BRITAIN SINCE CA. 1450

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

1. In what way (s) was the Britain of Queen Anne most different from that of Henry VII? Be as specific as possible in your answer. Were there any notable similarities? If so, what were they?

2. What was (were) the most important political developments of the early modern period in Britain?

3. How serious was the threat of rebellion to the English polity in the early modern period? Did the nature and scope of that threat change? If so, how, and what accounts for those changes?

4. Was there a division between elite and popular culture in early modern Britain? What constituted popular culture”? Elite culture? To what extent did they overlap?

5. Write and introductory lecture for a course on early modern Britain that you might teach someday. What subjects or developments would your course cover? What are the most important changes about the period that would be teaching your students about?

6. What was (were), in your judgment, the most important consequence(s) of the Reformation from the early sixteenth through the early eighteenth centuries?

PART II

1. Examine the role of John Locke as both a political philosopher and political activist in the Exclusion crisis and its aftermath, and his indirect influence on the debates of the 1689 Convention Parliament.

2. Discuss the efficacy of a “three kingdoms” approach to the study of the Revolution of 1688-89.

3. Discuss the contours of British industrialization and its relation to demographic transformation in England, ca. 1680-1840.
4. Discuss the pattern of the formation of a British national identity over the course of the long eighteenth century.

5. Examine the nature of Chartism, and explain why the British state so easily defeated it in 1848.

6. What was meant by “The Strange Death of Liberal England” during the Edwardian period? Explain its relevance to the appearance of a British fascist movement after World War I; explain too whether fascism ever really posed a threat to British institutions.