

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR PART I OF THE HISTORICAL TRIPOS**

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Tuesday 21 April 2015

1.30 to 4.30

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Paper 8

BRITISH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY, 1050–c. 1500.

*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**     **Either** (a) ‘Domesday Book is remarkable but it cannot satisfactorily answer our most fundamental questions about the late eleventh-century economy.’ Discuss.

**Or**     (b) To what extent was the structure of Anglo-Saxon society transformed by the Norman conquest?

**2**     Have recent historians exaggerated the extent to which the economy was commercialised in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries?

**3**     ‘The rarity with which thirteenth-century villeins sought their freedom shows that the disadvantages of villeinage were not great.’ Discuss.

**4**     **Either** (a) ‘The Malthusian explanation for the early fourteenth-century “crisis” is simple and elegant but at odds with the facts.’ Discuss.

**Or**     (b) To what extent was the Black Death a turning point in the fourteenth-century economy?

**5**     To what extent was seigniorial agriculture between c. 1180 and c. 1400 determined by environmental and geographical factors?

**6**     **Either** (a) Is it still valid to speak of the later middle ages as an ‘age of ambition’?

**Or**     (b) ‘The professions offered the only reliable route to upward social mobility in the later middle ages.’ Discuss.

**7**     Did the spread of lay literacy serve mainly to threaten the social order or to bolster it? Answer with reference to any period of **two hundred years or more**.

**8**     **Either** (a) ‘Secular motives lay at the heart of the boom in monastic foundations from the late eleventh century to the start of the thirteenth century.’ Discuss.

**Or**     (b) Why did people enter monastic life?

**9**     To what extent were measures to prevent and punish crime successful? Answer with reference to any period of **a hundred years or more**.

**10**    What were the most significant factors determining the fortunes of individual towns in the later middle ages?

**11**    ‘The crisis of the knightly class in the thirteenth century exists only in the mind of certain modern historians.’ Discuss.

**12**    ‘The most striking thing about art was its consistency of form.’ Discuss with reference to **one or more** art forms over any period of **two hundred years or more**.

**13**    ‘The different actions of the 1381 Rising are connected in the coincidence of timing rather than aims.’ Discuss.

- 14** Why did people become Lollards?
- 15** To what extent did the structure of the family and relations between its members differ according to wealth and social status? Answer with reference to any period of **a hundred years or more**.
- 16** To what extent did the late medieval church meet the spiritual needs of its flock? Answer with reference to any period of **a hundred years or more** after 1200.
- 17** How far was economic development in the British Isles consistent? Answer with reference to **two or more** of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and with reference to any period of **two hundred years or more**.
- 18** To what extent is the story of late medieval industry a success? Answer with reference to **one or more** industries.
- 19** 'Historians have placed too much emphasis on single women to the exclusion of women's role in the family economic unit.' Discuss.
- 20** To what extent is our understanding of economic history limited by the restrictions of the sources available? Answer with reference to any period of **two hundred years or more**.
- 21** What are the most important strengths and weaknesses of the evidence for fifteenth-century population change?
- 22** How far do monetary factors serve to explain trends in prices and wage rates? Answer with reference to any period of **a hundred years or more**.
- 23** 'Chivalry only existed in the realms of fiction.' Discuss.

**END OF PAPER**