

A Preview of the Mid-Term Exam History 106

The exam reviews your knowledge based on both the lectures and readings for the entire semester to this point. There are five parts to the exam: multiple choice, geography, short answers, matching and a most lovable “triad.” Some but not all sections will involve elements of choice. Precise point distribution has yet to be determined.

PART ONE: Multiple Choice. This part of the exam in effect tests your passive knowledge (since all possible answers are provided). Choose the best answer to each question. Please be sure to read each question *carefully*.

PART TWO: Geography. Here you will find a somewhat simplified version of the geography quiz that you took earlier (Europe in 1648), which will ask you to identify the location of the major states of Europe.

PART THREE: Short answers. These questions will essentially follow the model of what we have seen on content quizzes. There may be some element of choice in this section.

PART FOUR: Matching. Here the task will be to match people, texts, events, etc., in a manner akin to what we have done on content quizzes. I may also ask you to place a series of historical events in the correct chronological order, the focus being not on precise dates but rather the sequence of events.

PART FIVE: Historical Connections. Here I will ask you to write a triad paragraph, following the basic model of the paragraphs you have written for this course. I will provide either a number of items (people, concepts, events, texts, etc.) from which you will choose three for your triad; OR I will provide 2-3 prefabricated triads from which you will choose one. Recall that the goal is to elucidate the historical relationship among these three items, preferably by providing a sharp and clear thesis that includes all three items. Be sure not to treat the three items in isolation, but instead to focus on their interrelationship.

Requirements for the exam:

1. Bring your own pen with black or blue ink. You do not need to bring an exam book.
2. Arrive at the exam on time. Late arrivals may or may not be given an exam.

Some pointers:

1. The best answers on the triad will use evidence from the course materials.
2. The more you can interpret and analyze, the better; you want to try to demonstrate independent thought processes, rather than sheer regurgitation.

Things that doom an exam (with regard to triads):

1. **Bad handwriting.** I have to read a lot of these exams, so try to make your text as legible as possible.
2. **Vague statements.** Make sure that what you assert says something definitive. It is insufficient to state that the Scientific Revolution “led to” the Enlightenment, *unless* you go on to articulate what exactly *how* this was the case.
3. **Failure to provide evidence.** You do not want to overwhelm me with details, but your answer must be grounded in the historical material. If you make some sort of claim, make sure that you provide evidence to support it.
4. **Failure to consider important evidence.** If, for example, you write about the Scientific Revolution and do **not** mention Copernicus, Galileo, and Newton, it will be rather difficult for me to take your answer seriously.