

## EC120 The World Economy in Historical Perspective

### Formative assessment

- This purpose of this exercise is for you to obtain feedback about how to prepare written work for EC120 and for you to signal your engagement with the module. The mark will not count as part of the formal assessment for EC120.
  - You should submit an answer, in the form of a short essay, to **one** of the following questions *no later than Monday 7th November 2011* (earlier if you wish). The essay should be submitted via the University's *Online Coursework Submission* facility.
  - The length of your answer should be as much as you would normally write in about 50 minutes (around 1500 words), though you have as much time as you like to plan in advance. Imagine yourself in an examination, writing an answer on a topic for which you are well prepared. Alternatively, if you prefer, you may prepare the essay as a “trial run” for the first assignment (bearing in mind the need to include citations to sources with a bibliography in accordance with departmental practice).
  - Please submit your online file in pdf or Microsoft Word (“doc” or “docx”) format, using a 12-point font, double line-spaced.
1. What were the main determinants of economic well-being before the onset of modern industrialisation in the 18th century? Hence, identify the broad similarities and differences in economic well-being across the Eurasian landmass shortly before the onset of industrialisation in Europe. [Second year students should consider how their essays can be expressed using concepts such as production functions and growth models.]
  2. Compare and contrast the economic experience of India with that of the Ottoman Empire in the three centuries prior to 1800, paying particular attention to (a) the role of the state in economic life; and (b) the impact of changing long-distance commercial contacts with European countries. [Second year students should explore how microeconomic principles involving competition, taxation and international trade can help to interpret the variety of observed economic performance.]
  3. To what extent was European overseas expansion during the 15th and 16th centuries motivated by economic considerations? In what ways, and with what success, did the methods used to achieve the objectives provide a basis for Europe's long-term international economic relations? [Second year students should examine how and to what extent economic theories of international trade and growth can aid an understanding of the historical processes.]