THREE of the following questions will appear on the final exam.

1. Why was Alexander Hamilton such a divisive figure in the early Republic? Try to explain why his supporters and admirers believed in him so deeply and yet why his opponents feared and hated him so passionately.

2. What did the concept of “honor” mean to Americans in the early nineteenth century? Provide examples not only of how the honor code affected elites, but also by showing how it penetrated into the American backcountry.

3. Was Abraham Lincoln an abolitionist? Be careful when responding to this question to define terms and to explain the nuances of antislavery politics in the years before and during the Civil War.

4. “The Confederates lost the Civil War because of a collapse of morale on their homefront, especially among women.” Agree or disagree with this statement.

5. Why was Frederick Douglass so disappointed by the aftermath of the Civil War? How did he express his frustration with the politics of Reconstruction?

GENERAL ADVICE

Good essay exam answers begin by providing a clear thesis or interpretation and by defining any key terms in the question. You don’t need to restate the question, but you should address its terms directly in the opening paragraph. The best answers then proceed to support their interpretation by providing specific historical examples arranged in a logical and compelling fashion. Essays should offer a high level of detail, including the use of brief quotations or striking examples and should also take care to anticipate potential objections or alternatives to their interpretations.

REMINDERS

- Students may study together but must produce their own answers
- Each essay should occupy several blue book pages and take about 40 - 45 minutes
- Missing an exam is only an option in an emergency or for documented sickness