The mid-term exam is scheduled for Thursday, Oct 7. It will consist of one essay question and six or seven identification questions. The essay question appearing on the exam will be taken from the following list.

A good identification answer should be about five lines long and clearly identify who or what the subject is and in particular, in what way(s) is he/she/it historically significant.

In answering an essay question, you should formulate clearly stated answers for all aspects of the question and support them with specific historical evidence pertaining to your viewpoint. Generally, a simple yes/no answer is not adequate. Historical events are complex and a good essay will show the complexity of the relationships about which the question asks.

Your evidence must be specific. If you find yourself using pronouns like "they" or "them," without having particular antecedents to which they refer, you're probably falling into the trap of vagueness. Closely related to this are general statements about groups, classes, or institutions (e.g., peasants, merchants, the church, the government, Romans, etc.) without mentioning specific instances in which representative members of that group, class, or institution acted as described in your general statement. If your answer is going to be convincing, you must use specific examples to support such general statements. In general, if you provide an "answer" without any evidence, or provide a collection of facts without showing how these details relate to the question, you have provided half an answer. Half an answer—if done well—is worth a "C."

To help you organize your ideas for these questions you may prepare handwritten notes to bring to the exam. All your notes must fit on both sides of a single standard 3" x 5" index card. They cannot be photoreduced or printed with tiny computer fonts and are to be signed and handed in with your exam.

BRING TWO SMALL BLUE-BOOKS TO THE EXAM

1. You are an Athenian in the fourth century BC, considering whether to adopt the scientific views of Plato or Aristotle. Discuss the adequacy and limitations of the two systems and decide which of these scientific systems you will adopt, giving specific reasons for adopting one and for rejecting the other.

2. A noted historian of astronomy, Otto Neugebauer, once wrote:
   Calendric problems directed the first steps of astronomy. Determination of the season, measurement of time, lunar festivals--these are the problems which shaped astronomical development for many centuries.
   Examine the validity of Neugebauer's emphasis on the importance of the calendar, considering evidence from non-literate cultures (e.g. the Hopi), from Ancient Greece, and from Early Medieval Europe.

3. It has been suggested that historically, people take an approach that works well in one area of the investigation of nature and apply this approach to other areas beyond the original area to which that model applied.
   Discuss this phenomenon, describing how it applies in the Puebloan color direction system, in Plato's concern with geometry, and in Aristotle's concern with biology. Drawing on your description, discuss the advantages and disadvantages of these extensions of a conceptual approach beyond their original areas of application.