Obligatory Question:

The ethnohistory of indigenous peoples in colonial Spanish America, esp. Meso-America and the Andean region, has undergone enormous changes over the past fifty years. Through the discussion of seminal works on both regions between the 1960s and the present, outline the major themes, findings, concepts and methods of this literature, and how they have changed over this half century.

2. Answer one of the following two questions:

“Liberalism was exactly the right ideology to guide nineteenth century Latin America politically and economically.” Discuss this claim with reference to any three countries.

Discuss the shifting historiography on the revolutions or wars of independence in Latin America (1808-1825). What have been the major controversies about causes, processes, outcomes, ideologies and social/ethnic mobilization of these struggles? What is your personal view? Exemplify these issues for at least three different Latin American states.

3. Answer one of the following two questions:

Brazil and Mexico underwent significant industrialization and diversification of their economies in the twentieth century. Yet one of the two countries had a social revolution and the other did not. Did the revolution in Mexico have a notable effect on its economic development in a way that the absence of a revolution in Brazil did not?

How has the situation of women in Latin America changed between the moment of independence (1820s) and the present? Citing important works on the history of women, gender and sexuality in different eras over the past two centuries, discuss gender ideologies, state policies, family structures, employment and education, and relevant social movements.