



UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (SOE)

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

HIS 434 : TRANSFORMATION OF EUROPE

DATE: 5TH AUGUST 2026

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.**

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

TRANSFORMING EUROPE

While serfdom declined and disappeared in Western Europe, it gained new prominence in Eastern Europe. African slaves, working in the Americas, contributed greatly to Europe's economy. It is possible that the condition of the average person in Western Europe declined between 1500 and 1700. New World crops helped Western European peasants avoid starvation.

High consumption of wood for heating, cooking, construction, shipbuilding, and industrial uses led to severe deforestation in Europe in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Shortages drove the cost of wood up. As the price of wood rose, Europeans began to use coal instead of wood. Some efforts were also made to conserve forests and to plant trees, particularly to provide wood for naval vessels.

The urban poor consisted of "deserving poor" (permanent residents) and large numbers of "unworthy poor"—migrants, peddlers, beggars, and criminals. Women's status and work were closely tied to that of their husbands and families.

Common people in early modern Europe married relatively late until young men could make a living on their own and young women could work enough to earn their dowries. The young people of the bourgeois class also married late partly because men delayed marriage until after finishing their education. Late marriage enabled young couples to be independent of their parents; it also helped to keep the birth rate low.

Bourgeois parents put great emphasis on education and promoted the establishment of schools. Most schools, professions, and guilds barred women from participation.

Between 1516 and 1519, Charles of Burgundy, descendant of the Austrian Habsburg family, inherited the thrones of Castile and Aragon, with their colonial empires; the Austrian Habsburg possessions; and the position of Holy Roman Emperor. Charles was able to forge a coalition to defeat the Ottomans at the gates of Vienna in 1529, but he was unable to unify his many territorial possessions. Lutheran German princes rebelled against the French-speaking Catholic Charles, seizing church lands and giving rise to the German Wars of Religion. When Charles abdicated the throne, Spain went to his son Philip while a weakened Holy Roman Empire went to his brother Ferdinand.

Meanwhile, the rulers of Spain, France, and England pursued their own efforts at political unification.

In England, a conflict between Parliament and the king led to a civil war and the establishment of a Puritan republic under Oliver Cromwell. After the Stuart line was restored, Parliament enforced its will on the monarchy when it drove King James II from the throne in the Glorious Revolution of 1688 and forced his successors, William and Mary, to sign a document, the Bill of Rights, to limit the power of the crown.

In France, the Bourbon kings were able to circumvent the representative assembly known as the Estates General and develop an absolutist style of government. Louis XIV's finance minister Colbert was able to increase revenue through more efficient tax collection and by promoting economic growth, while Louis entertained and controlled the French nobility by requiring them to attend his court at Versailles.

Required:

- a) Discuss the characteristics of Europe during Dark Ages. **(12 marks)**
- b) Elucidate how decimation by famine, diseases and decline in population changed European continent. **(9 marks)**

- c) Account for key milestones in the fourteenth century that transformed continental Europe.
(4 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a) Evaluate factors for “rebirth” in Europe.
(9 marks)
- b) Argue features of European renaissance.
(6 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Analyze impact of European religious reformation.
(7 marks)
- b) Justify factors for seventeenth century European reforms.
(8 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Illustrate main contributions of sixteenth century Universe scientists to modern science.
(6 marks)
- b) Analyze main landmarks of Scientific Revolution.
(9 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Explain the beginning and growth of Feudalism in Europe in middle Ages.

(6 marks)

- b) Account for major features of European feudalism.

(9 marks)

QUESTION SIX

- a) Illustrate major factors of Enlightenment in Europe.

(7 marks)

- b) Argue the significant milestones of the European enlightenment.

(8 marks)