

Written Exam at the Department of Economics summer 2018

An Economic History of Europe

Final Exam

30 July 2018

(3-hour open book exam)

Answers only in English.

This exam question consists of 1 page in total

NB: If you fall ill during an examination at Peter Bangsvej, you must contact an invigilator in order to be registered as having fallen ill. Then you submit a blank exam paper and leave the examination. When you arrive home, you must contact your GP and submit a medical report to the Faculty of Social Sciences no later than seven (7) days from the date of the exam.

Be careful not to cheat at exams!

- You cheat at an exam, if during the exam, you:
- Make use of exam aids that are not allowed
- Communicate with or otherwise receive help from other people
- Copy other people's texts without making use of quotation marks and source referencing, so that it may appear to be your own text
- Use the ideas or thoughts of others without making use of source referencing, so it may appear to be your own idea or your thoughts
- Or if you otherwise violate the rules that apply to the exam

Please read the following carefully and answer **all** the questions.

Question 1

For a country of your choice, first present a graph of real wages with a focus on the preindustrial period. Then, please discuss the following:

- i. What might explain the developments you observe over time, both over the whole period and for shorter intervals?
- ii. In what way can what you observe in your graph be related to theories of preindustrial growth?
- iii. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using real wages for the analysis of historical living standards?

N.B. Robert Allen's wage data are in the file "Labourers.xlsx".

Question 2

Discuss the importance of technological progress for economic development. Then, present historical examples of technological advances in history, with an explanation of why they were economically important.

Question 3

What institutions might be considered to characterize a modern economy? Explain why these institutions are important for economic development. Finally, explain, with examples, why long-lived institutions might persist despite not being economically "efficient".