

2009 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 economic factors responsible for the decline of Spain with the economic factors responsible for the decline of the Dutch Republic by the end of the seventeenth century.
6. Analyze various ways in which the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) represented a turning point in European history.
7. Analyze how Galileo, Descartes, and Newton altered traditional interpretations of nature and challenged traditional sources of knowledge.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 6

Analyze the various ways in which the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) represented a turning point in European history.

9–8 Points

- Thesis is explicit and fully responds to the question.
 - Refers to three significant results of the Thirty Years' War representing a turning point.
- Organization is clear and effectively supports the argument.
 - Body paragraphs go on to develop the various results of the Thirty Years' War as alluded to in the thesis.
- Essay is well balanced; multiple turning points required by the question are covered at length.
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by relevant, specific examples.
 - Examples document major turning points in European history caused by the Thirty Years' War.
- May contain errors or off-topic content that does not detract from the argument.

7–6 Points

- Thesis is explicit and responds to the terms of the question.
 - May refer to only two results, or may refer to three results in a less sophisticated manner.
- Essay is organized and supports the argument, but may stray off task.
 - May merge factors in single paragraphs.
- Essay is relatively balanced; at least two turning points are covered.
 - Some factors may be more developed than others.
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence.
- May contain an error or off-topic content that detracts from the argument but does not significantly interfere with the task of the essay.

5–4 Points

- Thesis is explicit but not fully responsive to the question.
 - May only refer to one significant turning point factor or to two factors minimally.
 - Some turning point factors may be inaccurate.
- Essay is organized and consistently followed, but may ineffectively connect to the question.
 - May be more of a chronological narrative of the Thirty Years' War rather than an analytical essay dealing with the requirements of the question.
- Essay shows some imbalance, perhaps developing only one turning point factor.
- The major turning point in the essay is supported by at least one specific example.
- May contain a few errors that detract from the argument.

3–2 Points

- Thesis is weak or general.
- Essay is poorly organized OR simply a narrative of the Thirty Years' War OR demonstrates little/no knowledge of valid turning points.
- Essay shows serious imbalance, failing to accurately develop any of the terms of the question.
- Supports few if any of the assertions with relevant evidence.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

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Question 6 (continued)

1–0 Points

- No discernable attempt at an accurate thesis.
- Response suggests little or no understanding of the question.
- Ignores most of the major turning points.
- Uses little or no relevant supporting evidence.
- May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.

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Question 6 Historical Background

This question was intended to have the students place the Thirty Years' War in a larger diplomatic, social, political, and/or economic context. Students were not required to use those particular categories of analysis, but they were expected to analyze several outcomes of the Thirty Years' War that established it as a major transition from one era of European history to the next.

Decline of the importance of religion as a motive for conflict

- The alliances across the Protestant–Catholic divide (France's support for Sweden; Lutheran support for the Holy Roman Empire later in the war) and the rivalries within the Protestant and Catholic camps ultimately had the effect of making religion less important as a motive for conflict.
- The reaffirmation and extension of the *cuius regio eius religio* principle, set at the Peace of Augsburg, as a part of the Peace of Westphalia also tended to dampen religious differences as a source of conflict.
- Students may talk about the rise of toleration in the post-1648 European world.
- Students may also discuss a rise of secularism and the decline of papal influence, made very clear at the Westphalia negotiations where the papal representative was ignored. The pope never signed the treaties of Münster and Osnabruck, known together as the Peace of Westphalia.
- The Peace of Westphalia effectively halted the Counter-Reformation in the German states. It added Calvinism to the list of acceptable faiths.

The end of the Holy Roman Empire as an effective entity

- By the end of the war, the (Austrian) Hapsburgs had given up any pretensions to wielding effective power over the German-speaking states in Central Europe.
 - United Provinces and Swiss cantons withdrew from the Holy Roman Empire.
- The more than 300 German states became virtually sovereign states. They had the right to ratify any laws, taxes, wars, etc. in the Reichstag. Some students will erroneously refer to the post-1648 Austrian world as the beginning of the Hapsburg's eventual demise.
- The Austrian Empire turned its attention to eastward expansion against the Ottoman Empire. Students may discuss the reorganization of the Austrian state.
 - Bohemia and Hungary now under tighter central control and re-Catholicized.

Rise of France

- Students will often discuss the rise of France, led by Cardinal Richelieu, who masterminded the anti-Hapsburg policy, both Austrian and Spanish.
- France received portions of Alsace and Lorraine at the Peace of Westphalia.
- Students may go on to discuss how Louis XIV built on this foundation, raising France to unparalleled heights in the later seventeenth century.

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Question 6 Historical Background (continued)

The decimation of the German states and the rise of Prussia

- Some historians argue that the destruction caused by the war (perhaps as much as a third of the German population perished) set back the Germanic state's economic development relative to England and France. The economic power of the Hanseatic League was effectively ended.
- The Thirty Years' War also confirmed the long-term division of Germany into numerous small states—none of which could rival the power of England or France. Some students may imply that this fragmentation was initiated by the Thirty Years' War and the Peace of Westphalia.
- Some students may discuss the beginning of the rise of Prussia as a reaction to its ordeal during the Thirty Years' War, led by the Great Elector Frederick William (1640-88) and trace Prussia's leadership to eventual German unification under Bismarck.
- By the Peace of Westphalia, Prussia received eastern Pomerania, Halberstadt, and Magdeburg.

Changes in the process of diplomacy

- The Peace of Westphalia assumed the principle of mutual recognition of sovereignty and marked the beginning of the modern system of diplomatic relations; a *Staatensystem*—or modern system of sovereign states.
- Some students will refer to subsequent treaties (e.g., Utrecht, Vienna, and Versailles) as examples of Westphalia's influence.

Decline of Poland and rise of Sweden

- The Thirty Years' War contributed to the decline of Poland. Poland's defeat by Sweden ended Poland's attempts to dominate the Baltic Sea region.
- The Thirty Years' War led to the beginning of a brief period of Swedish ascendancy that lasted for about sixty years. Students may discuss Gustavus Adolphus as the leader of that development and may allude to Charles XII (1697–1718) as carrying on that development.
- By the Peace of Westphalia, Sweden received Bremen, Verden, and western Pomerania (including city of Stettin).

End of Spanish influence in Northern Europe, Dutch independence

- Spanish influence eroded in Northern Europe. The achievement of Dutch independence in 1648 deprived Spain of an effective foothold in Northern Europe and greatly diminished it as a rival to England and France.
- United Provinces was recognized as a sovereign state and received from Portugal the right to have outposts in Brazil and Indonesia and gain greater control over maritime trade; closure of the Scheldt to ocean-going vessels was confirmed.