

This examination consists of three sections. Please answer one question each from sections A and C, and two from section B. In all of your answers, cite specific authors, works, and arguments where appropriate. In selecting and answering questions, bear in mind that it is important to demonstrate broad chronological and geographical as well as thematic range. You have five hours.

A. Historiography (answer one):

1. The social upheavals of war can sometimes open opportunities to women. Describe and compare the experiences of women during at least two major conflicts in which America has been engaged. How useful is it for women's historians to use war as a framework for examining women's lives? Compare the historiography of war in "mainstream" history with that in women's history.
2. American women's historians have often been taken to task for using the history of white, Anglo-Saxon New England women as a paradigm for the study of women in other regions and of other ethnic groups. The what extent is this a fair criticism? If it is accurate, what accounts for the historians' bias? What are the strengths and shortcomings of such a paradigm? (You will probably want to focus your discussion on a specific historical period.)
3. Write an historiographical essay on women's sexuality, including sex roles, contraceptions, abortion, and prostitution. Take care that your answer is not merely a listing of books and articles.

B. General questions (answer two):

1. Religion, in America, has been both a conservative and a progressive force in women's lives. Discuss, giving specific examples of each.
2. American women's movements have frequently joined forces with other social movements or organizations. Cite three or four examples of such cooperation. What were the advantages and disadvantages of these partnerships from the point of view of women?
3. As Madonna puts it, "I'm just a material girl, living in a material world." What has been the impact of material progress--industrialization, technological advance, etc.--on women's lives? How has this impact varied by race, class, and ethnicity?
4. How did the shift from the family home economy to industrial capitalism affect American women? Consider such factors as the nature of their work, time and space, class position, and economic power.
5. Prominent women of the Progressive Period are sometimes referred to as social housekeepers. Why? What were their views of women and what reforms did they seek and what organizations did they form? Do you agree that settlement house work was as beneficial to the worker as to the recipient of the social services?

C. Documents (answer one)

Select one of the following documents (A, B, or C) and use it as a starting point for an essay. You should analyze the document closely, but also link it to the broader historical context.

