Please answer one question from Part I and one 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. You must show command of the historiography as well as the chronologies at issue.

PART I: 1450-1789

1. In what ways did the wars of religion in the sixteenth century affect the development of monarchical power in the seventeenth century?

2. In consolidating his power, which social group posed the greatest challenges to Louis XIV? Be sure to explain why you do not choose other possible groups and how you have sorted through the historiography to arrive at your conclusion.

3. Is it useful to talk about the “public sphere” in relation to eighteenth-century France? What can it help explain and where does it fall down in explanatory power? Is it inevitably gendered?

4. Was the Enlightenment an important cause of the French Revolution? Be sure to discuss both those who support and those who oppose this linkage.

5. During the period 1450-1789, when was the French monarchy the most powerful? When was it the most vulnerable?

PART II: 1789-Present

1. Which period in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries is the most crucial for the modernization of France? Be sure to explain not only why you have chosen this period but also why you did not choose other candidates and what you mean by modernization.

2. What lessons did the architects of the Third Republic take from the first two republics?

3. To what extent was the Vichy regime a "homegrown" phenomenon or one that followed German directives? (Some argue that Vichy's "national revolution" was a revenge on the Popular Front, for example. Can it be seen in this light?)
4. Why was France so slow to industrialize during the nineteenth century, and how do you explain the sudden economic expansion that occurred during the "trente glorieuses" in post World War II France?

5. What are the origins of laïcité in France and why has secularism been so central to French republican political culture since the late nineteenth century to the present?