EUROPE 1550-1800, REFORMATION TO FRENCH REVOLUTION

Please answer any two questions. You are allowed a total of 4 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.

1. Discuss the current understanding of the development of "absolutism," and "enlightened absolutism."

2. What were the chief developments in Protestantism and Catholicism during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries?

3. Discuss the interrelationships between popular and elite culture during the Baroque and Enlightenment eras.

4. Examine the developments in court society from the Reformation to the French Revolution.

5. What were the social, political, and cultural results of the development of military technology and organization and warfare itself during the Early Modern Period?

6. Why did absolutism fail in England and yet triumph throughout the rest of Europe? Please explain why England created limited monarchy while the rest of Europe embraced strong monarchic rule.

7. The period 1550-1800 was characterized by the rise of national monarchies and the decline of empires. How, when and why did empires fail and monarchies replace them?

8. How sweeping were the effects of the Scientific Revolution? Were its effects limited to a small elite and to intellectual life? Or was it a movement with deep social roots and far-reaching social and political consequences?

9. Did the years 1550 to 1800 see a reinforcement of patriarchy or its gradual deterioration?

10. By 1800, Western Europe was poised to undertake sustained economic growth. What developments in politics, social organization or intellectual life made real economic growth possible?