

ECT1  
ECONOMICS TRIPOS PART I

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Wednesday 8 June 2016                      9:00-12:00

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Paper 5

BRITISH ECONOMIC HISTORY

Answer **FOUR** questions only.

Answer all parts to the question.

Each question carries equal weight.

Write your **candidate number** (not your name) on the cover of each booklet.

If you identify an error in this paper, please alert the **Invigilator**, who will notify the **Examiner**. A **general** announcement will be made if the error is validated.

Write legibly.

**STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS**

20 Page booklet x 1

Rough work pads

Tags

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS  
EXAMINATION**

**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.
  - (a) Describe the demographic changes causing the growth in Britain's population that occurred between 1650 and 1850.
  - (b) Were these changes caused by either protoindustrialisation or proletarianisation? Explain your answer.
2. Parliamentary enclosure changed property rights in English agriculture.
  - (a) Describe how these changes might theoretically lead to more efficient agriculture.
  - (b) To what extent does the evidence suggest that Parliamentary enclosure was important in achieving the gains observed?
3. Recently both Joel Mokyr and Robert Allen have rehabilitated the role of widespread inventiveness and new technology in achieving revolutionary growth during the Industrial Revolution, but they see very different factors underpinning this innovative activity. Compare and contrast Mokyr's and Allen's views on the causes of technological advance.
4. Anthropometric evidence, such as height data, has been analysed to determine the effect of industrialisation on the standard of living of the working class from 1750 to 1850. Discuss whether this evidence has been able to settle the debate about living standards.
5. Drawing on Broadberry's comparative work for the UK, USA and Germany from 1850 to 1913, describe the different levels of labour productivity observed in manufacturing. Discuss relative performance in the service sector during this period and how this might lead to long-term decline for the UK.
6. There is little evidence of the "complacency, conservatism and antiquated methods" that the late Victorian entrepreneur has been accused of exhibiting, but Victorian entrepreneurs may have failed to adopt the corporate capitalism so successfully embraced in other countries. Discuss.
7. Did the financial sector fail industry in late Victorian Britain?
8. Were trade union bargaining power and the availability of unemployment benefit important causes of the unemployment observed in interwar Britain?
9. Evaluate the mechanisms by which devaluation affected economic recovery during the 1930s.
10.
  - (a) How did the depression of 1920-1 cause an output gap?
  - (b) Evaluate whether the depression of 1920-1 affected the path of productivity in the UK economy during the 1920s.

**END OF PAPER**