

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR PART I OF THE HISTORICAL TRIPOS  
2015**

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Tuesday 21 April 2015

1.30 to 4.30

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Paper 10

BRITISH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY, 1700–1880

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 Did peasants and commoners disappear from England after 1700?
- 2 How did the British economy escape from Malthusian constraints?
- 3 ‘The “agricultural revolution” is a poorly-defined and unhelpful concept.’ Discuss.
- 4 Is the concept of the ‘Industrious Revolution’ superfluous?
- 5 Why were there so many new inventions in Britain from the 1760s onwards?
- 6 ‘New findings on occupational structure do nothing to resolve the debate over whether the Industrial Revolution was a rapid and dramatic or a more gradual transformation.’ Discuss.
- 7 **Either** (a) Does the speed of urbanisation after 1750 undermine the claim that fertility change was the main driver of the population explosion?  
  
**Or** (b) How do we account for rising illegitimacy, prenuptial pregnancy and marital fertility between 1700 and 1850?
- 8 Why has debate over the standard of living of the working classes during the Industrial Revolution persisted for so long with no resolution in sight?
- 9 What was the role of **either** the British state **or** the British Empire **or** transport in economic development? Answer with respect to any period of **eighty years or more**.
- 10 **Either** (a) To what extent did the Poor Law Commissioners accurately assess the problem of poverty in 1834?  
  
**Or** (b) Who were ‘the poor’? Answer with reference to any period of **fifty years or more**.
- 11 ‘Britain did not have a social structure, but localities did.’ Discuss.
- 12 Given the limitations of prescriptive literature how much do we really know about gender relations? Discuss with reference to any period of **fifty years or more**.
- 13 **Either** (a) Who were the ‘decision-makers’ in the practice of criminal justice in the eighteenth century?  
  
**Or** (b) ‘Perceptions of crime bore little relation to criminal phenomena in the nineteenth century.’ Discuss.
- 14 ‘Popular disturbances in the long eighteenth century tended to emerge from communities defending themselves against innovation.’ Discuss.
- 15 Has the importance of class been exaggerated? Answer with respect to any period of **seventy-five years or more**.

**16** To what extent was London the model of urban development? Discuss with reference to any period of **one hundred years or more**.

**17** **Either** (a) 'Age of reason', 'Age of faith': can these two assessments of the eighteenth century be reconciled?

**Or** (b) 'In the nineteenth century the British reduced their support for religious institutions but strengthened their religious convictions.' Discuss.

**18** Why were campaigns for moral reform generally unsuccessful? Discuss with reference to any period of **one hundred years or more**.

**19** To what extent can 'popular culture' be identified with the leisure practices of the poor? Discuss with reference to any period of **seventy-five years or more**.

**20** **Either** (a) 'The rise of politeness in the eighteenth century amounted to the education of the middling sorts in the ways of the gentleman.' Discuss.

**Or** (b) What were the uses of the past in nineteenth-century high culture?

**21** What were the uses of literacy? Discuss with reference to any period of **seventy-five years or more**.

**END OF PAPER**