

ECT1
ECONOMICS TRIPOS PART I

Wednesday 11 June 2014 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 Explain the debate between Allen and Mokyr on the role of institutions and resources in explaining the Industrial Revolution in Britain.
- 2 Did advances in the agricultural sector influence the onset of the Industrial Revolution?
- 3 What role did international trade play in Britain's industrialisation? Was this trade essential to achieving industrialisation?
- 4 Was industrialisation accompanied by 'the exploitation of little children' at work in factories and mines as argued by the Hammonds? Would evidence on heights decisively reveal the more intensive use of child labour in this period?
- 5 'The technological choices made in key industries in Britain between 1850 and 1914 show no evidence of entrepreneurial failure.' Discuss, giving examples from specific industries.
- 6 Is there evidence that banks and financial institutions failed to meet the investment needs of British industry in the late Victorian period? Consider how Broadberry's analysis of poor productivity performance in the service sector as instrumental in Britain's longer-term decline reflects on the performance of the financial sector in the years 1850 to 1914.
- 7 The development of trade unions in the period 1850 to 1914 has been argued to be detrimental to the growth of the economy in this period. Describe how unions are deemed to have had such an effect. Does the evidence support this interpretation?
- 8 Why was Britain able to recover more successfully from the Great Depression than many other Western economies?
- 9 To what extent was the 1920-1 depression a result of (i) supply side and (ii) demand side factors?
- 10 Through what mechanisms might long-term unemployment lead to persistently high levels of unemployment? Discuss whether long-term unemployment was a major contributor to the persistently high level of unemployment observed in the UK in (i) the 1920s (ii) the 1930s.

END OF PAPER