompanied that inflation? You may concentrate your discussion primarily upon England, though acknowledging its European context.
47. The Price Revolution: Analyse the causes and general consequences of inflation in Tudor-Stuart England, in particular explaining why that inflation ceased around the mid-17th century. In your answer, evaluate as well the recent contribution to the ongoing debate between those who espouse primarily demographic and those whose espouse primarily monetary causes of this inflation.
48. Discuss the relevance of monetary changes and developments in the eras of the ‘Price Revolution’ (1540-1640) and of the ‘seventeenth-century economic crisis’ (1640-1740) for the evolution of early-modern European Mercantilism, its policies and practices.
49. Compare the general structural changes in the European economy in the eras 1540-1640 and 1640-1740, explaining why the former is known as the era of the ‘Price Revolution’ and the latter as the ‘Crisis of the Seventeenth Century’.
50. Which notable economic historians have contended that the behaviour of prices during the 16th and

- 17th centuries helped determine the origins of modern European industrial capitalism? In your answer analyse the economic consequences of inflation and then of the subsequent deflation (from 1500 to 1700) in both the industrial and agricultural sectors, distinguishing carefully between changes in relative prices and changes in the price level. You may focus your discussion upon Tudor-Stuart England.
51. The century 1540 to 1640 has sometimes been called 'Tawney's Century;' but it might also be called Hamilton's Century or Nef's Century. Compare and contrast the contributions that each of these three economic historians made to our understanding of European economic development during this century, particularly in terms of their contribution to the debates about the 'Price Revolution,' the 'Rise of the Gentry,' the 'Rise of Modern Capitalism', and the 'Early-Modern Industrial Revolution,' exploring the economic interrelationships between and amongst these economic phenomena, particularly the *consequences* of these economic and social changes.
 52. Discuss critically the various theories explaining origins and spread of the Enclosure Movements in Tudor-Stuart England. Can the conflicting theories be historically reconciled?
 53. Analyse the social costs and benefits of the Tudor-Stuart Enclosures, especially in terms of their direct economic consequences. Who gained and who lost by Enclosures, during the later fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries?
 54. Discuss the relationship between and among demographic, agrarian, and industrial changes in the English economy from the 14th to the mid 18th centuries. Was population growth or population decline a more powerful force in instigating positive and productive changes in the agricultural and industrial sectors?
 55. In terms of the changes in both organization and techniques, analyse the contributions of the agricultural sector to English economic development and industrialization from ca. 1485 to 1750.
 56. Compare and contrast the changes in the agrarian sectors of any two of the following regions or countries during the later-medieval and early modern eras: England, France, the Low Countries, Italy. In your answer, discuss in particular:
 - (a) the relative importance of demographic, commercial, institutional-legal factors;
 - (b) the nature of technological changes;
 - (c) changes in land-holding and agricultural organization;
 - (d) changes in the physical composition of goods produced in the agrarian sectors;
 - (e) contributions to economic growth.
 57. Analyse the response of England's agrarian and/or industrial sectors to price changes in one of the following periods: (a) 1350 - 1550; (b) 1550 - 1750. In your answer be careful to distinguish between the effects of relative price changes and changes in the price level.
 58. Discuss the significance of textiles in the English economy -- for the agricultural, industrial, and commercial sectors -- from the 15th to 18th centuries. Does Mendels' 'proto-industrialization' model fit the English experience, to explain the origins of the modern Industrial Revolution in textile manufacturing?
 59. Discuss the significance of warfare for the European economy from the 15th to mid 18th-centuries.
 60. Compare and contrast the commercial structures of the Mediterranean and Baltic-North Sea zones during both the (a) late-medieval and (b) early-modern eras. Explain the changes in the relative importance of each commercial zone in terms of the role that each zone played in European economic development during these two eras; and explain why, by the early-modern era, Europe's economic 'centre of gravity' had shifted from the Mediterranean to the Baltic-North Sea zone.
 61. Analyse, compare, and contrast, the struggle for economic power in the Baltic-North Sea regions

during the later Middle Ages, explaining why the maritime towns of Holland-Zealand proved more successful than those of England or the German towns of the Hanseatic League in dominating that commerce by the end of the 15th century.

62. Analyse the role of transport and transportation facilities in European economic development from the 13th to 18th centuries. To what extent, over these five centuries, did European economic leadership or economic hegemonies of city-states, regions, or national states rest upon comparative advantages in transportation economics?
63. Analyse the causes, nature, and impact of technological changes -- especially in terms of industrial organization and growth -- in at least two of the following industries in later-medieval and/or early modern western Europe: (a) mining, (b) metallurgy, (c) textiles, (d) shipbuilding, (e) consumer goods (e.g. glassware, bronze wares, brewing, paper-making, soap-making).
64. Analyse the specific role of demographic forces and population change in influencing technological and organizational changes in western European agriculture and manufacturing industries, from the 13th to early 18th centuries, particular via the mechanism of *relative* price changes.
65. Analyse the causes and consequences of European overseas explorations and colonial-commercial expansion from the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries, assessing the relative importance and contributions, positive and negative, made by three of the following: Portugal, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, England, France.
66. How, when, where, and why did the Iberian powers (Portugal and Spain) inaugurate the European era of overseas expansion and colonization in Africa, Asia, and the Americas? Compare and contrast the relative fortunes of Portugal and Spain in overseas explorations and colonizations, and their impact, direct, and indirect, on European economic development, by the early 16th century.
67. In the view of some economic historians, Portugal, South Germany, and Holland were merely 'peripheral economic backwaters' during the 13th and most of the 14th centuries; and yet from the later 14th century, during the so-called 'Great Depression' these three regions achieved a remarkable economic progress, certainly in comparison with the economic fortunes of more established economic regions in Western Europe. If you agree, explain why they did so, comparing and contrasting their regional economic experiences.
68. Explain how economic changes in the economies of South Germany, England, Portugal, and changes in their foreign trade, contributed to the rise of Antwerp, displacing Bruges, as the primary entrepôt port and financial centre in the northern European economy during the 15th century.
69. Discuss the significance of the following two statements by Prof. Jan De Vries, 'On the Modernity of the Dutch Republic,' *Journal of Economic History* (1973) for understanding the nature of agrarian change and economic development in early-modern Europe:
 - a) 'One of the great themes of European economic history is the gradual erosion of feudal principles of land control and [their] replacement by unencumbered, private landownership.'
 - b) 'Livestock-raising economies are monetized economies earlier than arable economies...'
70. How and why were the Dutch able to maintain supremacy in European commerce and finance during the 17th century, and why did they lose that hegemony to Great Britain during the later 18th century? To what extent may the earlier Dutch successes have contributed to their ultimate decline?
71. Compare and contrast the foreign trade sectors of the English and Dutch economies from the 15th to early 18th centuries, especially in terms of the roles of their overseas colonial empires. Whose foreign-trade sector proved to be the more conducive to modern industrialization?
72. Compare and contrast the role of the state in the Dutch and English economies from the 15th to the

18th centuries.

73. Analyse the contributions of banking and financial institutions to European economic development from the 14th to 18th centuries, explaining in particular the roles played by the following, in roughly chronological order: (a) Florence, Venice, and the Italians; (b) Augsburg and the South Germans; (c) Antwerp; (d) Amsterdam and the Dutch; (e) London and the English.
74. Compare and contrast the role of banking and financial-business institutions in the development of the Dutch and English economies from the 16th to the late-18th centuries, with particular reference to the roles of the *Wisselbank van Amsterdam* and the Bank of England.
75. Explain why, how, and what manner the Italians -- their maritime republics in particular -- succeeded in dominating European-based international trade during the medieval era, and in developing the major commercial, business, and financial institutions of the western European economy.
76. Discuss the debates generated by Marxist and neo-Marxist historians on at least **two** of the following topics (without necessarily defending or attacking the positions discussed): (a) serfdom in the late-medieval and early-modern economies; (b) Enclosures; (c) the transition from 'feudalism to capitalism'; (d) The 'General Crisis' of the 17th Century; (e) proto-industrialization.
77. Did the European economy and society experience a 'General Crisis' during the 17th Century (or the period from ca. 1620 to ca. 1740), or merely a series of economic, social, and political crises during this period? In your answer evaluate the Hobsbawm and Trevor Roper theses, in the light of subsequent historical criticism, and in the light of your own readings in European economic, social, and political history.
78. Compare and contrast the performances of the English, Dutch, Italian, and Spanish economies during the 'general crisis' era of the 17th century. Who gained and who lost -- and why?
79. Did the English economy undergo a 'general crisis' during the 17th century? If so, did the problems of the English economy in this era fit the model espoused by Eric Hobsbawm in his general thesis about the 'General Crisis' and the 'transition from feudalism to capitalism'? Can you provide an alternative explanation for those economic problems?
80. Discuss the following statement by Eric Hobsbawm, in the light of the historical experiences of the commerce of the West European nations during the 17th and early 18th centuries: 'The major achievement of the seventeenth-century crisis is the creation of a new form of colonialism.'
81. Compare and contrast the overseas commercial and colonial empires of Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, and England, as they developed from c. 1415 to c. 1750: in particular, in the context of the Hobsbawm thesis-debate about Old and New Colonialism. Whose overseas commercial and colonial empire proved to be most conducive to modern industrialization, and why?
82. Compare and contrast the expansion of overseas commerce, and then the establishment of overseas commercial and colonial empires, of Holland and England, from c.1380 to c. 1750. In your answer discuss the validity of Hobsbawm's 'General Crisis' thesis concerning a 'crisis in Old Colonialism,' one that resolved itself in the creation of a 'New Colonialism'. In that context which overseas commercial-colonial empire established from the 1660s proved to be the more conducive to economic growth, leading to an 'industrial revolution'?
83. Compare and contrast the economic and social crises that afflicted western Europe in the 14th and 17th centuries. Do those crises justify the descriptive terms 'Late-Medieval Great Depression' for the former and/or 'General Crisis' for the latter?
84. Compare the economic roles of the Italian sea-faring city states during the so-called 'Great Depression' era (c.1340 - c.1470) with those of the Dutch seafaring towns, especially Amsterdam,

- during the so-called 'Seventeenth-Century General Crisis' era (c.1620 - c.1740). In particular how would you reconcile the evidence for their evidently growing prosperity during comparable eras of *perceived* economic crisis and relative decline?
85. Explain the following statement, and discuss its significance for both Mendel's 'proto-industrialization' thesis and Hobsbawm's thesis on 'The Crisis of the Seventeenth Century':
- ' "Putting-out" was a most effective dissolver of the traditional agrarian structure, and provided a means of rapidly increasing industrial production....'
86. 'The economic expansion of the later fifteenth and sixteenth centuries did not lead straight into the Industrial Revolution.' (Eric Hobsbawm) Why not: in Hobsbawm's view, and in yours?
87. Discuss one or more of the following statements from Hobsbawm's 'Crisis of the Seventeenth Century' (*Past and Present*, 1954):
- 'the scope of capitalist expansion will be limited by the general prevalence of the feudal structure of society...'
 - 'the expansion of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries ...therefore created its own crisis both within the home market and within the overseas market.'
 - 'If the only 'capitalist' economies available in the seventeenth century had been like the Dutch, we may doubt whether the subsequent development of industrial capitalism would have been as great or as rapid.'
 - 'The major achievement of the seventeenth-century crisis is the creation of a new form of colonialism.'
 - 'The seventeenth century crisis provided its own solution, and ... it did so in indirect and roundabout ways.'
88. Does modern European industry, and industrial urbanization in particular, have predominantly rural and agrarian roots? In the context of the current proto-industrialization debate, discuss the interrelationships between agriculture and manufacturing industries, and the specific consequences of agrarian changes for European industrial development from the 16th to 18th centuries.
89. In the context of the recent, ongoing debates concerning 'proto-industrialization,' discuss the transition from rural to urban forms of industry during the 18th and 19th centuries, explaining the following:
- why some historians have viewed 'proto-industrialization' as 'the first phase of the [modern] industrialization process.'
 - why so many forms of industry had rural locations in later-medieval and early-modern Europe: the advantages of rural locations
 - how rural industry and agriculture had been interrelated, and how those relationships were altered by the early 19th century.
 - how technological and related changes in industrial organization ultimately led to industrial urbanization, comparing and contrasting especially changes in the textile and metallurgical industries.
90. Analyse the role of textiles in the economic development of England from the 15th to the mid-18th centuries: in industry, agriculture, and foreign trade.
91. Why were so many industries, such as the textile and metallurgical industries, predominantly rural in late-medieval and early-modern Europe; and why did they shift to predominantly urban locations from the later 18th centuries?
92. How and why was England the first country to switch from a wood-based to a coal-based technology, and how successful was England in doing so before 1750? What were the industrial consequences,

and what importance did they have in establishing the foundations for the modern Industrial Revolution?

93. What was the ‘tyranny of wood and water’ in pre-Industrial Revolution Europe? How did it come to be broken in England before and during the early Industrial Revolution era?
94. Analyse the contributions that foreign trade, and foreign trade policies made to British economic development, from ca. 1450 to ca. 1750, in terms of your assessment of the following statements:
- (a) ‘Foreign Trade is the only means to enrich this Kingdom.’ Roger Coke, *A Discourse of Trade*, 1670.
- (b) ‘More exports are not to be identified with more income. Contrary to the hardy mercantilism of politicians and professors, exports are not economic growth.’ Donald McCloskey, *The Economic History of Britain Since 1700*, Vol. II (Cambridge, 1981 edn.).
95. Why did the hey-day of West European ‘mercantilism’ occur during so-called “General Crisis” era of ca. 1620 - c. 1740, an era in which the Dutch achieved the apogee of their commercial supremacy without pursuing mercantilist philosophies or policies? What possible economic relationships may be found between Mercantilist policies, the economic crises of the General Crisis era, and the concurrent Dutch commercial hegemony?
96. Why did the economic philosophy and practices of ‘Mercantilism’ achieve their most powerful and pervasive forms in western European nations during the so-called ‘General Crisis’ era of c. 1620 - c. 1740? Clearly defining these two terms, discuss the possible macro-economic inter-relationships to be found between them: in particular, were ‘mercantilist’ policies adopted in reaction to economic problems of this ‘crisis’ era; or did ‘mercantilist’ practices aggravate these economic crises?
97. Discuss the Mercantilist thesis that, apart from having gold and silver mines, foreign trade offered the only means of ‘national enrichment.’ To what extent in fact did foreign trade enrich England from ca. 1550 to 1750?
98. Discuss one (or more) of the following statements by John Maynard Keynes, from his ‘Notes on Mercantilism’ in *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* (London, 1936), chapter 23:
- a) ‘For some two hundred years both economic theorists and practical men did not doubt that there is a peculiar advantage to a country in a favourable balance of trade, and grave danger in an unfavourable balance, particularly if it results in an efflux of the precious metals. But for the past one hundred years there has been a remarkable divergence of opinion.’
- b) ‘... a preoccupation on the part of the authorities with a favourable balance of trade served both purposes; and was, furthermore, the only available means of promoting them.’ What were those two ‘purposes,’ and how did such trade policies promote them -- in the view of early-modern mercantilists, and in Keynes' view?
- c) ‘For we, the faculty of economists, prove to have been guilty of presumptuous error in treating as a puerile obsession what for centuries has been a prime object of practical statecraft.’

Explain and elaborate:

- (1) What does Keynes mean by ‘both purposes’: what were the two purposes of a ‘favourable balance’ that he discerned in the Mercantilist policies of early-modern governments; and why was such a ‘favourable balance’ the only means available of securing those objectives?
- (2) Do you agree with Keynes or with the Classical economists whom he so vigorously criticizes?

99. Why were the English more 'mercantilist' in their economic policies than the Dutch during the 17th and 18th centuries? In the light of their respective historical experiences, whose economic policies proved to be the more effective in promoting national economic development: in the short run and in the long run?
100. Why did England pursue 'mercantilist' economic policies during the 17th and 18th centuries? How successful were these policies, especially in English commercial competition with the Dutch?
101. Compare and contrast the economic declines of Italy and Spain during the 17th Century. Were those declines prominent features of the so-called 'General Crisis' or were they independent and unrelated phenomena?
102. What role did Portugal, the Netherlands, England, and Turkey play in the economic decline of Venice in the later 16th and 17th centuries?
103. Discuss the significance of religion, in particular religious beliefs, values, and ethics, for the evolution of modern capitalism and for European economic development from the 16th to the late 18th centuries. In this context, discuss the historical experience of at least two European countries, one Protestant and one Catholic, over this period.
104. Analyse the role of usury and of other Church doctrines in the evolution of western European banking & financial institutions and credit instruments, for both private mercantile finance and public finance, from the 13th to 18th centuries.
- Analyse the evolution of banking and financial institutions (with particular credit instruments) in the West European economy from the 13th to 18th centuries, assessing in particular the roles of the Italians, South Germans, Dutch, and English. In your answer discuss how innovations or developments in credit instruments and financial institutions were devised as responses to impediments from both Church and State, during this period. (If you also choose question 4, do not provide similar answers).
105. What impact did the Protestant Reformations, especially the Lutheran and Calvinist, have upon the European economy, and in particular, upon modes of economic thought and behaviour, in early modern Europe, from c. 1530 to c. 1750? In your answer compare the roles of Protestant communities in at least two European countries with other countries that remained predominantly or exclusively Roman Catholic.
106. Analyse the importance of the spice trade, and changes in European consumption of spices, from the 14th to 18th centuries.
107. Analyse and compare the relative importance of Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, North and South America to the development of the European economy from the 16th to 18th centuries.
108. Analyse the role and significance of sea power in European economic development from the 14th to 18th centuries, with specific regional or national examples.
109. Compare the changing roles of continental overland and maritime trade routes in European economic development from the 13th to 18th centuries. Why did the relative importance of either maritime or continental routes change over this era?
110. Discuss, analyse, and explain the chief factors that determined or influenced the growth and decline of European population from the 13th to the 17th centuries, in terms of the following: (a) endogenous economic variables and institutions; (b) exogenous variables, especially disease and warfare; (c) social institutions, in particular the emergence of the European Marriage Pattern. Did demographic crises ever occur in response to Malthusian crises during these centuries?

111. Analyse the nature, form, causes, and economic consequences of agricultural innovations and agrarian 'modernization' in England from c. 1400 to c. 1750, paying particular attention to the following considerations:
- (a) demographic and monetary-price factors in stimulating innovations and their diffusions;
 - (b) possible foreign origins or foreign influences on the introduction of new techniques;
 - (c) barriers to the diffusion of new agrarian techniques within England;
 - (d) linkages of changes in the agrarian sector with other economic sectors in England.
112. Analyse the causes, the various forms, and the economic consequences of agricultural innovations, and their diffusions, in the Low Countries and England, from the 15th to 17th centuries. Did demographic expansion or demographic decline play the more powerful role in promoting these innovations, or the diffusions of these innovations?
113. Compare and contrast the differences in changes in land-holding and land-tenures in early modern England and France, from the 15th to late 17th centuries, analysing the role of economic, social, political, and legal factors in those changes, in both countries.
114. Explain the key differences between English and French agriculture between the 15th and 18th centuries, analysing in particular the changes in those agrarian divergencies and their impact upon the economic development of the two countries. To what extent were those differences the result of (a) climate, topography, and geography, (b) political, legal, and institutional factors, and more generally (c) 'path dependency'?
115. Analyse both the causes and the consequences, economic and social, of Enclosures in Tudor-Stuart England, explaining why both causes and consequences varied by region and by the time period, i.e. the eras, from ca. 1460 to ca. 1620. Were these Enclosures a 'necessary stage' in the agricultural 'modernization' and economic development of early-modern England?
116. Explain how, when, where, and why enclosures came to displace communal forms of farming (common or open field systems) in western Europe during the later-medieval and early-modern eras; explain why enclosures were more widespread and successful in England than generally elsewhere in continental Europe; and discuss the economic and social consequences of those enclosures.
117. Explain and discuss the origins and early phases of the Enclosure movement in England (to ca. 1520) in terms of: (a) demographic models; (b) commercial models; (c) institutional models, in particular the changes in English manorialism, serfdom, and peasant tenures. In your answer also explain why 15th and 16th century England experienced much more of an enclosure movement than did France or the Low Countries.
118. Explain the changes that occurred in the social structures of English peasant villages, particularly in the Midlands region of England, from the 14th to the late 17th centuries: in particular explain how those who occupied formerly servile tenancies became copyholders; and explain the economic and social significance of the differences in copyholder status to be found in English Midlands villages over this period.
119. To what extent does the Brenner model accurately portray and explain the changes in English agrarian history, in its social and economic aspects, from the 14th to 17th centuries; and to what extent was Brenner correct in his assessment of the differences between English and continental European agrarian structures in this era?
120. Analyse the contributions of livestock and pastoral farming to English agriculture and to the economic development of England from c.1450 to c.1750. What changes did livestock raising undergo during this period; and what were the consequences of those changes?
121. Explain the patterns and nature of population changes, and their economic consequences, in England

- from the 14th to the 17th centuries, explaining in particular why England's population ceased to grow in about the mid 17th century? Did England in fact experience a Malthusian crisis of overpopulation in the Tudor-Stuart era?
122. Explain the social and economic composition of the English gentry from the 14th to 18th centuries; and analyse the causes and consequences of their changing fortunes over this period? Were the gentry, as you have defined them, unique to England?
 123. Analyse and discuss the importance of innovations in both private and public credit in early-modern Europe, from ca. 1450 to ca. 1600, particularly in terms of (a) expanding the effective money supply, (b) developing capital markets and banking institutions, and (c) financing the capital needs of commerce, industry, and government.
 124. Explain why, in late-medieval and early-modern Europe, international supremacy in international banking and finance shifted from Italy (Florence and Venice) to South Germany and then Antwerp, then to Genoa, and finally to Amsterdam. In your answer, explain the relationships between international trade and international banking.
 125. Explain how and why the Dutch gained international supremacy in the carrying trades (shipping) and northern commerce in early-modern Europe, from ca. 1400 to ca. 1700, bypassing, displacing, or defeating both the Hanse and the English. In your answer explain why the Dutch comparative advantage lay in north European commerce: i.e. in the Baltic and the North Sea, rather than in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean, Caribbean, or western Atlantic zones.
 126. Analyse the impact of naval power, warfare, and warfare-related government economic policies upon structural changes in the European economy during one or both of the following periods: (a) 1290 - 1520; (b) 1520 - 1740.
 127. Analyse and compare the Dutch and English economies during the 17th and early 18th centuries to explain why, in terms of possible 'path dependency', the English were 'destined' to become the homeland of the modern 'Industrial Revolution', while the Dutch were 'destined' to suffer economic decline, absolute or relative. Or were their 18th-century economic fortunes more fortuitous or stochastic, i.e. not determined by 'path-dependency'?
 128. Analyse the causes and economic consequences of the major technological changes in European industry from the 14th to early 18th centuries, with particular reference to the textile, mining, metallurgical, shipbuilding, and selected consumer-goods manufacturing industries. Was John Nef justified in referring to a 'minor industrial revolution' in Tudor-Stuart England?