**Directions:** Answer three of the six questions below (but not both of the questions regarding France). Be sure that your essay has a clear line of argument, engages with both the relevant history and historiography, and discusses specific scholars and scholarly works.

1) The history of science under the Nazis has been a rich vein for scholarly analysis. Early narratives about how the Nazis “perverted” science are no longer seen as sufficient to explain the course of science or the behavior of individual scientists under the Third Reich. With attention to such scientists as Werner Heisenberg, Max Planck, and Konrad Lorenz, and taking into consideration different areas of science (physics, biology, and any other sciences you care to examine), explore how scholars have treated science under the Nazis. Also reflect at least briefly on how different the “politics” of Nazi science was from science pursued at the behest of the state in other countries in the same or other periods.

2) One phenomenon found in several of the national historiographies of science is the idea of the “rise” and “decline” of the sciences in particular countries during certain periods. Write a comparative essay about the supposed decline of science in China, the Islamic world, and France in the past. How have scholars tended to conceptualize and interpret this putative decline? Then in shorter compass contrast the scholarly commentaries on certain “rising” science communities, such as those in Germany, Russia/Soviet Union, and the USA.

3) Lavoisier, Pasteur, and Curie: arguably these are the three greatest scientists in French history. Write an essay about the history and historiography of these three figures making sure to include discussions of the different approaches, sources, and interpretations found over time in the scholarly literature about them.

4) You read an especially large number of works about science in France. Write a wide-ranging essay that highlights the major themes running through French science history. Then discuss what scholars have made of this history, paying particular attention to changes over time in the subjects, methods, sources, and findings of historians in this field.

5) If you were given the chance to teach a middle-level, semester-long university course on the history of science, viewed from a cross-cultural and global perspective, how would you structure it? What readings would you assign?
6) Earlier historians of science emphasized the biographies of great scientists and the internal history of science ideas. In contrast, the past two generations have with great profit pioneered specifically social and cultural approaches to understanding science. Write a comparative essay about the range of social and cultural influences on science in different countries that scholars have studied. What do you regard as the strengths and accomplishments but also the possible limitations or excesses of the social/cultural constructionist approach?