Answer one question from each section below. Discussions of classic and recent historiography are always pertinent.

Section I

A. The study of emotion is a relatively new field in medieval scholarship. Discuss what is known about emotions in this era, and how the study of emotions has affected more traditional areas of study (politics, religion, etc.)

B. To what extent, and in what ways, did women present a problem for the institutional Church during the Middle Ages?

Section II

A. So what’s wrong with “feudalism,” anyway? Discuss recent debates over the use of the term (by medievalists and others) and lay out your own position on the subject.

B. Can we say that European attitudes toward, and reactions to, violence changed significantly over the course of the period? If so, what role did developments in law and governance play in those changes? If not, should this be seen as a failure of secular and religious authority?

Section III

A. Medieval Europe can be viewed as the product of many successive colonizing initiatives. How so?

B. What are the major turning-points, or main phases, in the history of medieval Europe? How would you define this period – and when, where, how, and why are these phases discernible?