

2013 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. Analyze the factors that led to the expansion of women's participation in the paid workforce in Europe over the course of the twentieth century.
6. Analyze the factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state in Western Europe in the mid-twentieth century.
7. Analyze the factors that led to the rise of right-wing authoritarian regimes in continental Europe in the interwar period (1919 to 1939).

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 6

Analyze the factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state in Western Europe in the mid-20th century.

9-8 Points

- Thesis identifies at least TWO factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state in Western Europe in the mid-20th century (1930s–1970s).
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
- Essay is balanced in its analysis of factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state in the mid-20th century.
- Major assertions in the essay are supported by multiple pieces of evidence.
- May contain errors that do not detract from the argument.

7-6 Points

- Thesis identifies at least TWO factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state in Western Europe in the mid-20th century (1930s–1970s), but the essay may not develop these fully.
- Organization is clear, effective in support of the argument, but not consistently followed.
- Essay provides analysis of factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state in the mid-20th century but may do so in an unbalanced way, placing greater focus on one factor.
- Major assertions in the essay are supported by relevant evidence.
- May contain an error that detracts from the argument.

5-4 Points

- Thesis may identify ONE or more factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state in Western Europe in the mid-20th twentieth century (1930s–1970s), but it may develop only ONE factor effectively.
- Organization is clear, effective in support of the argument, but not consistently followed.
- Essay may attempt analysis of factor or factors but be unsuccessful in its efforts; essay may be primarily descriptive with little or no analysis of factor or factors.
- Some major assertions in the essay are supported by relevant evidence.
- May contain a few errors that detract from the argument.

3-2 Points

- Thesis may be explicit but fails to address the prompt; factors may be identified but developed inadequately in the body of the essay.
- Organization is ineffective.
- Essay may fail to address the time period OR may focus on other developments of the time period (Cold War, decolonization, European integration) OR earlier efforts at social reform (Bismarck, the British Liberal Party) without linking such developments to the expansion of the welfare state in Western Europe in the mid-20th century.
- Essay may provide limited relevant evidence.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

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Question 6 (continued)

1-0 Points

- Thesis may be erroneous OR irrelevant OR absent.
- No discernible organization.
- Essay may fail to address the topic.
- Essay may contain little OR no relevant supporting evidence.

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Question 6 (continued)

Key terms

- Analyze. The charge is defined in the course guide in the following manner: “to determine the component parts; examine their nature and relationship.”
- Factors. “One that actively contributes to the production of a result.”
- Expansion. The process of increase of the “extent, number, volume, or scope of.”
- Welfare State. “The tendency of post-World War II states to establish safety nets for citizens in areas of birth, sickness, old age, and unemployment.”

“A system (developed on both sides during the Cold War) comprising state sponsored social programs to provide health care, family allowances, disability insurance, and pensions for veterans and retired workers.”

Historical Background

1. Factors identified by textbooks as causes for the creation of the welfare state
 - A. Response to economic hardship caused by the Great Depression and the two world wars.
 - B. Cold War – concerns over the strength of Communist parties in Western Europe (France, Italy) are usually mentioned.
 - C. Need for the reintegration of soldiers into civilian life.
 - D. Anxiety over declining birth rates.
 - E. Concern over wartime suffering (World War II).
 - F. Socialist demands for social justice and liberty.
 - G. Reduction of class tensions.
 - H. Economic security designed to create citizens who could enjoy a more comfortable life.
2. Context
 - A. By the early 20th century, a number of Western European governments had adopted measures that foreshadowed the welfare state of the mid-20th century.
 - B. Bismarck’s Germany pioneered social welfare legislation in the 1880s (sickness and accident insurance, old-age pensions) as a way of weakening the Social Democratic Party. Despite Bismarck’s efforts, the Social Democratic Party retained the support of Germany’s workers and was the largest political party in the Reichstag by 1914.
 - C. The British Liberal Party abandoned some of its commitment to laissez-faire in the years 1906–1916 when it enacted a host of social measures. One textbook describes the legislation as the “first hesitant steps toward the future British welfare state.” The reforms, according to some authors, were designed to halt the growth of the Labor Party. These reforms included insurance for sickness, accidents, old age, and (to a limited degree) unemployment. Some textbooks identify one piece of legislation by name (**National Insurance Act of 1911**).

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Question 6 (continued)

3. The Great Depression (1930s). In the long run, the effects of the economic collapse (the rise of Nazism, the appeal of Communism) persuaded many in Western Europe of the need to provide citizens with some degree of economic security.
- Some textbooks note the fact that Great Britain cut benefits for the unemployed and the elderly in the early 1930s.
 - In the 1930s, the British economist John Maynard Keynes called for increased state spending (“priming the pump”) when the private sector is unable or unwilling to maintain adequate levels of investment; deficit spending (“Keynesian economics”) will be accepted as orthodox economic policy by most Western states until the 1970s.
 - France and the Popular Front – Leon Blum and the Socialist Party came to power in 1936 and introduced a series of reforms designed to meet the grievances of workers: the 40-hour work week, collective bargaining, and paid vacations.
 - Scandinavian countries – Sweden, in particular, accepted a growing role for the state in the area of social welfare. Deficit spending financed old-age pensions, unemployment insurance, subsidized housing, and maternity allowances. One textbook asserts that Scandinavian socialism evolved from a long-standing tradition of cooperation.
 - Some textbooks also point out that Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany provided public works programs, leisure time activities, inexpensive vacations, and subsidies for newlywed Aryan families.
4. The Postwar Period (after 1945). A new commitment surfaced to state-financed social programs. All textbooks focus on the example of Great Britain under the Labor government of Clement Attlee (1945–1951), and some mention specific legislation by name. Other Western European states receive less detailed treatment. Aims and motives are defined in a variety of ways.
- The Beveridge Report of 1942, which laid out the rationale for the British welfare state, is not explicitly mentioned by all authors. The report recommended the creation of a “cradle to the grave” welfare system involving unemployment and old-age insurance, as well as national health services. Conservatives in Great Britain modified the program in the 1950s and 1960s but did not challenge the idea of the welfare state until the 1970s.
 - The Labour government (1945–1951) came to power pledging to implement a program of social welfare. Parliament passed legislation that established a comprehensive program of nationalized health insurance and service and comprehensive social security and unemployment insurance. The observation that such laws represented a broadening or extension of existing welfare legislation is made by some authors. Conservative governments in the 1950s supported efforts to improve housing.
 - Other Western European states enacted social welfare legislation as well. Textbooks treat such programs in a more generalized way, citing prenatal policies designed to raise birthrates, subsidized housing, and free or inexpensive higher education as significant elements of the postwar welfare state. Some authors emphasize that in its initial stages, the welfare state often discouraged women’s participation in the workplace (in Great Britain and West Germany). Health care was widely adopted, although no uniform system existed. In some cases medical care was free, while in other countries citizens contributed a portion of the cost. Free tuition or low fees for university education was intended to reduce class tension. The welfare state resulted in a dramatic increase in state spending on welfare programs, usually paid for by higher taxes.
 - Some textbooks also place the development of the welfare state in Western Europe within a broader context, pointing out that the Cold War created competition between two different systems of economic and social development.