EUROPEAN CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

Write on two of the following questions, one of which should deal with the period largely before 1850.

1. The new science laid the philosophical foundation for the materialism of the 18th century. When he saw this, Newton was horrified. What were the tenets of the mechanical philosophy, including Newton's version, that made the thinking of Diderot, d'Holbach, etc. possible?

2. The role of science in making the first knowledge economy possible is now hotly debated. Discuss the historical issues in the economic history of Britain, 1750-1850, that give rise to the debate around science and discuss the nature of the science at issue.

3. Marx thought that he made history scientific; by 1850 all the academic disciplines aspired to that status. Discuss the process in at least two disciplines.

4. Between 1870 and 1914, the social and natural sciences expanded in unprecedented ways, while new realms of the irrational were explored in philosophies of anti-rationalism, aesthetic movements, and new disciplines of psychology and mental medicine. Explore this expansion of rational and irrational sciences and cultures in two European contexts before World War I.

5. An eminent art historian suggested that painting may be considered as a "deposit of a social relationship." Can this concept be useful for the study of artifacts and objects that were collected in the new 19th century ethnographic museums? Discuss the ways that history, anthropology, and art history may provide tools for the analysis of developing museum cultures in 19th century Europe.

6. During the 19th century, artists and intellectuals tried to apply their ideals to political action and social change. Discuss the political engagement of cultural innovators in the 19th century in two national contexts. How does each politicized intellectual balance idealism and activism, and how does this engagement affect or not affect their creative work?