

## **2019 AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

### **EUROPEAN HISTORY**

#### **SECTION I, Part B**

**Time—40 minutes**

**Directions:** Answer Question 1 and Question 2. Answer either Question 3 or Question 4.

Write your responses in the Section I, Part B: Short-Answer Response booklet. You must write your response to each question on the lined page designated for that response. Each response is expected to fit within the space provided.

In your responses, be sure to address all parts of the questions you answer. Use complete sentences; an outline or bulleted list alone is not acceptable. You may plan your answers in this exam booklet, but no credit will be given for notes written in this booklet.

**Use the passage below to answer all parts of the question that follows.**

“It was the weakness of Russia’s democratic culture which enabled Bolshevism to take root. . . . The Russian people were trapped by the tyranny of their own history. . . . For while the people could destroy the old system, they could not build a new one of their own. . . . By 1921, if not earlier, the revolution had come full circle, and a new autocracy had been imposed on Russia which in many ways resembled the old.”

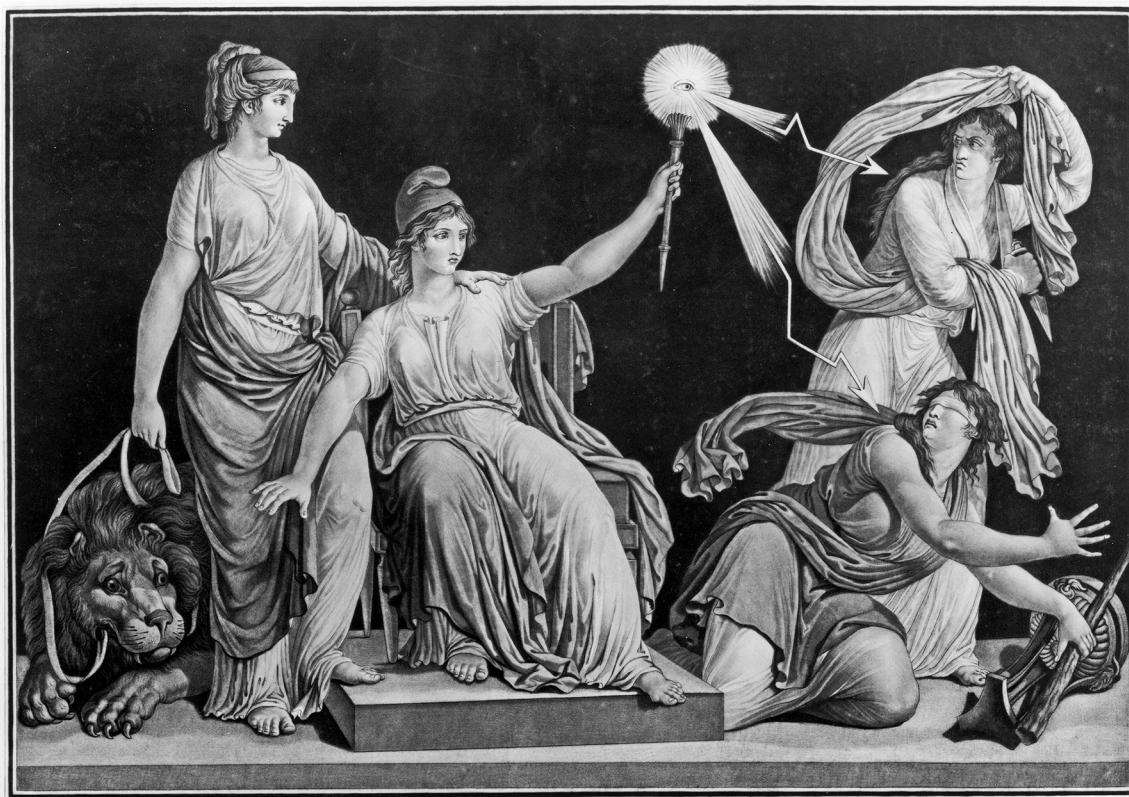
Orlando Figes, historian, *A People’s Tragedy: The Russian Revolution, 1891-1924*, published in 1997

1. a) Describe one piece of evidence that would support the author’s characterization of Russia’s political culture prior to the Bolshevik Revolution.  
b) Describe one piece of evidence that would support the author’s interpretation of Russia’s “new autocracy” in the 1920s and 1930s.  
c) Describe one piece of evidence that would undermine the author’s argument in the passage that the “new autocracy” in Russia resembled the old.

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Use the image below to answer all parts of the question that follows.

Louis-Simon Boizot, *Liberty Armed with the Scepter of Reason Striking down Ignorance and Fanaticism*, France, 1793



*La Liberté armée du Sceptre de la Raison poudroye l'Ignorance et le fanatisme.*

Liberty armed with the sceptre of reason striking down Ignorance and Fanaticism, 1793 (engraving) (b/w photo), Boizot, Simon Louis (1743-1809) (after) / Musee de la Ville de Paris, Musee Carnavalet, Paris, France / Bridgeman Images

2. a) Describe one way in which the image expresses ideas popularized during the Enlightenment.  
b) Describe one way in which the image reflects the policies of the French Revolutionary government's radical phase.  
c) Describe one way in which the ideas in the image continued to influence European political thought after 1815.

# **AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY 2019 SCORING GUIDELINES**

## **Short Answer Question 1**

### **Question-Specific Scoring Guide**

- One point for describing one piece of evidence that would support the Figes passage’s characterization of Russia’s political culture prior to the Bolshevik Revolution.
- One point for describing one piece of evidence that would support the Figes passage’s interpretation of Russia’s “new autocracy” in the 1920s and 1930s.
- One point for describing one piece of evidence that would undermine the author’s argument in the passage that the “new autocracy” in Russia resembled the old.

### **Scoring Notes**

To meet the requirement of “describe” in parts (a), (b), and (c), the response must offer a minimally accurate description of a piece of evidence and some indication of how it relates to the task of the prompt. Although it is not necessary for an acceptable response to offer an explicit explanation of the relationship between the evidence offered and the task of the prompt, it must go beyond a mere mention or name-dropping (e.g., “Russia had a history of tyrants in the Romanov dynasty” or “then Stalin happened”).

#### Possible acceptable responses for part (a) (not exhaustive):

- Russia’s lack of experience with democratic institutions (though the extent to which the Duma, established after 1905, was “democratic” may be debated) prior to 1917 meant that its people were ill-prepared for the overthrow of the tsar or the Bolshevik takeover.
- The politically repressive nature of the tsarist government prior to 1917 gave democratic institutions little or no chance to develop prior to the Revolution.
- Russia’s relative lack of economic and educational development prior to 1917 meant that the Russian population as a whole was politically inexperienced and unsophisticated.
- Radicalization of the anti-tsarist opposition prior to 1917 meant that many opponents of the tsar were not interested in democratic reform.
- Russia’s leaders were oblivious to “public opinion,” especially concerning a potential withdrawal from World War I.
- Russia lacked mass-based political movements, such as those that led many other European states into war between 1914 and 1916.
- The extent of women’s political participation and electoral suffrage lagged even further behind Western Europe.

#### Additional notes:

- Responses that do not connect Russia’s historical experience pre-1917 to political institutions or to “democratic culture” specifically will not earn the point. For example, some responses claim that feudalism persisted in Russia until the Bolshevik Revolution, and others mention serfdom as an economic institution, without addressing the political aspects of the prompt. Merely alluding to a policy of Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, Nicholas I, or any other tsar will not earn the point, unless it is directly related to the thwarting of a “democratic culture” in Russia.
- Note that “prior to the Bolshevik Revolution” should be interpreted as any period in Russian history, including the months immediately prior to the Revolution.

# **AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY 2019 SCORING GUIDELINES**

## **Short Answer Question 1 (continued)**

Possible acceptable responses for part (b) (not exhaustive):

- The Bolsheviks' extensive use of repressive techniques — secret police, detentions, prison camps, exile to Siberia — was similar to the tactics of tsarist governments.
- Like the tsarist regimes, the Bolshevik regime failed to establish representative/democratic institutions.
- Like the tsarist regimes, the Bolsheviks controlled/censored the media.
- The cult of personality developing around Lenin (and the eventual embalming of his corpse) could be compared to the sacramental nature of Romanov monarchy.
- The expansionist drives of the tsars were now disguised as the advancement of global revolution.
- The Civil War with the Mensheviks, driven by competing visions of the future, could be compared with earlier rebellions against central authority, such as the Pugachev or Streltsy uprisings.
- Alexandra Kollontai and other female leaders of the Revolution were disappointed by the continuation of hierarchical notions of gender into the new regime.

Additional note:

Responses that do not connect Russia's historical experience pre-1917 to the “new autocracy” of the 1920s or 1930s, specifically and in political terms, will not earn the point. Some responses claim the Great Depression as a “continuity” with the economic suffering of peasants in previous centuries and do not address the lack of development of a political culture.

Possible acceptable responses for part (c) (not exhaustive):

- The Bolshevik regime's aims were more far-reaching than those of the tsarist regimes: They sought to regulate and control the economy as well as the realm of politics and government (frequent examples are the New Economic Policy and the Five-Year Plans).
- The Bolshevik regime did not rely on traditional sources of authority (religion, social hierarchies, hereditary monarchs) to justify its rule, and it claimed to abolish private property and class distinctions.
- The Bolshevik regime portrayed itself as progressive, aiming at improving/perfecting the Soviet Union, rather than preserving a (mythical) past.
- The degree of ideological purity as a marker of commitment to the Revolution constituted a new governmental priority.
- The scale of violence under the Stalinist regime marks a clear departure from repression by the tsars.
- The Duma, established in 1905 as a result of a failed revolution, may reflect the beginnings of a “democratic institution.”
- Universal suffrage was enacted by the Bolsheviks, at least officially.

Additional note:

Responses that address Russia's history during the Cold War (1945–1991) or under Vladimir Putin will not earn the point, as they fall outside the chronological bounds of the passage.