

**2009 AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

**EUROPEAN HISTORY**

**SECTION II**

**Part B**

**(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.

2. Analyze the long-term and short-term factors responsible for the disintegration of communist rule in TWO of the following states:

Czechoslovakia

East Germany

Hungary

Poland

3. Considering the period 1918 to 1948, analyze the political and diplomatic problems faced by TWO of the following newly created Eastern European states.

Austria

Czechoslovakia

Hungary

Poland

4. Analyze the extent to which Frederick the Great of Prussia and Joseph II of Austria advanced and did not advance Enlightenment ideals during their reigns.

# **AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES**

## **Question 3**

**Considering the period 1918 to 1948, analyze the political and diplomatic problems faced by TWO of the following newly created Eastern European states.**

**Austria**

**Czechoslovakia**

**Hungary**

**Poland**

### **9–8 Points**

- Thesis is explicit and responsive to the question; analyzes political and diplomatic problems.
- Organization is clear and consistent; major assertions are developed effectively.
- Essay is well balanced; analyzes both the political and diplomatic problems.
- Evidence is precise and relevant for both countries; analysis links historical events to problems.
- May contain errors that do not detract from the argument.

### **7–6 Points**

- Thesis is explicit and addresses both political and diplomatic problems in a more general fashion.
- Organization is clear and supports the argument.
- Essay is balanced; contains some discussion of both the political and diplomatic problems.
- Evidence may be stronger for one country than another; linkage between historical events and problems may be limited.
- May contain an error that detracts from the argument.

### **5–4 Points**

- Thesis is not fully responsive to the question; may identify problems superficially.
- Essay is not well organized; introduction or conclusion may be thin.
- Essay shows some imbalance; political and diplomatic problems not distinguished.
- Evidence is adequate though sparser on one country than another; may be more descriptive than analytical.
- May contain errors that detract from the argument.

### **3–2 Points**

- Thesis is not explicit; may merely restate the question.
- Organization is weak.
- Essay shows serious imbalance; may merely mention political and diplomatic problems.
- Offers limited or confused evidence for either country; may be a list.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

### **1–0 Points**

- Thesis is vague or incomplete.
- Organization may be skeletal.
- Political and diplomatic problems are described generically.
- Minimal evidence used; may be off task or unfocused.
- May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.

# AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

## Question 3 Historical Background

**General themes:** Failure of democracy and of principle of self-determination; Versailles settlement established new weak states; geopolitical problem (location near or between powerful neighbors); extreme right- and left-wing parties developed; rise of Nazism in 1930s; Soviet domination after World War II; conflicts between ethnic minorities, especially in Czechoslovakia; Eastern European states were subject to Nazi domination and then to Soviet control (except Austria); Eastern Europeans were often not in charge of their own destinies.

### Poland

- Poland had a turbulent post–World War I period, with wars against the Soviets, the Ukrainians, Germans, Lithuanians, and Czechs from 1918–1921.
- Established a democratic government in 1922, but it lasted only eight years.
- 68.9 percent of population ethnically Polish; 15 percent Ukrainian; 8.7 percent Jewish; 3.1 percent Belorussian; 2.3 percent German.
- Democratic government overthrown by Joseph Pilsudski in a coup in 1926.
- New, conservative constitution in 1934 gave the president extraordinary powers.
- Death of Pilsudski, 1935.

Most often cited by students:

**Political problems:** Internal conflict with ethnic minorities; anti-Semitism; re-created state that had not existed since the partitions; failure of democracy.

**Diplomatic problems:** Buffer state; location between Germany and the Soviet Union; Invasion of 1939; Holocaust.

### Czechoslovakia

- Sole surviving Eastern European democracy until Munich agreement.
- Established the National Assembly in Prague.
- Relatively stable from 1922 to 1929.
- Thomas Masaryk was gifted leader.
- Depression exacerbated ethnic tensions: 65 percent Czechs or Slovaks; 20 percent ethnic Germans (three million), often were pro-Nazi; 700,000 Hungarians.
- Diplomacy failed on September 18, 1938.
- Munich agreement allowed Hitler to take the Sudetenland.

Most often cited by students:

**Political problems:** Ethnic minorities, especially Germans in the Sudetenland; new state comprising Czechs and Slovaks (political plus: relatively stable and viable democracy).

**Diplomatic problems:** Munich crisis; France and Britain did not live up to their promises; failure of League of Nations; Little Entente (Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Romania) was weak.

### Austria

- Republic of “German Austria” founded in 1918.
- Treaty of St. Germain (1919) made a relatively small state with a homogeneous population (except for Jews in Vienna).
- Treaty included war reparations and prohibition of political or economic union with Germany without permission of League of Nations.
- Fragile Republic to 1933: constitution ratified in 1920 with bicameral legislature.

# AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

## Question 3 Historical Background (continued)

- Universal suffrage (including women) in 1920.
- Parliamentary election returned Social Democrats and Christian Socialists in large number, with Nationalists a third party. System of proportional representation—neither party could dominate.

Most often cited by students:

**Political problems:** Loser in World War I; shrunken state; end of Hapsburg glory; Jewish minority and anti-Semitism; war reparations were supposed to be paid; forbidden to unite with Germany (or anyone) without permission of League of Nations.

**Diplomatic problems:** Weakness of government; failure of democracy; Hitler's (and many Austrians') desire for *Anschluss*; end of independence, 1938.

### Hungary

- Became independent in 1919 but lost much territory and population.
- Communist coup in 1919 and brief rule by Béla Kun, followed by conservative reaction.
- Monarch restored in absentia.
- Dictatorship run by the landed aristocracy, with Admiral Horthy as "regent."
- General Gyula Gombos became prime minister in 1932.
- Hungary was dictatorial and openly anti-Semitic.
- Cooperated with Germany in its efforts at European domination.

Most often cited by students:

**Political problems:** Loser in World War I; "dismembered" state with significant loss of territory and population; first communist rule, then dictatorship; discontent of Magyars.

**Diplomatic problems:** Hard to find alliances; subordinate to Germany during World War II and then to the Soviet Union in the post-war period.

### Eastern Europe (1918–1948)

Discussion from Donald Kagan, *The Western Heritage*

"Trials of the Successor States in Eastern Europe"

Problems faced by Poland, Austria, Czechoslovakia (Hungary is not mentioned in this section). Successor states were supposed to provide a buffer zone against Bolshevism and a bastion of self-determination.

- They experienced difficulties establishing new parliamentary governments, and only Czechoslovakia did not end up with an authoritarian regime.
- No tradition of self-government; ethnic division; new borders disrupted legal and economic systems; all were in debt (except Czechoslovakia).
- All were "highly dependent on trade with Germany."
- All had "minority groups that wanted to become part of a different nation."
- Poland was big disappointment; class and ethnic differences ensured that parliamentary regime would fail; Pilsudski led a coup in 1926 and ruled until his death. Minority groups in Poland were identified: Ukrainians, Jews, Lithuanians, and Germans.

"Czechoslovakia: A Viable Democratic Experiment"

- Czechs and Slovaks had cooperated during the war.
- Leadership of Thomas Masaryk (1850–1937) was gifted and fair.

# AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

## **Question 3 Historical Background (continued)**

- Other nation groups were discontented: Poles, Magyars, Ukrainians, and the Germans of the Sudetenland.
- Appeasement at Munich meant the dismemberment and disappearance of Czechoslovakia and the creation of a Slovak client state.

“Hungary: Turn to Authoritarianism”

- Defeated power—separated from Austria but dismembered with loss of territory.
- Short-lived Soviet republic under Béla Kun.
- Admiral Horthy (1868–1957) made regent for Hapsburgs (even though the king could not take his throne).
- Government was “parliamentary in form” but served aristocratic interests with rigged elections and anti-Semitism.

“Austria: Political Turmoil and Nazi Occupation”

- Paris settlement forbade union with Germany.
- Christian Socialists vs. Social Democrats.
- Christian Socialist Engelbert Dollfuss (1892–1934) was chancellor.
- Growing power of Nazi Party in Austria; Dollfuss shot during unsuccessful Nazi coup; Schuschnigg ruled until *Anschluss*.

“Austria and Czechoslovakia”

- *Anschluss* (March 12, 1938) resulted in Nazi regime surrounding Czechoslovakia.
- Hitler’s threats lead to Chamberlain’s concession of the Sudetenland and Munich agreement, September 29, 1938.
- Prague occupied, March 15, 1939.
- Poland pressed to give up Danzig; Britain and France guarantee Polish independence, leading to outbreak of World War II.

Nazi–Soviet Pact of August 23, 1939 “sealed the fate of Poland.”

“Polish Anti-Semitism between the Wars”

- Pilsudski favored including Jews “within the civic definition of the nation.”
- But after Pilsudski’s death, government pursued anti-Semitic policies supported by spokesmen of Polish Catholic Church.
- Jews were discriminated against in hiring and excluded from civil service, so they moved into law and medicine.
- Poles refused to regard even secular, assimilated Jews as fellow Poles.
- In spite of Polish anti-Semitism, Nazis alone were responsible for the destruction of the Polish Jewish community.

“Soviet Domination of Eastern Europe”

- Eastern European satellites were to be buffer for Soviets.
- February 1948, son of Masaryk (Jan) murdered (fell out of a window mysteriously); Edvard Beneš forced to resign, and Czechoslovakia brought under Soviet one-party rule.
- Stalin’s harsh politics were due to Tito’s escape from Soviet domination.

**AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY  
2009 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 3 Historical Background (continued)**

Discussion from R. J. Crampton, *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century—and After*

Ethnic breakdown of Poland

- In 1921, Poland had a population of 27 million: 69.2 percent Polish; 14.3 percent Ukrainian or Ruthenian; 7.8 percent Jewish; 3.9 percent Belorussian; 3.9 percent German (the rest included Lithuanians, Russians, Czechs, and others).
- Poland had an estimated one-third of the Jewish population of the world. Jews were mostly urban, making up 62.9 percent of all those engaged in trade.