

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR PART I OF THE HISTORICAL TRIPOS

Wednesday 22 April 2015

9 to 12

Paper 13

EUROPEAN HISTORY, 31 BC–AD 900

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 What was distinct about the rule of Augustus?
- 2 In what ways did the Roman army facilitate the expansion of Roman rule?
- 3 Was frontier defence always central to Roman military strategy?
- 4 What roles did slaves play in Roman society?
- 5 **Either** (a) How large a part did coined money play in the Roman economy?
Or (b) To what extent was the state the driving factor in the Roman economy?
- 6 Was there a 'crisis' in the third-century Roman Empire?
- 7 Is it more valid to speak of the rise of Christianity or the decline of paganism?
- 8 In what ways was imperial authority asserted in the later Roman Empire?
- 9 When did 'late antiquity' begin and end?
- 10 Discuss the evolution of relations between the Roman and Persian empires in the sixth and seventh centuries.
- 11 **Either** (a) Were the barbarian invasions responsible for the fall of the Roman Empire?
Or (b) Is ethnogenesis the best approach to the formation of barbarian identities in late and post-Roman Europe?
- 12 For what reasons did 'barbarian' rulers in western Europe maintain Roman customs and institutions?
- 13 Does the Pirenne thesis still provide an adequate explanation for economic change between the fifth and eighth centuries?
- 14 **Either** (a) Did Justinian restore the Roman Empire in the West?
Or (b) To what extent do Justinian's legal and architectural achievements outweigh his shortcomings in politics and religious affairs?
- 15 How well was the Church integrated into the government of Visigothic Spain?
- 16 In what ways can historians overcome the challenges presented by Arabic written sources for the early history of Islam?
- 17 By what means did the Byzantine Empire survive the seventh century?

18 'The main concept that the era of iconoclasm ... sought to redefine was representation.' Discuss with reference to the Byzantine Empire in the eighth and ninth centuries.

19 Why did queens play such a prominent role in the Merovingian Frankish kingdom?

20 How reliable are the *Histories* of Gregory of Tours as a reflection of sixth-century Merovingian politics?

21 **Either** (a) Did unwritten custom play a greater role than written law in the handling of disputes in early medieval Europe?

Or (b) What do the 'national' law-codes of early medieval Europe contribute to understanding of contemporary society?

22 'For most of Europe in the eighth and ninth centuries it was the Franks who were the vikings.' Discuss with reference to the Carolingian Empire and its neighbours.

23 How effectively did the Carolingian Empire survive after 840?

24 Why did monasticism become such a powerful force in early medieval society?

25 'An extension of normal Dark-Age activity, made possible and profitable by special circumstances.' Is this an adequate characterisation of the viking raids?

END OF PAPER