

Past exam questions

Not all questions have been treated in the same way as in the current course.

1. Is the theory of “despotic states” by Wittfogel validated by facts. (You can have your own opinion, but it should be argued.)
Discuss how one might have some quantitative evaluation of that burden before the year 1600.
2. Provide some examples of the methods used by Edward III to raise tax income.
3. Some historians have argued that the payment stop by Philip II in 1575 was more or less a standard default on foreign loans? Do you agree? (The answer should not be just yes or no).
4. Explain the difference between funded and unfunded debt.
5. “People were better protected against the inflation tax on their money holding in the Middle-Age than today in economies with paper money” True/False? Give a *short* explanation. Think economics.
6. In England under Edward I, were all taxes granted after consultation with the parliament?
7. Discuss the differences between England and Spain for the development of charters, assemblies and parliaments. Emphasize the reasons for the differences. Be short.
8. What were the main differences between the public finance systems in England and France in the 14th century. Provide some explanation for these differences.
9. The following table describes hypothetical coins that have been issued in the years of the first column. F is the degree of fineness (in percentage of silver). N is the number of coins per marc (a unit of weight). L is the mint par (face value of coins per unit weight of silver). P is the price of silver (livre per marc). c is the brassage in percentage of the face value of the coin. (No calculator is needed).

Coin of 10 Deniers

Date	F	N	L	P	c
June 1412	41.7	80	8	6.75	6
December 1417	33.3	80	10	8	14.0
January 1419	20	80	?	10	27.3

- (a) Why do we see an increase of the price of silver?
- (b) Could the coin made in June 1412 circulate in December 1417? (The reason for your answer may be more important than yes/no).
- (c) Could the coin made in June 1412 be issued in December 1417 to generate revenues for the Crown?
- (d) Fill the blank in the line for January 1419. (If you don't know the value of a denier in livres (pounds), explain the method of computation).