

2006 AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

EUROPEAN HISTORY

SECTION II

Part C

(Suggested planning and writing time—35 minutes)

Percent of Section II score—27 1/2

Directions: You are to answer ONE question from the three questions below. Make your selection carefully, choosing the question that you are best prepared to answer thoroughly in the time permitted. You should spend 5 minutes organizing or outlining your answer. Write your answer to the question on the lined pages of the Section II free-response booklet, making sure to indicate the question you are answering by writing the appropriate question number at the top of each page.

Write an essay that:

- Has a relevant thesis.
 - Addresses all parts of the question.
 - Supports thesis with specific evidence.
 - Is well organized.
5. Compare and contrast the social and economic roles of the state in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Europe (before 1789) to the social and economic roles of the state in Europe after the Second World War.
 6. In the period 1815-1900, political liberalization progressed much further in western Europe than in Russia. Analyze the social and economic reasons for this difference.
 7. Considering the period 1933 to 1945, analyze the economic, diplomatic, and military reasons for Germany's defeat in the Second World War.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 5

Compare and contrast the social and economic roles of the state in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Europe (before 1789) to the social and economic roles of the state in Europe after the Second World War.

9–6: Stronger

- Has a clear, well-developed thesis.
- Is well organized.
- Addresses the terms of the question.
- Supports the thesis with specific evidence.
- May contain minor errors; even a 9 need not be flawless.

Indicators for 9–8

- Essay covers both time periods and both roles.
- Stronger essays may concentrate on capitalism, socialism, or communism in later time period.
- A strong essay that focuses on theoretical issues or generalizes without giving abundant factual evidence may be placed in this category.
- Thesis may emerge from the contents or appear at the end.

Indicators for 7–6

- Essay covers both time periods and both roles.
- An essay that covers both halves of the question but slights either economic or social issues in one time period may be placed in this range.
- Thesis may emerge from the contents or appear at the end.

5–4: Mixed

- Contains a thesis, perhaps superficial or simplistic.
- Uneven response to the question's terms.
- May contain errors, factual or interpretive.

Indicators

- Attempts to answer both halves of the question.
- May focus almost entirely on one time period with only vague information about the other.
- May discuss either economic or social issues in both time periods.

3–0: Weaker

- Thesis is confused, absent, or merely restates the question.
- Misconstrues the question or omits major tasks.
- May contain major errors.

Indicators for 3–2

- May answer only one half of the question.
- May contain only information outside of time periods—French Revolution, Fascism.

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Question 5 Historical Background

Most of the major texts scatter information about the seventeenth to eighteenth centuries through several chapters. Social and economic information is interspersed with politics, as can be expected. Information on the post–World War II era is usually in at least two chapters with the fall of the Soviet Union being the general demarcation between chapters.

The focus of the question for the first time period is public order, social hierarchy, and mercantilism resulting in warfare and protectionist economies; for the second time period it is individualism, the welfare state, the growth of the super state (European Union), and/or the dismantling of the Communist system.

A summary of the information found in the most complete texts is included below.

1. Kagan, Ozment, Turner *The Western Heritage*

Chapter 13 discusses the rise of England and France into parliamentary monarchy and absolutism, respectively. Social, religious, and economic issues are covered. Mercantilism is explained. Chapter 15 mentions the development of the Dutch Republic as an urban, tolerant, and prosperous commercial society whose power declined in the early eighteenth century, but whose role in international financial affairs preserved its standing to some extent. The development of the corrupt English electoral system is mentioned, as are both financial bubbles in England and France. The Ottoman Empire, Poland, and Prussia are touched on. Chapter 16 discusses the major features of old regime life in both England and France, comparing nobility, peasantry, and the family economy before industrialism. Chapter 17 is a detailed discussion of the effects of mercantilism and the plantation system.

For the post–World War II era, chapter 30 has a political focus, although things like the suppression of churches in the Soviet Union, collectivization, and domination of education are mentioned but not in detail. Khrushchev's retreat from Stalinism toward consumer goods and decentralized economic planning is briefly covered. Eastern European protests are mentioned but again mostly politically. Chapter 31 focuses on Western Europe, covering population trends, the development of the welfare state, feminism, and the development of a consumer society.

2. Kishlansky, Geary, O'Brien *Civilization in the West*

Information in this text is condensed. Chapter 16 discusses the origins of absolutism vs. the English Revolutions of the seventeenth century. The religious right to resist is mentioned, as is the theory of society as a covenant espoused by Milton (and later philosophes). Absolutism is regarded as the “zenith” of the royal state, and Peter the Great as an Eastern absolutist is mentioned. Chapter 17 discusses science and the rise of the mercantile philosophy. The development of worldwide commerce is discussed: new banking methods, new products, mercantilism, and tulipmania in the Netherlands are covered. Chapter 18 discusses the evolution of the eighteenth-century British state and the creation of its international trading empire set against the wars of the century, which are seen as largely commercial. Chapter 19 shows the effects of this change: enlightenment thinking; the rise of intellectual cultural pursuits like opera, salons; and the increasing wealth, which created a top-heavy society. The bourgeoisie is mentioned, as is European urbanization. Companionate marriage and the change of family life are portrayed. New products, including those that harmed (gin), are mentioned.

Chapter 29 covers the post–World War II period. The focus of the chapter is economic recovery and the development of the welfare state; there is the relevant political information, but this text does not spend as much time on politics as it does on things like the rise of youth culture, the sexual revolution, women at