

VU HISTORY EXAMINATION

Date: 17 August 2021

Time: 13.30 – 16.30 hrs. (Amsterdam time)

Location: Online Examination

Literature

- Simon Schama: The Embarrassment of Riches. Please study the following chapters only: Introduction and chapters 1, 3, 5, 6.
- Timothy Brook, Vermeer's Hat. The seventeenth century and the dawn of the global world, ISBN 9781846681202 (whole book)

Reading instructions:

Read the book carefully and take notes. While studying, make sure that you can summarize the book and make contemplative comments on the book. Pay attention to the following:

- What is the central message of the book?
- On what literature did the author base their analysis?
- In what way is the approach of Schama convincing? And in what way isn't he?
- What concepts (culture, religion) are important for the analysis and how does the author define these concepts?

The examination will be digital and consists of open-ended essay questions. The answers to these questions consist of explanations of several aspects and issues from the book.

Tip: Book reviews can help you to gain insights in the different aspects mentioned in the book. It is allowed to use the book for reference during the exam. The exam consists of 10 questions. You may skip two questions of choice and leave these unanswered.

General Guideline: see each question as an opportunity to give an essay-like answer. One of the aims of the exam is to get an insight into your language skills.

Pay attention to spelling and grammar, and try to write full sentences instead of short enumerations.

Example question:

"Between 1531 and 1800 there were at least 40 occasions when whales landed up on the Dutch beaches. In chapter 3 (Feasting, Fasting and Timely Atonement} of part 2 (Doing and Not Doing} of his book, author Simon Schama shows many drawings and paintings of stranded whales and the reactions they provoked. Many people came to watch. Which explanations did the Dutch give at the time for the stranded whales, how did they interpret these events on their shores, according to Schama?"

Registration:

- When this test applies to you, you are automatically registered for the test after your conditional admission to the programme. However, you do have to confirm your participation by fulfilling the payment for the test.
- The fee for the test is €130,-. This amount can be transferred to account number NL93Deut0487635272 in the name of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. **Make sure to include 'FGW – History exam', your name + student number, and order number 1362002 in the description.**

The payment deadline is **1 July 2021**.

A payment confirmation will be sent to you no later than 8 July 2021. If we have not received the payment by the deadline, you will not be able to take the exam. It is not possible to receive a refund of the paid fee for this exam.

- If you do not want to take the test to continue with your admission to the programme, we kindly request you to cancel your application in Studielink. You will then no longer be considered for the programme.

International Office

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam