

2016 AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Use the passages below to answer all parts of the question that follows.

“When [the Dutch burgher] goes home from Church, does he take God’s Holy Book with him to ponder the sermon? No. Instead he picks up the day’s [business] gazette and busies himself with calculations of interest and the liquidation of debts. It would be better [if] on the Lord’s Day he gave some accounting of himself and, instead of reckoning his profits, reckoned up his sins.”

Simonides, minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, *Four Books on God’s Judgment*, 1655

“So, Amsterdam has risen through the hand of God to the peak of prosperity and greatness. . . . The whole world stands amazed at its riches and from east and west, north and south they come to behold it. The Great and Almighty Lord has raised this city above all others . . . yea He has even taken from them the [commerce] of the east and the west (for in former times Lisbon flourished) and has spilled their treasure into our bosom.”

Melchior Fokkens, Dutch historian, *Description of the Widely Renowned Merchant City of Amsterdam*, 1662

2. a) Describe ONE important difference between the views of commerce and prosperity expressed in the two passages.
- b) For EACH of the passages, identify and explain ONE factor (such as a historical development, an intellectual or philosophical trend, or a religious belief) that likely informed the view of commerce and prosperity expressed in that passage.

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Answer all parts of the question that follows.

3. Many historians contend that the development of railroads in the early 1800s was a significant turning point in European history.
- a) Identify TWO specific pieces of evidence that support the contention, and explain how each piece supports the contention.
 - b) Identify ONE specific piece of evidence that undermines the contention, and explain how it undermines the contention.

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Short Answer Question 2

Use the passages below to answer all parts of the question that follows.

“When [the Dutch burgher] goes home from Church, does he take God’s Holy Book with him to ponder the sermon? No. Instead he picks up the day’s [business] gazette and busies himself with calculations of interest and the liquidation of debts. It would be better [if] on the Lord’s Day he gave some accounting of himself and, instead of reckoning his profits, reckoned up his sins.”

Simonides, minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, *Four Books on God’s Judgment*, 1655

“So, Amsterdam has risen through the hand of God to the peak of prosperity and greatness . . . The whole world stands amazed at its riches and from east and west, north and south they come to behold it. The Great and Almighty Lord has raised this city above all others . . . yea He has even taken from them the [commerce] of the east and the west (for in former times [other cities such as] Lisbon also flourished) and has spilled their treasure into our bosom.”

Melchior Fokkens, Dutch historian, *Description of the Widely Renowned Merchant City of Amsterdam*, 1662

a) Describe ONE important difference between the views of commerce and prosperity expressed in the two passages.

b) For EACH of the passages, identify and explain ONE factor (such as a historical development, an intellectual or philosophical trend, or a religious belief) that likely informed the view of commerce and prosperity expressed in that passage.

0–3 points

Score 3

Response accomplishes **all three** tasks set by the question.

Score 2

Response accomplishes **two** of the tasks set by the question.

Score 1

Response accomplishes **one** of the tasks set by the question.

Score 0

Response accomplishes **none** of the tasks set by the question.

Score —

Is completely blank

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Short Answer Question 2 (continued)

Scoring Guide

0–3 points

- ONE point for accurately describing an important difference between the views of commerce and prosperity expressed in the two passages by Simonides and Fokkens.
- ONE point for identifying and explaining a factor (historical development, intellectual or philosophical trend, or a religious belief) that likely informed the view of commerce and prosperity expressed by Simonides.
- ONE point for identifying and explaining a factor (historical development, intellectual or philosophical trend, or a religious belief) that likely informed the view of commerce and prosperity expressed by Fokkens.

Scoring Notes

Examples of responses to Part A that would earn credit: (1 Point)

- Simonides is critical of businessmen and their interest in business because it interferes with God's work. Fokkens instead praises business ventures as being a product of God's work.
- Simonides describes Dutch wealth as a distraction from spiritual needs. Fokkens sees Dutch wealth as a testament of God's favor.
- Simonides criticizes Dutch businessmen's obsession with profit because it prevents them from engaging in religious pursuits. Fokkens sees financial success as a manifestation of God's grace.
- Simonides suggests that religion and commerce should be separate. Fokkens suggests that religion and commerce are intertwined.

Examples from Part B that would earn credit:

Simonides's Passage: (1 Point)

- Simonides's commentary about the Dutch being too focused on "calculations of interest and liquidation of debt" could be supported by the influence of Protestantism and its critiques of the Catholic Church on the Dutch Reformed Church.
- Simonides's argument that the Dutch are too focused on "calculations of interest and liquidation of debt" could be supported by the increased Dutch wealth deriving from the formation of the Dutch East India Company, the increased participation of Dutch merchants in global commerce and the resulting decline of Spain as a world power, and the proliferation of art funded by wealthy merchants.
- Simonides, as a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, was influenced by Protestant ideas about predestination, salvation by faith alone, the changing role of the clergy, and unnecessary wealth accumulation. Simonides is reacting to the increased religious pluralism of the Dutch community.

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Short Answer Question 2 (continued)

Fokkens's Passage: (1 Point)

- Fokkens's argument that "the whole world stands amazed at its [Amsterdam] riches" could be supported by the Dutch Golden Age and may include references to Dutch nationalism.
- Fokkens's argument that God "has raised this city above all others..." could be supported by the results of the Peace of Westphalia (1648), the decline of Catholic world powers such as Spain and Portugal, and the victories of Protestants over Catholics, especially in the Netherlands.
- Fokkens's characterization of Dutch prosperity relies on the historical development of Dutch trade and banking, such as the formation of the Bank of Amsterdam, the formation of Dutch East India Company, and the expansion of Dutch trade associated with overseas imperialism.
- The prosperity described by Fokkens could be attributed to the proper adherence to Protestant doctrines, such as prosperity being a sign of God's grace.