Answer ONE question from each of the three sections.

1. Comparative

A. Consider the changes industrialization brought to the character of women's work and their roles in working-class activism in industrializing societies during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In terms of labor historiography, how has a greater emphasis on the experience of women and on gender as a category of analysis changed our understanding of industrialization and working-class formation? How has the inclusion of colonial and post-colonial societies affected this historiography? Are we asking the right questions when we speak of "work" and "industry" in the same sentence?

B. How would you define the “New Labor History” of the 1970s and 1980s in the context of US and European historiography and how did it represent an advance in the effort to capture the historical experience of workers? What did the New Labor History still leave out and how has the scholarship of the past generation represented an advance over the work of the New historians? What do you see as the new frontier in terms of research in terms of working-class history?

2. Europe

A. What is the relationship in nineteenth-century Europe between an artisanal mode of production, the rise of capitalism, and the development of labor politics? In other words, in what ways does the structure of production influence the ideas artisans bring to understanding their position in the society and economy? In what ways do “subjectivity” and “experience” call into question the importance of materiality and structure?

B. Consider how socialist values, or attributes signified as "socialist," created a "class apart" or a "socialist civilization" in the United Kingdom, Germany, and the USSR in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (to about 1933). What were the enabling institutions of this civilization? What were the distinctive indicators of "socialist civilization"? What difference did socialist control of state power make, if any?
3. United States

A. Taking the periods of the 1830s, 1917 through the early 1920s, and the 1930s as case studies, discuss the following statement. Use concrete examples to indicate how and why you agree with the statement and where and why it seems to go wrong:

“Although American workers never produced class conscious organizations and movements, severe class conflict erupted at several junctures in the history of the US. Two big problems stood in the way of developing a truly class-conscious labor movement: (1) the definition of the movement in social terms – i.e., who was in and who was not; and (2) the ferocious opposition of both employers and the state.”

B. Discuss three of the following four organizations in terms of ideology, strategies, and membership, and account for the rise and decline of each:

American Federation of Labor
Knights of Labor
Congress of Industrial Organizations
Industrial Workers of the World