

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR PART I OF THE HISTORICAL TRIPOS

Tuesday 21 April 2015

1.30 to 4.30

Paper 9

BRITISH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY, *c.* 1500–1750*Answer **three** questions.**Write your **number** (not your **name**) on the cover-sheet of each answer booklet.***STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS***20 Page Answer Book x 1**Rough Work Pad*

**You may not start to read the questions
printed on the subsequent pages of this
question paper until instructed that you
may do so by the Invigilator**

- 1 How helpful is the concept of the 'moral economy' to our understanding of popular disturbances in the early modern period?
- 2 Newcastle 'most resembles London of any place in England' [CELIA FIENNES, 1698]. London was forty times larger than Newcastle, which had a population of perhaps 15,000, so in what ways could they resemble each other in 1698?
- 3 What problems do Maria Thynne's love letters (c. 1600) pose for the theory that affective marital relations arose c. 1700? Discuss with reference to the range of available sources on the nature of early modern marriage.
- 4 **Either** (a) How was gentility defined in the early modern period?
Or (b) What do defamation cases reveal about the social hierarchy?
- 5 'The poor increase like fleas, and lice, and these vermine will eat us up, unless we inclose' [REVEREND JOHN MOORE, 1653, reporting the views of his neighbours]. Discuss with reference to the views of **either** the poor **or** enclosers **or** both.
- 6 To what degree did developments in science affect environmental practice between 1600 and 1750?
- 7 Why did people learn to read and write in the early modern period?
- 8 'Public executions were not merely displays of brutality, but rather attempts by the authorities to exert ideological control, to reassert certain values of obedience and conformity.' Discuss.
- 9 To what extent do farmers' account books, such as those of Robert Loder (1610-1620), provide evidence of agrarian capitalism?
- 10 How far did productivity changes in English agriculture between 1550 and 1750 constitute an agricultural revolution?
- 11 **Either** (a) 'Children are as the goods of their parents, wholly in their power, to be ordered and disposed by them' [WILLIAM GOUGE, 1622]. Discuss.
Or (b) What was the role of the domestic servant in the early modern household?
- 12 'Quantification of material from probate inventories hides as much as it reveals about the nature of early modern consumption.' Discuss.
- 13 What was the significance of the rituals surrounding childbirth to early modern communities?
- 14 'A man can be saved without running to sermons and prattling of scriptures' [ARTHUR DENT, 1601]. Discuss this characterisation of popular religion in early modern England.

- 15** How did people explain and combat illness in early modern England?
- 16** How widespread was concern about domestic abuse in early modern England?
- 17** ‘The system of indentured servitude was more important than slavery for the success of English colonisation.’ Discuss.
- 18** ‘It is seldom that a poor old wretch is brought to trial upon that account, but there is at the heels of her a popular rage that does little less than demand her to be put to death’ [ROGER NORTH’S biography of his brother, JUSTICE FRANCIS NORTH (1637-1685)]. Discuss with reference to attitudes about witchcraft.
- 19** What value are trade cards to the historian of early modern England?
- 20** ‘The rise in civil litigation can best be understood as a barometer of economic growth.’ Discuss.
- 21** ‘Now I all men advise,
this Caveat think upon,
Be ruled by your wives,
for old age it will come.
If they know you have money,
The Ale-wives with you will crack,
They’ll suck you as Bees suck honey,
then hang you behind your back.’
- Discuss this excerpt of the ballad *A Caveat for Young Men* with reference to gender relations in the early modern period.
- 22** ‘There was an important communal role in the policing of the social and sexual order, and this might empower those otherwise thought to be disqualified either by gender or low social status.’ Discuss.
- 23** ‘Historians’ focus upon written primary sources means that surviving material artefacts from early modern Britain have been all but forgotten.’ Discuss.
- 24** ‘The growth in internal trade was primarily driven by demand for coal and grain.’ Discuss.

END OF PAPER