

2006 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. Compare and contrast the social and economic roles of the state in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Europe (before 1789) to the social and economic roles of the state in Europe after the Second World War.
 6. In the period 1815-1900, political liberalization progressed much further in western Europe than in Russia. Analyze the social and economic reasons for this difference.
 7. Considering the period 1933 to 1945, analyze the economic, diplomatic, and military reasons for Germany's defeat in the Second World War.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 6

In the period 1815–1900, political liberalization progressed much further in western Europe than in Russia. Analyze the social and economic reasons for this difference.

9–6: Stronger

- Has a clear, well-developed thesis.
- Is well organized.
- Addresses the terms of the question.
- Supports the thesis with specific evidence.
- May contain minor errors; even a 9 need not be flawless.

Indicators for 9–8–7–6

- Has a relevant thesis.
- Analyzes social and economic reasons; evidence prior to 1815 may be used.
- Links political liberalization to social and economic factors.
- Provides evidence for Russia and the West; 6's and 7's may primarily focus on one or the other.

5–4: Mixed

- Contains a thesis, perhaps superficial or simplistic.
- Demonstrates uneven response to the question's terms.
- May contain errors, factual or interpretive.

Indicators

- Has a thesis.
- Contains superficial discussion of social and/or economic factors.
- Hints at connection between political liberalization and social and/or economic factors.
- Identifies characteristics of Russia and/or the West.

3–0: Weaker

- Thesis is confused, absent, or merely restates the question.
- Misconstrues the question or omits major tasks.
- May contain major errors.

Indicators for 3–2

- Has an ineffective thesis or has thesis that remains totally unsupported.
- Makes no connection between social and economic factors and political liberalization.

Indicators for 1–0

- Essays scored 0 or 1 may attempt to address the question but fail to do so.
- Minimal or no reference to social or economic factors.
- Irrelevant or unfocused response.

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Question 6 Historical Background

In the post-Napoleonic period, Europe went through decades of conflict between the forces of conservatism, or reaction, and those who sought political, economic, and social change. This question asks students to identify social and economic differences between Russia and the West that account for the differing degrees of political liberalization that had been achieved by each.

Economic reasons for the West's greater political liberalization:

- Earlier Agricultural Revolution decreased the number of people needed in agrarian production.
- Industrialization and urbanization: populations shifted from countryside to cities with greater concentrations of people.
- Economic power shifted from the landed aristocracy to the new capitalists (or middle classes). This new group demanded political power reflective of its economic power.
- Increased prosperity enhanced educational possibilities.
- Less restrictive trade practices increased the wealth of western European nations and their industrialists.

Social reasons for the West's greater political liberalization:

- Creation of capitalist class (or middle class) and an urban working class, disgruntled and easily organized.
- Increased literacy and rapid spread of liberal ideas among groups; daily newspapers proliferated in Western cities in the second half of the nineteenth century.
- Creation of unions and labor parties with greater demands for liberal programs.
- Greater social fluidity or mobility as opportunity increased.

Historical developments that might be included in discussion of the West's advantages:

- July revolution of 1830 in France: liberals, supported by bankers, industrialists, and the urban middle class replaced the reactionary Charles X with the “Bourgeois King,” Louis Philippe; revolutionary workers were instrumental in the revolt. This influenced revolutions in Belgium (successful) and Poland (unsuccessful).
- Reform Bills in England (1832, 1867, 1884) all of which expanded the franchise and contributed to political liberalization; students may emphasize the role of Parliament.
- Poor Laws of 1834, and the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846, represented the supremacy of the English bourgeoisie, an expression of political liberalization.
- The Chartist movement and demands for working-class participation in the political process, many of which were eventually incorporated into the English system.
- Revolutions of 1848: sparked by the February Revolution in France, virtually every capital in continental Europe (Moscow excepted) was rocked by liberal, nationalist, or radical revolutions, the aims of which typically included demands for political liberalization.
- Prussian Constitution of 1850 expanded representation to powerful industrialists.
- 1860's French unions become legal and win the right to organize and strike.
- Bismarck's compromises with socialists and other workers, including expansion of suffrage and other political rights, in the 1860's and 1870's.

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Question 6 Historical Background (continued)

- The evolution of the Conservative and Liberal Parties in England during the 1870's and 1880's under Disraeli and Gladstone; expanded the franchise by turns, and passed laws granting and protecting enhanced workers' rights.
- The formation of the third French Republic in the 1870's, including universal manhood suffrage.
- Social legislation in Bismarck's Germany during the 1880's provided various forms of insurance for the working classes.
- Creation of the British Labour Party in 1900.

Economic reasons for Russia's limited political liberalization:

- Lack of industrialization; genuine industrialization was delayed until the very late portion of the period in question.
- The economy was more feudal than capitalistic.
- As Russia began to industrialize late in the nineteenth century, much of the capital was provided either by the state or foreigners (French, British, and German).
- Russia was an exporter of grain but lacked the resources to purchase capital goods from the West; thus there was limited commercial interaction between the regions.
- Poverty and famine were prevalent at various times during the nineteenth century.

Social reasons for Russia's limited political liberalization:

- With very limited industrialization, no real middle class developed that would agitate for greater voice in policy.
- There was no large urban working class that might organize and rally to demand rights and protections.
- Oppressive serfdom continued to exist during the first portion of the period in question; their "liberation" brought little real change in their condition as they remained a poor peasant class with limited opportunity.
- The great mass of Russian people remained illiterate; educational opportunities of the West were mostly unavailable.
- The Russian *Intelligentsia* was a small class with little identity beyond an interest in ideas; they subscribed to a wide range of ideologies from liberalism to socialism, anarchism, and nihilism.

Historical developments that might be included in discussion of Russia's limitations in political liberalization:

- Russia's role in Congress Europe (1820's) as Alexander I shifted from liberal to reactionary under Metternich's tutelage.
- The Decembrist revolt of 1825 and the ultrareactionary Nicholas I.
- Impact of the Crimean War (1850's), demonstrated Russian weaknesses in confronting Western powers.
- The Emancipation of the serfs in 1861 by Alexander II; while no longer "owned" they remained a desperately poor peasantry with little real freedom of movement or opportunity.

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Question 6 Historical Background (continued)

- Alexander's other reforms of the 1860's (zemstvos, courts) and their limited impact on liberalization.
- The assassination of Alexander II in 1881; he was succeeded by the more reactionary and autocratic Alexander III who applied brutal repression to calls for political liberalization.