Part I. Respond to the question below:

1) “Virtually every major difference between colonial Brazil and colonial Spanish America can be traced to the much more important role that African slavery played in the Brazilian economy.” Discuss.

Part II. Respond to two of the following questions:

2) How do the Mexican Revolution and the regime that emerged from it reflect broader trends and tensions in Latin American history? Discuss in connection to at least two other countries.

3) Scholars of Latin America have often studied nation building and related projects and ideologies (Liberalism, republicanism, etc.) from different perspectives, with one school casting attention on elite actors and another preferring to write history more from “the bottom up.” Through a comparison of Brazil and at least one other country from Spanish America, please provide your own answer to the question “who builds nations?” and explain how that answer compares to the foregoing scholarly consensus.

4) In the last thirty years, labor historians have paid increasing attention to gender. How has this development changed our understanding of workers and their histories? Do we now understand labor history in a different light, or have scholars simply broadened our purview by adding women to formerly male-centric narratives?

5) Discuss the works on Caribbean history that you have read for this exam. What are the most salient issues and units of analysis? How has the scholarship changed over time?