

ECT1
ECONOMICS TRIPOS PART I

Wednesday 10 June 2015 9:00-12:00

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.

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. To what extent does the Agricultural Revolution explain the later Industrial Revolution?
2. Explain the related concepts of an 'Industrious Revolution' and a 'Consumer Revolution'. How do these concepts figure in explaining the 'Industrial Revolution' in Britain?
3. How large were the profits Britain extracted from its colonies in the eighteenth century? Were these profits vital for the Industrial Revolution?
4. To what extent did the Industrial Revolution generate a rapid increase in standards-of-living for the working class? Discuss with respect to real wages and at least one other measure.
5. The large amount of capital invested abroad between 1850 and 1914 has been argued to have caused a lack of investment in domestic industry and lead to late Victorian decline. To what extent does the evidence endorse this view?
6. Failings in British manufacturing before 1914, particularly falling behind Germany and USA in specific industries, have been attributed to the poor provision of education in Britain. Explain this argument and consider whether recent comparative evidence demonstrates a deficiency in this area.
7. The roots of Britain's long term decline have been identified in late Victorian Britain. Outline the argument about long term decline. Consider how long term decline can be equated with a verdict of 'no failure' during the period 1873 to 1896.
8. Answer both parts:
 - (a) To what extent is 'unemployment persistence' a feature of the labour market during the 1930s?
 - (b) Evaluate two suggested explanations for the persistence of unemployment during the 1930s
9. Evaluate the historical evidence on two mechanisms through which the General Tariff may have influenced the economic recovery during the 1930s.
10. Define 'path dependence', and suggest two illustrations of this concept to British economic history in the 1920s.

END OF PAPER