

2011 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 factors that contributed to the increasing centralization of Spain and the factors that contributed to the continuing fragmentation of Italy in the period 1450–1550.
3. Compare and contrast Enlightenment and Romantic views of nature, with reference to specific individuals and their works.
4. Analyze how the political and economic problems of the English and French monarchies led to the English Civil War and the French Revolution.

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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 how industrialization and imperialism contributed to the development of consumer culture in the period 1850–1914.
6. Analyze the ways in which the policies of Joseph Stalin transformed the policies of Vladimir Lenin.
7. Analyze the ways in which Western European nations have pursued European economic and political integration from 1945 to the present, referring to at least two nations.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 4

Analyze how the political and economic problems of the English and French monarchies led to the English Civil War and the French Revolution.

9–8 points

- Thesis statement/paragraph is explicit and accurately addresses all four components (political and economic problems in both England and France).
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
- Essay is well balanced; it analyzes political and economic components in both England and France.
- Essay provides one or more specific pieces of evidence for each of the four components.
- Essay may contain minor errors that do not detract from argument.

7–6 points

- Thesis is explicit and accurately addresses all four components, although it may address one country or component in greater detail.
- Organization is clear and effective in support of the argument, but perhaps not consistently followed.
- Essay is balanced; all major topics suggested by the prompt are covered at least briefly, although one country or component may be analyzed at greater length.
- Essay provides at least one piece of relevant evidence for each of the four components. (Political and economic problems may be discussed together.)
- Essay may contain a major error or several minor errors that detract from argument. (Examples: English peasants revolted because they were hungry; French peasants demanded political representation.)

5–4 points

- Thesis is explicit but may not be fully responsive to the question; it may accurately mention only one country or only one component.
- Organization is clear and effective in support of the argument but may not be consistently followed.
- Essay shows some imbalance; may discuss France in detail but England minimally or vice versa.
- Supporting examples are present but may be less detailed.
- Essay may contain a few errors that detract from argument.

3–2 points

- Thesis may be confused, implicit or vague or merely repeat or paraphrase the prompt.
- Organization may be unclear, ineffective or both.
- Essay shows serious imbalance; may discuss only one component in any relevant detail.
- Only one or two major assertions are supported by relevant evidence.
- Essay may contain several errors that detract from argument.

1–0 points

- There may be no discernible attempt at a thesis, or essay may merely repeat or paraphrase the prompt.
- Essay may have no discernible organization.
- One or none of the major topics suggested by the prompt is mentioned.
- Little or no supporting evidence is used.
- Essay may contain numerous errors that detract from argument.

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Question 4 (continued)

Historical Background (continued)

France

Political problems

Louis XVI was not an impressive monarch. He was not educated to rule, was physically unprepossessing, and was preoccupied with hunting and his privileges. He was also faced with increasing resistance from the local *parlements*, which in the 1750s and 1760s joined the Paris *parlement* in its traditional role of defending local privileges against the king. In 1771 Louis XV's chancellor, René Nicolas de Maupeou, began to abolish the *parlements*. This unpopular action was seen as replacing local control with central control. Wanting to be popular, Louis XVI dismissed Maupeou and recalled the *parlements* at the end of 1774. However, the *parlements* now saw how fragile their power was, which explains their later resistance to the king.

Under Louis XVI the *parlements* became increasingly resistant to royal decrees, particularly new taxes. The *parlement* of Paris refused to register a tax and said that only the Estates General could approve such a tax. Local *parlements* also refused to register new taxes, forcing the crown to resort to the *lit de justice*, the ceremony to force the *parlement* to register the tax. There were riots and calls for the Estates General (First Estate, clergy; Second Estate, nobility; Third Estate, commoners). As they voted by Estate, the First and Second Estates could combine to outvote the Third Estate — the unequal voting structure was a source of political friction.

Abbé Sieyès's pamphlet, *What Is the Third Estate?* (January 1789), was one of the most famous pamphlets of this period and foreshadowed the power of the Third Estate.

Economic problems

France was relatively prosperous for the middle half of the eighteenth century, although some textbooks draw a line of continuous debt from Louis XIV or Louis XV to Louis XVI. All textbooks note the inequality of taxation. The clergy paid no taxes but gave a yearly "gift"; nobles paid few taxes (only 10 percent of all taxes collected by the 1780s); tax collectors were corrupt and inefficient (kept 60 percent of all taxes collected by the 1780s). France also had a large debt, which increased after its support of the United States in the American Revolution. In 1788 almost half the national income went to pay the principal and interest on the debt.

France also experienced bad weather, poor harvests and high food prices in the 1780s, all of which contributed to unrest among the peasantry and the urban poor.

Louis XVI had several finance ministers in five years (Anne Robert Turgot, Jacques Necker, Charles Alexandre de Calonne, Étienne Charles Loménie de Brienne and Necker again). All but Necker, who glossed over the financial problems, proposed financial reforms, including abolishing sinecures, internal customs barriers and guilds; instituting new land taxes; abolishing the salt tax (the *gabelle*), requiring money instead of services from the peasants, replacing the inequitable *taille* with a land tax that the rich as well as the poor would have to pay, and abolishing the *vingtième* and replacing it with a direct tax levied on all landowners. However, the *parlements* and the Assembly of Notables opposed these reforms. Facing revolt by the privileged groups, Louis XVI reluctantly called the Estates General.