Answer one question in each section. You must do a total of three (3) questions. Be sure each essay has a clear line of argument, addresses as many dimensions of the question as possible, and offers relevant, persuasive evidence from specific secondary sources wherever appropriate. Good luck!

section I.

1) Discuss the establishment of Ottoman power in Asia Minor and the Balkans, and analyze its repercussions on the demographic, economic, social and political make-up of the region. What were the factors transforming a tribal polity into a bureaucratic empire and what were the main legacies contributing to this? What are the different lines of interpretation in the separate national historiographies? Are there meeting points that create a historiographic consensus?

2) The period from the end of the sixteenth century until the end of the Ottoman Empire has been traditionally subsumed under the heading of 'decline.' What are the origins and evolution of the 'decline' paradigm? What were the contemporaries' assessments of the political and social transformations? Discuss the critical historiographical response to the 'decline' thesis and the alternative visions.

section II.

1) Discuss the term historical category “identity” and discuss its applicability to the early modern period. What types of identity existed? How were they created and transmitted; and how did they relate to each other? How did the European Christian presence in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean impact the production and experience of identity in early modern Europe? Be sure to give concrete empirical examples as well as thematic and historiographic analysis.

2) What were the most important categories of human “difference” in early modern Europe and how did they change over the period covered by this exam? How have scholars discussed changing categories of difference in Europe in the early modern centuries? Your response could consider “toleration / intolerance,” for example, or the question of difference within early modern empires, or in the Mediterranean and Atlantic worlds.
section III.

1) How did the household economy, family structures, work, and consumption develop between 1450 and 1750 in Europe and the Ottoman Empire? How have scholars linked these issues (households, family structure, work, and consumption) to other key themes in the period, such as state formation, the Reformations, or the growth / decline of empires?

2) In our period the Ottoman Empire fought and collaborated with its western and central European counterparts (Venice, France, the Habsburgs). Early modern Europe was characterized by a pervasive fear of the Ottomans, but also by a fascination with the Ottomans. What were the specific Ottoman state, social, and economic structures that contributed to this? In what ways were they comparable to, or served as a contrast to, the structures of the "western" polities?