EUROPEAN INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

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.

PART I:
Please answer one of the following:

1. What role did the new science of the seventeenth century play in the formation of the materialism deployed by various thinkers associated with the European Enlightenment?

2. From Cassirer until today the Enlightenment has been defined and redefined, and just as important its cast of relevant characters has been significantly reconstituted. Discuss both phenomena.

3. Which had more of an influence on early modern theories of the state, the Renaissance or the Reformation?

4. Late in the eighteenth century enlightened and early Romantic thought turned increasingly toward issues of reform. In two different linguistic contexts discuss the issues raised and the solutions (however unsuccessfully) offered.

5. Did the First Industrial Revolution have intellectual and cultural origins?

6. Quite suddenly, by the middle of the eighteenth century, a revulsion against torture and a concern with human rights became commonplace. Discuss what you think led to this alteration in sensibility. What did Foucault argue came to replace it?

PART II:
Please answer one of the following:

1. As intellectual history has shifted toward cultural history, scholars have employed new methods and approaches to their material. Describe this shift from intellectual to cultural history, when and why you consider this shift occurred, and discuss at least three examples of changing methods and approaches.
2. Some nineteenth and twentieth century cultural innovations have appeared in clusters, or among generational units. Evaluate this claim with examples in two different national contexts.

3. The "fin-de-siècle" has been considered a turning point in European culture. How and why is this the case? Discuss at least two national variants in your answer.

4. Modernism as an "ism" emerged in the late nineteenth century, often linked by historians to "modernization." Discuss how you would define the term modernism, and its links to modernization, modernity, and the avant-garde. In your answer, identify at least two national variants of modernism.

5. During the late nineteenth century, European intellectuals defined new ways of knowing the world, broadly associated with the "reaction against positivism." Discuss the genesis and forms of this reaction in at least two European contexts.

6. Many intellectuals in twentieth century Europe were attracted to varieties of Marxism, often as a result coalescing into “schools.” Discuss two such schools operating in different national contexts. Describe their various approaches and assess the post-1945 impact of their work.