Study questions for the Merriman, Dutch History, Readings


Sample Objective section questions

1. Déjà vu! Jan is an economist who strongly believes that a system of well-defined and well-enforced property rights is the key for long-run economic growth and development. Which area on the graph at right best represents where Jan thinks a nation’s political system should be?

2. Given his love and respect for property rights, why would Jan argue that the political system needs to be at the point you indicated in # 1?
   a. Janice, the girl Jan really likes, told him to pick that answer.
   b. Dude, I’m not Jan. Why don’t you ask Jan?
   c. It takes lots of power to protect property rights. However, a government with enough power to protect property rights needs to be prevented from using its power in other, harmful, ways.
   d. It is not politically feasible to do completely away with government. In addition, governments can always be expected to use their power to the maximum allowed. The solution, therefore, is to give governments little or no power.
   e. Almost by definition, government has the ability to do what it wants. The solution, therefore, is to incentivize those in government to enrich themselves and ignore the “public good”. This way, while government will be a slight drain on society, it will leave most of society alone.

3. It’s 2013 and Dr. Lovett is touring battlefields in the “Low Countries” of Europe: Netherlands, Belgium and Northeastern France. He’s trying to justify the trip as a learning experience for his European economic history class. In particular, he is claiming that this tour will help him better understand why Britain, and not the Dutch Republic, was the 1st nation to industrialize. He starts with a visit to “Flanders Field” in what is now Belgium. The area of “Flanders Field” is roughly 16 square miles. In this area many major battles of WWI took place (ex. 1st & 2nd Ypres, Passchendaele, Lys, 5th Ypres) resulting in more than 2.5 million casualties (killed and wounded). Then comes nearby Waterloo, site of Napoleon’s famous final defeat and Ramillies, the site of the a great British-Dutch victory in 1706. Heck, Waterloo and Ramilies are less than 5 miles apart! The whole area is littered with major battlefields!!! The next day, John is off to tour the Somme Battlefield, 40 miles to the southwest and another 1.5 million WWI casualties. Then he’ll retrace much of his path for a tour of the 1794 Flanders campaign, then …
So what’s the question? **Dr. Lovett is trying to justify this trip as a learning experience for his Economic History class.** What point does the presence of all these battlefields in such a small area indicate? ... **and the answer is highlighted.**

a. Europe had not really advanced to point of mobile warfare until after World War I.

b. Between 1700 and 1920, the low countries (Belgium and the Netherlands) were the only countries that were rich enough to be able to afford large militaries.

c. Between 1700 and 1920, the low countries (Belgium and the Netherlands) were the only countries that were rich enough to justify other countries wanting to invade them.

d. Between 1700 and 1920, the frontline between Catholic and Protestant lands was the Belgium-Netherlands border.

e. Belgium and the Netherlands are basically a natural invasion route unhindered by mountainous terrain.

f. A plot, by the British Parliament, to have the British switch sides and support the Dutch in return for Dutch help in overthrowing the Stuarts.

g. Between 1700 and 1920, Britain had a policy of supporting “proxy” wars on the European continent. The low countries, being right across the channel from Britain, were the natural spot for Britain to instigate these wars.

4. _____ **What national representative body was there in the Dutch Republic?**

a. The Dutch commons

b. None. The Dutch Republic was officially a part of England. The Dutch people did, however, elect their own MP’s to serve in the English Parliament.

c. None. The Dutch Republic was officially a part of England. Further, there was no direct representation of Dutch lands in the English Parliament.

d. The States General

5. _____ **Who was directly represented in the above body? Who sent representatives to the above body?**

a. The English Crown, French Crown, Spanish Crown, the Pope, & the Holy Roman Emperor.

b. Representatives for each of the major “estates” in the Dutch Republic. Each representative got one vote. The estates were: 1) the Dutch monarch, 2) the Calvinist church, 3) & 4) two representatives of the Dutch landed gentry (elected by an assembly of gentry) and 4 & 5) one “public” elector, directly elected by the Dutch voters (all adult males).

c. Representatives for each of the provinces of the Dutch Republic. Each province got one vote. The people representing a province at the National level were chosen by that province’s government, rather than being directly elected by the people.

d. Only English males who owned property.

e. English, Scot, Welsh, and Dutch males who owned property.

6. _____ **What kind of Monarch or Executive leader did the Dutch Republic have?**

a. a relatively weak leader from a royal family, mostly a war leader, who was chosen by the provinces of the Dutch Republic

b. a leader chosen by the Calvinist Church

c. a hereditary leader with (traditionally) strong powers

d. a “President” directly elected by Dutch voters (all adult males)

e. a “President” directly chosen by the King of England

f. a “President” directly chosen by the King of France

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7 – 8. Indicate when and how did the Dutch Republic become a nation by choosing the appropriate answer for each blank

7. In ______ …
   a. the late 1000’s  b. the late 1200’s  c. the late 1300’s  d. the late 1400’s  e. the late 1500’s  f. the late 1600’s  g. the late 1700’s  h. the late 1800’s

8. _____ …
   a. the Dutch revolted against the king of Spain and formed their own country
   b. the Dutch revolted against the Duke of Burgundy and formed their own country. The Duke of Burgundy was basically a puppet of the English government.
   c. Dutch lands were ruled by an English Duke. The English duke allied with France and basically formed his own, Dutch, country.
   d. Dutch lands were invaded by a Viking army. The Vikings soon formed their own country which has persisted, with some boundary changed, to the modern day.
   e. the French expelled the English from the Dutch lands by France and set up a “puppet” Duchy. When the English attacked France again, the Duchy declared its independence from France.

9 – 10. Indicate when and how did the Dutch Republic ceased to be the Dutch Republic nation by choosing the appropriate answer for each blank

9. In ______ …
   a. the late 1000’s  b. the late 1200’s  c. the late 1300’s  d. the late 1400’s  e. the late 1500’s  f. the late 1600’s  g. the late 1700’s  h. the late 1800’s

10. _____ the Dutch …
   a. were invaded by a German army. The Germans set up their own “puppet state”.
   b. faced an internal revolt led by both Catholics and wealthy Dutch merchants. The Dutch government was overthrown and the Dutch lands joined with Belgium.
   c. Peacefully became part of the Kingdom of Great Britain. The Dutch lands were a British possession for nearly 100 years.
   d. were invaded by a French army. The French set up their own “puppet state”.

11. _____ Rank the countries below in term of their relative level of economic development (i.e. Real GDP/capita, financial institutions, etc.). Use 1st for the most advanced country, 2nd for the less advanced country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>England (Great Britain)</th>
<th>The Dutch Republic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1625</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
12. Cool! Below is a map of modern country and (in the case of the U.S.) state boundaries. While the boundaries are modern, they very closely match many of the boundaries of the 1600’s. Clearly indicate each of the following countries:

- Great Britain
- France
- Spain
- The Dutch Republic

With the exception that Northern Ireland is not delineated from Eire/Ireland. Sorry about that. It’s the way the clips art came in the package I use so it’s not an intentional political statement on my part.