

**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 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 from 1789 to 1799.

### **8–9 Points**

- Thesis is explicit and fully responsive to the question.
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument. It addresses the 1789–91 period and may have awareness of events up to 1799.
- Essay is well balanced; all major topics suggested by the prompt are covered at some length. In addition, it responds to the tasks of the question (grievances, groups, and extent to which ONE group addressed its grievances) and identifies at least TWO specific groups and at least TWO specific grievances. The groups and grievances need not be linked.
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by multiple pieces of relevant evidence. The essay analyzes the ability of one group to address its grievances through the application of at least THREE examples of relevant evidence.
- May contain errors that do not detract from the analysis.

### **6–7 Points**

- Thesis is explicit and responsive to the question.
- Organization is clear, effective in support of the argument, but not consistently followed. It addresses the 1789–91 period and may have awareness of events up to 1799.
- Essay is balanced; all major topics suggested by the prompt are covered at least briefly. In addition, it responds to the tasks of the question (grievances, groups, and extent to which ONE group addressed its grievances) and identifies at least TWO specific groups and at least TWO specific grievances. The groups and grievances need not be linked.
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by at least ONE piece of relevant evidence. The essay analyzes the ability of ONE group to address its grievances through the application of at least ONE example of relevant evidence. It may refer to more than ONE group and support that reference with at least ONE piece of relevant evidence.
- May contain an error that detracts from the analysis.

### **4–5 Points**

- Thesis is explicit, but not fully responsive to the question. The essay may omit ONE task of the question (grievances, groups, and extent to which ONE group addressed its grievances).
- Organization is apparent but not consistently followed or ineffective; chronology may be limited or confused.
- Essay shows some imbalance; some major topics suggested by the prompt are neglected. It may identify at least ONE specific group and at least ONE specific grievance, OR may identify the ability of ONE group to address its grievances with the identification of at least ONE example of relevant evidence.
- May contain errors that detract from the argument.

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**Question 7 (continued)**

**2–3 Points**

- No explicit thesis or thesis that merely repeats/paraphrases the prompt.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective; awareness of chronology may be absent.
- Essay shows serious imbalance; major topics suggested by the prompt are neglected. It inadequately responds to tasks of the question (grievances, groups, extent of address) AND/OR refers to a single grievance AND/OR refers to a single example of the ability of the Third Estate to address a grievance.
- May contain several errors that detract from argument.

**0–1 Point**

- No discernible attempt at thesis.
- No discernible organization; chronology may be merely repetition of the prompt.
- One or none of the major topics suggested by the prompt is mentioned; little or no supporting evidence used. The essay refers to Third Estate as a single group OR refers to a single grievance of the Third Estate OR refers to a single example of the ability of the Third Estate to address a grievance.
- May contain numerous errors.

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**Question 7 Historical Background (continued)**

20 percent to run the entire nation. The principal grievance was the “seemingly unwarranted privileges held by nobles and other corporate groups” (Merriman, 453), which meant the Catholic Church. The nobles were exempt from many forms of taxation, and the Church and clergy were exempt from all forms of taxation. The Third Estate bore the burden of taxation, and collections did not meet the expenses of the government. Many groups, particularly the *bourgeoisie*, resented the political structure of France. The authority of the French monarchy (theoretically, an absolute monarchy) and of the nobles’ councils (*parlements*) opposed the concepts of popular sovereignty embraced by the educated and the liberal. There was a general resentment of the privileges of the first two estates, as privilege opposed the concepts of “equality before the law” and “equality of opportunity.” Many *bourgeoisie* were well educated and had been imbued with an “enlightened” distrust of monarchy, religion, and tradition, which, they considered, were neither “rational” nor “natural.” The resentment of privilege naturally focused on the most privileged: the monarchy. Monarchical incompetence—Louis XVI was considered lazy, stupid, and naive; Marie Antoinette profligate, devious, and treasonous—was widely blamed for national problems. Finally, a series of unsuccessful wars resulted in a humiliating loss of territory in North America, the Caribbean, and India.

A series of poor harvests in the 1780s affected all groups, but particularly the peasants. The government subsidized the price of grain, but there was less food and more economic instability. The peasants were subject to all taxes, and, in addition, to “feudal” obligations, such as the *corvée* (state labor) and “*banalités*” (payments to the lord). Peasant resentment resulted in widespread attack on noble property in the summer of 1789; this became a major factor in “the Great Fear.” Higher food costs also affected the urban poor, some *bourgeoisie* (employers), and housewives. In fact, the famous “women’s march on Versailles” began as a protest against the rising cost of bread. Political issues were also among the grievances of women. None of the several constitutions of the Revolution granted any political rights to any women, and most of the textbooks mention Olympe de Gouges, whose *The Rights of Women* was published in 1791. As the Revolution continued, the urban (working) poor became more committed to popular sovereignty and radical democracy; this was particularly significant in the Reign of Terror (1793-94).

**Ability to Address Grievances, 1789-99**

*General Political Context of the French Revolution*

Louis XVI responded to the financial crisis by summoning an Estates General, which met at Versailles in May and June 1789. Members of all three estates selected representatives, and Louis XVI allowed the “doubling of the third,” although he adamantly maintained the traditional principle of “vote by order.” The Third Estate overwhelmingly selected members of the *bourgeoisie* as its representatives. The collection of the famous *cahiers de doléances* and the publication of radical tracts, particularly *What Is the Third Estate?*, raised expectations of significant reform. This did not happen: the Estates General never recommended any reform to the king, who eventually attempted to turn out the representatives of the Third Estate. This led immediately to the convening of the National Assembly and adoption of the Tennis Court Oath (June 1789). The National Assembly enacted many important reforms, such as the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (August 1789), the abolition of privilege (August 1789), and the Constitution of 1791, which established the next government, the Legislative Assembly. This unicameral legislature, which defined “passive citizens” (those with civil rights) and “active citizens” (those who could vote and hold office), lasted only a little more than a year; it failed by August 1792, owing in no small part to political inexperience and the role of the urban poor. The next government, the Convention, ruled in theory from 1792 to 1795, but it had become ineffectual by the spring of 1793, doomed by war and political partisanship, particularly between two radical factions, the Girondins and the Jacobins. The ascendancy of the Jacobins led to the infamous Reign of Terror (1793-94), a violent dictatorship based on the principles of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, in which the role of the urban poor was significant. The excesses of the Jacobins led to their downfall in the “Thermidorian Reaction” of July 1794; this led directly to the last government of

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**Question 7 Historical Background (continued)**

**URBAN POOR (“SANS CULOTTES”)**

<b>Specific grievances</b>	<b>Extent of ability to address grievances</b>
High grain prices, unemployment	Public demonstrations, attack on Bastille
Civil/political rights (limited)	Destruction of privilege (August 1789)
Protection from nobles	Declaration of the Rights of Man (August 1789)
Democracy (1793-95)	Constitution of 1791
	“Passive citizens”
	Attack on Tuileries (August 1792)
	September massacres (September 1792)
	Convention (1792-95)
	Monarchy abolished (First Republic)
	Universal male suffrage
	Reign of Terror (June 1793–July 1794)
	“Republic of Virtue”

**WOMEN**

<b>Specific grievances</b>	<b>Extent of ability to address grievances</b>
High grain prices, unemployment	March on Versailles (October 1789)
Civil/political rights (limited)	Constitution of 1791
	“Passive citizens”
	Some civil rights (divorce, property, financial support)
	Olympe de Gouges, <i>The Rights of Women</i> (1791)