

PRELIMINARY EXAM IN MEDIEVAL HISTORY

FEBRUARY, 1996

HIBBARD AND MCLAUGHLIN

Answer FOUR of the following questions. Discussion of historiography is always appropriate.

1. Why were the Christian principalities of Spain able to maintain and extend their territorial gains at the expense of the Muslims, while the Christian principalities of the Middle East were not?
2. Explain the rise of serfdom in medieval Europe.
3. What do Dante and Jean de Meun have in common?
4. Did barbarians invade Europe in the fifth century?
5. How would you measure the importance of the cult of saints in medieval society? How would you explain whatever importance it had?
6. How did the location of navigable rivers in Europe shape the course of medieval history?
7. Compare the development of urban centers in Italy and Flanders.
8. What, if anything, justifies the continuing identification of the centuries from 400 to 1500 (or 500 to 1400, or 300 to 1500, etc.) as a single historical period (the "Middle Ages")? Does this period have any real unity?

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

MEDIEVAL HISTORY

April 1995

McLaughlin and Queller

Please write on four of eight questions, selecting at least one from group 1 and one from group 2. Bibliographical information required for each question. Historiographical would be even better.

Group 1

1. Discuss the origins of the Arthurian legend. Was there ever a King Arthur?
2. At what point, if ever, did the "papal monarchy" develop? What role did the popes play in western Christendom before they became "monarchs"?
3. Discuss the evolution of women's work in medieval Europe. What factors affected the range of occupations open to them over the course of the Middle Ages?
4. Can the movements of "barbarians" into the Roman Empire between the late fourth and the sixth century best be termed "migrations" or "invasions"? Explain.

Group 2

5. Discuss the impact of the Commercial Revolution upon rural life.
6. Evaluate the reign of Philip Augustus.
7. Discuss the origins and nature of the Italian communes.
8. Discuss the baronial wars of thirteenth century England and their results.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION--MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Answer four of the following questions. Discussions of historiography are always relevant.

1. What were "the barbarian invasions," and what role, if any, did they play in bringing the ancient world to an end?
2. Compare and contrast Romanesque and Gothic architecture.
3. What were the strengths and weaknesses of humanistic education in the fifteenth century?
4. A number of scholars have argued that women lost status in the high middle ages, as social and political institutions became more impersonal, and as gender ideology became more clearly articulated. Comment.
5. "The renaissance of royal power in the twelfth century, far from opposing the feudalization that had led in the previous century to the setting up of banal lordship, existed only through it. It completed the process by controlling it."
--Poly and Bournazel, The Feudal Transformation, p. 210
Comment.
6. Contrast Tuscan paintings of the Quattrocento with medieval paintings.
7. Why did the German monarchy fail to achieve the status of a nation-state?
8. Select three works of medieval literature, and explain how and why you might use them as readings in a survey course on medieval history.

