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

**Section I**

A. When does the Middle Ages begin – and where? How has this era been characterized, and why? In what ways does it differ from what comes before? In what ways have differences been exaggerated?

B. In what sense, if any, does the period from 500 to 1500 have coherence? Is it time to jettison the term “the Middle Ages”?

**Section II**

A. The Church may be the Mystical Body of Christ, but it is also an earthly institution, affected by historical trends. Discuss the impact of economic changes on the institutional church during the Middle Ages.

B. *Ecclesia semper reformanda est.* In your view, what were the major reforming movements and trends prior to the sixteenth century? How do these movements intersect with (or catalyze, or respon to) contemporary political, social, and cultural developments?

**Section III**

A. How would you approach the development of an introductory survey course on medieval European history geared toward undergraduates? How would you organize the syllabus? What periodization would you advance? What majors themes would you emphasize? What readings and assignments would you require? Be sure to offer a cogent explanation for all choices.

B. In your view, what contribution(s) can the study of the Middle Ages make to our understanding of the world in the 21st century? How would you re-shape existing medieval historiography to make that understanding more profound?