

OLLSCOIL NÁISIÚNTA NA hÉIREANN GAILLIMH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND GALWAY

SECOND YEAR HISTORY
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION 1998-9
SOCIAL HISTORY OF EUROPE 1650-1750 (HI230)

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TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS; THREE QUESTIONS TO BE ATTEMPTED
ANSWER AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION (A & B)

A

1. What were the difficulties facing urban authorities in the seventeenth-century in taking action against an epidemic of plague? (You may discuss Italy or Europe as you wish)

OR

Is the disappearance of plague in western Europe to be explained in terms of biology or in terms of human action?

2. What is meant by an 'agricultural revolution', and what measures could we use to determine whether one had taken place?

OR

What were the advantages and disadvantages of a common field system of farming?

3. How is the growth of army size in early modern Europe to be explained, in your view?

OR

How was the French army professionalised between the 1630s and 1750?

B

4. What were the principal differences between peasant society in Eastern and in Western Europe?

5. 'In contrast to the present day, early modern people had almost no control over birth rates or death rates'. Do you agree?

6. What was distinctive about the 'European marriage pattern' in the early modern period?

OR

How large were early modern households?

7. The period from 1650 to 1750 in western Europe has been described as a period of stagnation, in contrast to the century which preceded it. Is this an accurate characterisation, in your view?

8. The Dutch Republic had 'the most dynamic, the best developed and the most competitive economy in Europe' in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. (Cipolla). How had it achieved this position?

9. 'Towns were not merely conglomerations of people, but communities with a life and structure of their own' (Munck). What contrasts were there between urban society and rural society?

OR

'The demographic fortunes of cities and towns varied enormously with their social and economic functions' (De Vries). Discuss.

over/

10. What was the relationship between population movements and industrial development in seventeenth and eighteenth century Europe?

OR

From the late seventeenth century, some industries began to relocate from towns to the countryside. Why was this?

11. By 1750, the financial and monetary systems of western Europe were far more developed than they had been two hundred years before. How had either the expansion of trade or the growth of state finance brought this about?

12. The problem of poverty became a central preoccupation of élite groups and political authorities in the early modern period. How had their attitudes towards the poor evolved by the eighteenth century?

13. Did European expansion have any impact on the everyday lives of the people of western Europe?

OR

'Overseas expansion was not new in European history in 1660, but that date marked the end of one phase and the beginning of another' (Doyle). What changes came about in the relations of European countries with their colonies after 1660?

14. 'Revolt in Early Modern Europe was an expression of discontent involving all levels of society' (Kamen). Did all levels of society have the same grievances?

15. What were the motivations for the achievement of literacy in early modern Europe?

16. In what ways did the invention and diffusion of printing influence early modern society and culture?

17. How did the Protestant and Catholic Reformations attempt to influence popular religious belief and practice?

18. In what ways have historical theorists explained the political and economic domination of the world which Europe had attained by 1750?