1. **Obligatory Question:**

More than twenty years ago, François-Xavier Guerra claimed that the “Iberian Revolutions” led to an abrupt and massive change in the political cultures of Spanish America, based on enlightened and liberal ideas imported from North-Atlantic nations.

How would you characterize the Spanish American struggles for independence? In your answer outline major positions of historians since the 1960s, and compare at least three of four regions (New Spain/Mexico, Gran Colombia, the central Andes, and the southern cone). Consider ideological, political, social changes, and military and mobilizational aspects of the processes leading to independence.

2. **Answer one of the following two questions:**

   a) The role of Christianity in colonial encounters is still one of the most productive fields of research for Latin America’s colonial era. Please discuss with reference to at least two distinct cultural areas (Brazil, Andes or Mesoamerica) how scholars from the 1990s onwards have assessed the role of Christianity within the realm of socio-political and cultural transformations during the colonial era. Assess through your own interpretive ideas whether, and, if so, how Christianity ultimately contributed to Latin America’s “modernity.”

   b) John Tutino has recently claimed that “Spanish North America” (the Viceroyalty of New Spain north of Mexico City) was central to the development of global capitalism in the early modern period. How have the interpretations of the colonial Latin American economies changed over the past fifty years? In your answer consider issues as productivity in various sectors, labor regimes, market structures, capital, legal systems and the role of the state. Discuss these issues for various sectors of the colonial economies (mining, agriculture/ranching, and commerce) with examples from at least three distinct regions of Latin America, including Brazil. How did Latin American economies change between the sixteenth and early nineteenth centuries?

3. **Answer one of the following two questions:**

   a) Since the categories of “race” and “racism” have such a great impact on Latin America’s past and present, please discuss the debates around these concepts and how they have impacted research on Latin America during the colonial era. Adduce examples from Brazil and either the Andes or Mesoamerica.

   b) Please discuss how scholars from the 1980s onwards have viewed “indigeneity” in its different cultural and political expressions in Latin America from the sixteenth to the early nineteenth centuries with reference to both the Andean and Mesoamerican regions. Regarding indigenous groups, evaluate the postcolonialists’ reconstruction of “subaltern voices” in Latin America that aims to overcome the dichotomy of ‘coloniality versus modernity.’