Gregory Clark   Econ 110A, Spring 2008

MIDTERM 1

No calculators permitted. A total of 100 points are possible.

Last Name: _____   First Name: _____

Your Student ID Number: __ __ __ - __ __ - __ __ __ __

Part A: Multiple Choice Questions
(16 questions, each of which is worth 4 points)

1. The Malthusian Era denotes which period in world history?

A.   1 AD – 1800 AD
B.   2000 BC – 1700 AD
C.   10,000 BC – 1750 AD
D.   Neolithic Revolution to the Industrial Revolution
E.   250,000 BC – 1800 AD

2.   What was the principal effect of the Neolithic Revolution, the arrival of settled agriculture, around 8,000 BC on human societies?

A.   Longer life expectancies
B.   Shorter life expectancies
C.   Greater population densities
D.   Higher incomes
E.   Lower incomes

3. Work hours for men seem to have increased between the Neolithic Revolution and the Industroial Revolution. Assuming this rise was from 6 to 9 hours per day. What effect did this have on material living standards?

A.   They stayed the same
B.   They declined, but by less than 50%
C.   They declined by 50%
D.   They increased by 50%
E.   They increased, but by less than 50%

4. Hunter-gatherer societies before the Neolithic Revolution probably had many more violent deaths than agrarian economies on the eve of the Industrial Revolution. How do we know this?

A.   Observations of modern hunter-gatherer groups
B.   Skeletal evidence on causes of death
C.   Cave paintings depicting battles
D.   Observations of modern hunter-gatherers, plus skeletal evidence
E.   Skeletal evidence, plus cave paintings.

5. The average population growth rate in the world between 100,000 BC and 1750 AD was 0.007% per year. If birth rates per thousand averaged 35 over this interval, what was the average death rate (approximately).

A.   30
B.   31
C.   34
D.   35
E.   37

6. Some sub-Saharan African societies still have birth rates of 50 per thousand of population. What would like expectancy be for such societies in the Malthusian era?

A.   20
B.   25
C.   30
D.   40
E.   50

7.   It is ironic that Thomas Malthus, the English churchman, discovered the principles of the Malthusian Economy in his book *An Essay on a Principle of Population* in 1798 since

A.   England had escaped the Malthusian era long before, around 1600
B.   English living standards by then greatly exceeded thus of the hunter-gatherer era
C.   Malthus himself, while preaching population constraint to the poor, had 10 children of his own
D.   The Industrial Revolution, which eventually swept away the Malthusian era, was already well under way in England
E.   Material living conditions by then in England greatly exceed those of England in 1450.

8. With unrestricted fertility it is possible for total fertility rates for women to be as high as 10 births per woman. For most Malthusian economies the total fertility rate was much lower. It was typically

A.   2
B.   3
C.   4
D.   5
E.   6

9. Who was Samuel Pepys?

A.   Opponent of Malthus who argued in his 1799 book that the government could improve living conditions.
B.   Diarist who was a high official in the English government in the 1660s
C.   Inventor of the first effective smallpox vaccination.
D.   The sea captain in the English Navy who discovered Tahiti in 1767
E.   Classical economist, author of the famous *Principles of Economics* (1817)

10. Four features characterized the reproduction pattern in pre-industrial west Europe. Which of the following is **NOT** one of them?

A.   A substantial fraction of women never marry.
B.   Most women married after age 24.
C.   There was no deliberate fertility control within marriage.
D.   There was little sex outside marriage.
E.   Almost all men marry.

11. The Malthusian model assumes death rates decline with real wages. We get evidence that this is true in pre-industrial Europe from which of the following sources?

A.   Death rates in years of high versus years of low grain prices
B.   The life expectancy at birth of the English aristocracy versus that of the general population
C.   The overall death rates in 20 year periods of low versus high wages.
D.   The numbers of children mentioned in the wills of rich versus poor people in England in the seventeenth century.
E.   The life expectancy of people in England before 1800 compared to those of people in Japan or China.

12. Suppose that in France in 1300 the government improved sanitation in towns by public health measures, and so reduced infant mortality. What will be the long run effect on life expectancy of this change?

A.   Increases if wages decrease.
B.   Increases if wages increase.
C.   Decreases
D.   Stays the same
E.   Increases.

13. In a Malthusian economy there is a one time improvement in the technology. The effect of this in the **short run** is:

A.   Wages go up, the birth rate increases, and the death rate falls.
B.   Wages go up, the birth rate and death rate both fall.
C.   Wages go down, the birth rate stays the same, and the death rate falls.
D.   Wages, birth rates and death rates all stay the same.
E.   Wages fall, birth rates and death rates stay the same.

14. The arrival of the Black Death caused death rates in Europe to increase for the next 300 years. When were the last great outbreaks of plague?

A.   1340s
B.   1380s
C.   1490s
D.   1660s
E.   1780s

15. The best measure of the level of technological advance of economies before 1800 is:

A.   The population density.
B.   The percentage of the population living in cities.
C.   Life expectancy.
D.   Real wages.
E.   The average age of marriage.

16. The economy in China in 1600-1700 we believe was still a **Malthusian** economy. This was because:

A.   Agriculture was still the major occupation.
B.   The technology of the society was improving only slowly.
C.   Marriage in China was nearly universal.
D.   Birth rates were above 30 per thousand.
E.   Internal wars caused great population losses.

Part B: LONG ANSWERS (36 pts)

1. In a recent book Professor Kenneth Pomeranz of UC Irvine has argued that China was as advanced technologically as Europe in 1800 because the living standards in some regions of China were as high as those in Europe. Using the Malthusian model, and illustrations from actual examples, consider whether this claim is justified.

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