

2007 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 prevented the development of a unified German state in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.
6. Britain and France were engaged in a geopolitical and economic rivalry during the eighteenth century. Identify the factors that contributed to this rivalry, and assess the results for both countries over the period 1689 to 1789.
7. Identify the grievances of the groups that made up the Third Estate in France on the eve of the French Revolution, and analyze the extent to which ONE of these groups was able to address its grievances in the period 1789 to 1799.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 5

Analyze the factors that prevented the development of a unified German state in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

8–9 Points

- Thesis must include reference to at least three factors (a factor can be an event, like the posting of the 95 Theses or the Thirty Years' War).
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
- Essay is well balanced; at least three factors are *discussed and analyzed* (even briefly).
- Three factors in the essay are supported by multiple pieces of specific evidence.
- Must refer to factors *in both centuries* (may even go beyond 1648).
- Contains no major errors; may contain minor errors that do not detract from the argument. (It is a major error to say that the Peace of Augsburg ended the Thirty Years' War; however, this is a minor error if the essay later appropriately places the war in the seventeenth century. Another major error is asserting that Germany was a multiethnic state when the phrase is used in a nineteenth- and twentieth-century sense, and especially when groups such as Serbians and Italians are named.)

6–7 Points

- Thesis must include reference to at least two factors.
- Organization is clear, effective in support of the argument, but not consistently followed.
- Essay is balanced; at least two factors are discussed and analyzed.
- At least two factors in the essay are supported by at least one piece of specific evidence.
- Refers to factors *in both centuries* (may even go beyond 1648).
- May contain one major error or several minor errors that detract from the argument.

4–5 Points

- May contain an explicit thesis that refers to only two factors or one that is not fully responsive to the question. (An essay in this range may also have a strong thesis with three factors.)
- Organization is apparent but is ineffective or inconsistently followed.
- Essay shows some imbalance; facts are *listed* rather than *analyzed*.
- Most of the major factors in the essay are supported by least one piece of relevant (possibly generalized) evidence.
- May refer to factors in only one century.
- May contain errors or misleading overgeneralizations that detract from the argument.

2–3 Points

- May contain a weak or invalid thesis or a thesis that merely repeats/paraphrases the prompt.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective.
- Essay shows serious imbalance, most factors that could be discussed are neglected or treated cursorily.
- The essay lists rather than analyzes factors.
- Only one or two factors are supported by relevant evidence.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

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Question 5 (continued)

0–1 Point

- No discernable attempt at a thesis.
- Little or no discernable organization.
- One or none of the major factors that could be discussed is mentioned.
- Little or no supporting evidence used.
- May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.

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Question 5 Historical Background

This is a straightforward, mainstream question. The necessary information is covered in all the standard textbooks, although it is usually broken into several sections: the Reformation, religious warfare in the sixteenth century, Thirty Years' War, early modern absolutism, the wars initiated by France, and the rise of Brandenburg-Prussia. The information needed to answer this question is by no means obscure, but the question does require students to assemble a response from different sections of the textbook. Below are the factors students could discuss. Although these factors are grouped, each group is not a factor—so a student could discuss two political factors or two religious factors, and each would be counted separately.

Political: The Holy Roman Emperor (HRE; Charles V will appear most often) was a weak monarch, thanks to the fact of his being elected and not controlling a strong army or administrator; Germans lived in approximately 300 small principalities, duchies, princedoms, and independent cities that were only weakly unified under the HRE; German rulers did not want to submit to a strong ruler; after 1648, Prussia began to be transformed into an absolutist, more powerful state; Germany's problems were complicated by the fact that the HRE also ruled Spain and had to deal with other problems, including the Ottoman Empire. Some students might note that, beginning with the reign of Frederick William, the Great Elector of Brandenburg Prussia (1640-88), the long-term foundations of German unity in the nineteenth century were laid, as Frederick William effectively used the techniques of absolutism.

Religious: Luther challenged the HRE's religious as well as political power; Protestantism supports keeping power fragmented within the numerous principalities; several different forms of Christianity, especially Calvinism, limit unity in a world where each state must share a religion; Calvinism also threatens any state's political power because it seeks theocracy. Anabaptists were based in Moravia after their persecution following the Peasants' Wars. Religious conflicts led to military conflicts: see below.

Military: German wars of religion divide Germans among themselves (1524-55; Peasants' War, 1524-25; Schmalkaldic Wars, 1546-55); foreign powers (France, Ottoman Empire) intervened. These wars were settled by the Peace of Augsburg, which reinforced the power of princes by allowing them to choose the religion of their realm (*cuius regio, eius religio*). The Thirty Years' War, which began with the rebellion against Ferdinand Habsburg (who became HRE in 1619) in May 1618 (the Defenestration of Prague) ultimately decimated the population through disease, famine, and combat. In 1600, the population of Germany was 15 million; in 1650 it was 11 million. This period of warfare was also characterized by foreign involvement: Denmark, Sweden, and France. The Thirty Years' War was ended by the series of agreements known as the Treaty of Westphalia (1648), which decisively limited the political, military, and diplomatic powers of the HRE. In particular, the German states of Bavaria and Brandenburg emerged as strong counterweights to the HRE. Louis XIV's wars kept much of German Europe in costly fighting through the War of Spanish Succession (1701-13).

Economic: Many principalities made economic growth slower because of trade barriers, different coinage and so forth; opening of the Atlantic moved trade away from cities on the Baltic and slowed the economy; Treaty of Westphalia hurt the economy of all Germany by giving control of mouths of rivers to Holland and Sweden.

Social/Cultural: Linguistic and cultural differences (which some students overstate, making Germany "multiethnic"); Germans had a local rather than a "German" identity until the development of nationalism in the late Enlightenment and early Romantic era; no one state is big enough and strong enough to provide the nucleus of a new state until after the Treaty of Utrecht in 1714, which "upgrades" Prussia to a kingdom.