PLEASE ANSWER THREE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Read through the questions carefully and decide how you wish to answer them. Take a deep breath. Relax. Good luck. Enjoy.

1. Although sources for exploring the social life of the medieval and early modern periods of Russian history are much more limited than for modern eras, scholars have made use of a variety of newer types of sources (rituals, maps, judicial and administrative records, etc), as well as revisting older texts to reconstruct everyday life and the social imaginary during this period and to pay more attention to newer themes, notably gender. Describe the state of knowledge of pre-Petrine Russian social life.

2. The collectivization campaign in the Soviet Union and its aftermath has sometimes been labeled a “second serfdom.” Compare the original development of serfdom in the Russian empire with the transformation of the Soviet countryside from 1929 to 1939. Pay attention to ideology, causes, and outcomes.

3. Territorial expansion was long a hallmark of Russian history, producing a complex multiethnic, multinational, and multiconfessional empire. Is “empire” the most useful term for interpreting the relations between the Russian center and the multiple ethnicities and nations that constituted Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union? Can we speak of a continuous imperial ideology across the 1917 divide, or was the Soviet “brotherhood of nations” fundamentally non-imperial?

4. Interpret the history of the Russian “intelligentsia,” from the 1830s to 1917, around the question of “social thought,” however you believe this group and this category of thought should be defined.

5. The relationship of Russia and Europe has been a problematic one, but has always attracted a great deal of discussion and concern. Discuss the extent to which Russia was part of “Europe” at the following moments: 1790, 1914, 1945. Please be sure to clarify your understanding of both “Russia” and “Europe.”