

HIST 320: British History

Final Exam Spring 2012

This exam is due on **Monday, May 7th at 11:59 pm**. All exams must be submitted as a .docx, .doc, or .rtf file attachment by e-mail to britain320drop@gmail.com. Save the file as “LAST NAME 320 Exam 1”, substituting your last name for the file name.

You will receive a confirmation e-mail showing receipt of the exam. Keep this message—it will be required as proof of submission should I not receive your exam.

The exam may be completed using the resources of the class (lecture notes, readings, your knowledge). The exam is not intended to require outside research, and the use of further sources beyond the class materials will not earn higher scores.

However, high-quality answers will make close use of readings. Any written sources cited (either as quotations or for content) must be cited according to Chicago style (see attached style sheet at end of exam). Note that class lecture need not be cited (this is considered part of your current general knowledge). **Any other written sources from the class must be cited by footnote, including the Wasson textbook.** Do not include a bibliography.

All exam answers must be original work.

Part 1: Short Answer (20%)

Select **TWO** from the following short answer questions (one from the first set and one from the second set) and in 3-4 fact-filled paragraphs **MAXIMUM**, give a brief but thorough answer. Each short answer will be worth 10 points.

Select One Choice From:

1. Pre-industrial artisans used the term “honourable trades” to describe the ideal labor structure that they believed should prevail in their trades. What was meant by an “honourable trade,” and why did the creation of the factory system undermine this approach in the eyes of artisans?
2. The urgent poverty crisis caused by rapid industrialization and urbanization forced early nineteenth-century British governments to attempt to address these problems in the form of the New Poor Law of 1834. What were the central provisions of this act, and what assumptions about the nature of poverty undergirded its approach?
3. What were the major forces influencing the outcome of the 1900 election?

Select One Choice From:

1. The movement for the right for women to vote in Britain, which gathered momentum starting in the late 1890s, drew a number of allies to its side while also facing considerable barriers. Who were the outside supporters of this movement, and what were the central internal barriers (i.e. those within the women’s movement itself) to united action?
2. The wartime experience of Britons between 1939 and 1945 had created a near consensus about the need to renew and remake society. What were some of the policy directions taken by postwar planners, and what were the larger cultural and philosophical shifts of the 1940s and 1950s being addressed by writers like Iris Murdoch?

Part 2: Essay (80%)

Select **ONE** question from the following and provide a detailed answer in essay form (with intro/thesis, body paragraphs, and conclusion). Avoid vague description in your answer; seek to provide a thoughtful and nuanced response. This essay is worth 80 points.

1. Three times in the 19th century, reforms enlarged the British electorate and altered its makeup. Yet as late as the eve of World War I, Britain still retained one of the most restricted electorates in western Europe. How radical were the Reform Acts of 1832, 1867, and 1884, and what historical legacy should we assign them?
2. In the early 1800s, Britain seemed weary of imperial ventures in the wake of the loss of the American colonies. By 1900, however, Britain could lay claim to formal empire consisting of 20% of the world's soil. Drawing on at least two imperial examples, what accounts for this dramatic turnaround, and was this imperial expansion free from controversy within Britain?
3. When the Liberals won the general election of 1906, expectations ran high for major reforms in voting, social welfare, and imperial policy (particularly Ireland). Yet Liberals faced pressure from many competing sides to address or protect their interests, making life difficult for the Asquith government between 1906 and 1914. What were these various constituents, and to what extent did the Liberals address each of their concerns?
4. In 1850, Britain was the world's top consumer and top exporter. Just over a century later, British share of world exports had fallen to less than 25% amidst two world wars and a tremendous shift in global industrialization. What challenges did the British economy face between 1918 and 1939, and what actions did politicians take to try to ameliorate these problems?

Citing Sources in Formal Writing: Chicago Style

In Your Text:

At the point of citation, insert a footnote using your word processor's "References > Footnote" function.

Example 1: Books

[Text] Herodotus insists that "the Egyptians themselves in their manners and customs seem to have reversed the ordinary practices of mankind."¹

[Footnote]

¹ Herodotus, The Histories (London: Penguin Books, 2003), 109.

Example 2: Online Sources

[Text] It is clear that the Greeks themselves had more than one meaning for the word *demokratia*.¹

[Footnote]

¹ Paul Cartledge, “The Democratic Experiment,” BBC Ancient History: The Greeks, http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/greeks/greekdemocracy_01.shtml (online), par. 2.

Example 3: Articles

[Text] Between 1860 and 1890, British parliamentary politics were “absolutely dominated” by two skilled prime ministers, Gladstone and Disraeli.²

[Footnote] ² Richard Lyons, “Late Victorian Politics, Liberals, and the Tories,” Past and Present 2 no. 3 (Spring 1974): 123.

Example 4: Chapters in Books (separately authored)

[Text] Most historians would agree with the assessment of John Carter, who has made a careful analysis of the causes of the American Civil War.³

[Footnote] ² John Carter, “Whither the Causes of America’s War?” in America 1850-1870: Essays on a Troubled Time, ed. James Fenton and Mary Jeffries (New York: Macmillan Press, 2002), 108.