

*Answer four of the following five essay questions in a large, clean blue book. Put your name on the front cover, but not inside. Each essay question is worth 25%. If you answer all five, I will drop the last one. The quality of your writing matters! Use a blue book. You must finish by 5:25 pm.*

1. What is the Needham Paradox? To what extent can it be explained by imperial China's particular history, culture, and political institutions, by its geography and transportation network, or by the high-level equilibrium trap?
2. In the year 1400, China's population was approximately 65 to 80 million people. By 1850, this population had grown to over 400 million people. How was Chinese agriculture able to feed all these people? Was the increase in agricultural production primarily due to increases in resources or to improvements in technology? What made it difficult to achieve further increases in food production? Finally, explain the "technologist" versus the "distributionalist" arguments, as Riskin explained them, for why Imperial China failed to produce a sufficient agricultural surplus for industrialization.
3. Discuss the evolution and stages of China's agricultural strategies under Mao, especially the policies regarding collectivization and marketization. What are the primary economic and political issues in the debate over these policies? What were the successes and problems of these strategies?
4. Discuss the evolution and stages of China's industrialization strategies under Mao. How did China's approach to the socialist economy compare to that of the Soviet Union? Give details. What were the successes and problems of these strategies?
5. What was the Great Leap Forward (GLF), and what specific changes in agricultural and industrial policies occurred? Why did the GLF occur, and what was its objective? What were its effects, and what were the specific causes? Why did it have these results? Finally, how did it end, and to what extent can the Cultural Revolution be seen as a continuation of the GLF?

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