

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN GAILLIMH  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND GALWAY

**B.A. Degree Examination History : Semester 1 , 2002-3**

**HI316 : APPROACHES TO GLOBAL HSITORY**

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Time allowed ; **TWO** hours  
Answer **THREE** questions

1. With what justification can long-distance trade of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries be described as global?
2. Adam Smith, writing in 1776, rejected the 'popular notion that wealth consists in money, or in gold and silver'. What did Smith consider to be the proper measure of the wealth of nations, and which places in the world did he consider had the best potential to become wealthy?
3. 'Thomas Malthus in "An Essay on the Principle of Population" proceeded from many of the same cultural assumptions as did Adam Smith, but his perceptions were more Euro-centric than those of Smith'. Discuss.
4. David Landes, remarked that 'The Industrial Revolution poses two problems (1) why did this first breakthrough to a modern industrial system take place in western Europe? and (2) why within this European experience did change occur when and where it did?'

Summarise the answers provided by Landes in The Unbound Prometheus (Cambridge 1969) to these two questions, and consider how his explanations stand today in the light of more recent scholarship.

5. 'What has been called the "Age of Vasco da Gama", the four centuries of world history in which a handful of European states and the European force of capitalism established a complete, though, as is now evident, a temporary domination of the entire world, was about to reach its climax. The dual revolution was about to make European expansion irresistible,

though it was also to provide the non-European world with the conditions and equipment for its eventual counter-attack'. (Eric Hobsbawm, The Age of Revolution, 1789-1848, London 1962). Which aspects of this summation of four centuries of world history have proven most vulnerable to the criticism of subsequent historians?

6. "And as in material so also in intellectual production. The intellectual creations of individual nations become common property. National one-sidedness and narrow-mindedness become more and more impossible, and from the numerous national and local literatures there arises a world literature". (Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto, 1848).

Is this assertion sustained by what you know of the development of networks of information in India during the years of Britain's dominance there?

7. Appraise the argument presented by Christopher Bailey in Empire and Information (Cambridge, 1996) that resistance to British rule in India was fomented by well informed people who had worked closely with the British ruling elite rather than by 'tyrannized and voiceless subalterns'.
8. Discuss the deployment of counter-factual argument by Kenneth Pomeranz in *The Great Divergence* (Princeton, 2000) to reach the conclusion 'that as late as the mid-eighteenth century Western Europe was not uniquely productive or economically efficient' and that 'no part of the world' was then necessarily headed for 'an industrial breakthrough'.
9. Discuss the explanation offered by Kenneth Pomeranz of the means by which the 'core' areas of western Europe broke from the 'ecological constraints' to industrial development anywhere in the world to become 'the privileged centre of the nineteenth century's new world economy'.