

2011 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 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 6

Analyze the ways in which the policies of Joseph Stalin transformed the policies of Vladimir Lenin.

9–8 points

- Thesis is explicit, with specific reference to one or more ways that Stalin transformed policies of Lenin.
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
- Essay is well balanced and includes at least two examples of policies for both Lenin and Stalin.
- Assertions about transformation of policies are supported by multiple pieces of relevant evidence.
- Essay may contain errors that do not detract from argument.

7–6 points

- Thesis is explicit and makes reference to transformation of policies.
- Organization is clear and effective in support of the argument but may not be consistently followed.
- Essay is balanced and includes at least one specific policy for both Lenin and Stalin.
- Major assertions are supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence.
- Essay may contain an error that detracts from argument.

5–4 points

- Thesis is explicit but may not be fully responsive to the question or may fail to note transformational nature of policies.
- Organization is clear and effective in support of the argument but is not consistently followed.
- Essay shows some imbalance; may fail to develop evidence for either Lenin or Stalin.
- Major assertion(s) are supported unevenly.
- Essay may contain a few errors that detract from argument.

3–2 points

- There is no explicit thesis or a thesis that merely repeats or paraphrases the prompt.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective.
- Essay shows serious imbalance; may not discuss any policies.
- Assertions lack supporting evidence.
- Essay may contain several errors that detract from argument.

1–0 points

- No discernible attempt at a thesis is made.
- No discernible organization is evident.
- One or none of the major topics suggested by the prompt is mentioned.
- Little or no supporting evidence is given.
- Essay may contain numerous errors that detract from argument.

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Question 6 (continued)

Historical Background

Vladimir Lenin

Lenin was a key figure in the Russian Revolution and its aftermath. He went into exile following the execution of his brother owing to his involvement in an assassination attempt against Tsar Alexander III. Lenin returned to Russia with the aid of the Germans in the midst of World War I.

Lenin's writings, perhaps most notably his *April Theses*, attempted to reconcile Marxist ideology with the circumstances of the Russian state and society. Lenin's attempts at reconciliation included the following assertions:

- Marx asserted that communist revolution would occur first in the most economically developed nations (e.g., Great Britain, Germany). However, Lenin argued that revolutionary activity would more easily establish a foothold in the “weakest link” of the capitalist system and subsequently spread throughout the capitalist chain.
- Lenin argued that a small group of professional revolutionaries could best enact a successful revolution in an autocratic nation such as Russia, rather than relying on a spontaneous workers' revolution.
- Lenin rejected any notion of cooperation with the Russian provisional government or other “compromise” socialist groups.
- Lenin added a condemnation of imperialism to the Marxist critique of capitalism.

Lenin utilized slogans such as “Peace, Bread, and Land” and “All power to the soviets!” to promote his Bolshevik agenda over that of the increasingly unpopular provisional government. He was able to capitalize on this lack of support to establish the Bolsheviks firmly in power during the October Revolution. Lenin entered into the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany, despite substantial loss of territory for the Russians, both because he recognized the unpopularity of the war and because he believed that national borders would become inconsequential once the communist revolution spread.

The Bolsheviks validated peasant seizures of land and factories and disbanded a newly elected Constituent Assembly, which was dominated by Menshevik factions. Despite opposition from a coalition of forces known as the White Army, the Bolshevik forces under the leadership of Leon Trotsky were ultimately victorious in the Russian Civil War (1918–1923). The Bolsheviks implemented a policy known as “war communism,” which nationalized key industries and collectivized agriculture. Harsh policies were introduced for peasants who refused to surrender their grain and livestock. Further, the Bolsheviks formed a secret police force (known originally as the Cheka and later as the NKVD and the KGB) to root out opposition. By 1922 Lenin and the Bolsheviks exerted full authority over most of the territory of the former Russian Empire and used the Cheka to implement a Red Terror aimed at eliminating thousands of “class enemies” of the state through widespread execution without trial. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was declared in 1922.

Beyond the borders of the USSR, many communists maintained a belief in the imminent overthrow of capitalism. The Bolsheviks called for the formation of the Third International (or Comintern) in 1919. Though designed to be an international alliance of socialist groups, the Third International was clearly dominated by the ever increasing power of the newly emerging USSR.

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Question 6 (continued)

Historical Background (continued)

Socially, women saw setbacks in some of the steps toward legal equality that they had achieved under Lenin. Stalin was concerned about declining birthrates. Therefore, in an effort to increase the Soviet birthrate, the Stalinist regime undid many of the gains that women had made in controlling reproduction.

Abortion was outlawed. Stalin praised the family and its role in inculcating traditional values of duty and discipline. Divorce became much more difficult and motherhood was promoted. The Stalinist regime made education more attainable, especially for technical or engineering-related fields.

Events before and during the Second World War led Stalin to a more assertive foreign policy. Despite significant ideological differences, Stalin entered into a nonaggression pact with Hitler's Nazi Germany just before the outbreak of the war. Stalin used the interval of peace with Germany to expand Soviet territory, taking the Baltic states, Bessarabia, eastern Poland and parts of Finland. Eventually, however, the USSR was forced to join forces with the Allied powers after being invaded by Nazi Germany in 1941. Despite the devastation wrought by World War II on the USSR, Stalin capitalized on his status as leader of a victorious power and was instrumental in exacerbating the tensions leading to the emergence of the Cold War.