THE LOW COUNTRIES SINCE CA. 1450

Please answer ONE (1) question from Part I and ONE (1) question from Part II. You are allowed a total of four hours to complete this exam (two hours per question.) You are on your honor not to consult any materials, including notes or papers or anything stored in your computer. You are also on your honor not to discuss the exam or its content with any faculty or student until the exam period is over.

PART I (answer one question):

1. The formation of religious identities in the Low Countries after 1550 crossed familial lines and had to be negotiated by people who were engaged in religious warfare. What were the civic codes and coping strategies adopted by groups as disparate as Lutherans, Familialists, Catholics and Calvinists?

2. Discuss the status quo created in the Low Countries by the Treaty of Westphalia.

3. Discuss the role and function of Burgundian ceremonialism in power struggles between royal and civic authorities after 1450 in at least two urban contexts of the early modern Low Countries.

4. What, when, and where was the “wonderjaar” and how did it contribute to the Dutch Revolt?

5. Historians have characterized the Dutch Revolt as “one of the first early modern upheavals of 'civic republicanism.'” Discuss the distinctive role of the urban citizen from 1450 to 1648.

6. How do the two foundational historians of the Low Countries, Johan Huizinga and Henri Pirenne, consider the role of urban economy, culture and society in the early modern period? How have their approaches been revised by subsequent scholars?

PART II (answer one question):

7. There have been stadholders revered as national heroes and a few others seen to be incompetent. In the period after Westphalia discuss at least one of each.
8. Discuss the impact of the French occupation of the Dutch Republic after 1795, and the reaction to it after 1815.

9. Historians have discussed 19th century Belgian politics as propelled by “the Great Antithesis.” Explain this concept and how it shaped policy, society and culture after 1830.

10. Discuss the problem of Dutch economic decline after 1750, and what factors after 1945 produced a remarkable prosperity.

11. What role has imperialism played in the Low Countries since 1830?

12. Jules Destree declared to his King that “there is a Belgium, sire, but no Belgians.” How have historians considered Belgium as a state, nation, and society after independence?