

2008 AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

EUROPEAN HISTORY

SECTION II

Part A

(Suggested writing time—45 minutes)

Percent of Section II score—45

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying Documents 1-12. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. Write your answer on the lined pages of the Section II free-response booklet.

This question is designed to test your ability to work with and understand historical documents. Write an essay that:

- Provides an appropriate, explicitly stated thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question and does NOT simply restate the question.
- Discusses a majority of the documents individually and specifically.
- Demonstrates understanding of the basic meaning of a majority of the documents.
- Supports the thesis with appropriate interpretations of a majority of the documents.
- Analyzes the documents by explicitly grouping them in at least three appropriate ways.
- Takes into account both the sources of the documents and the authors' points of view.

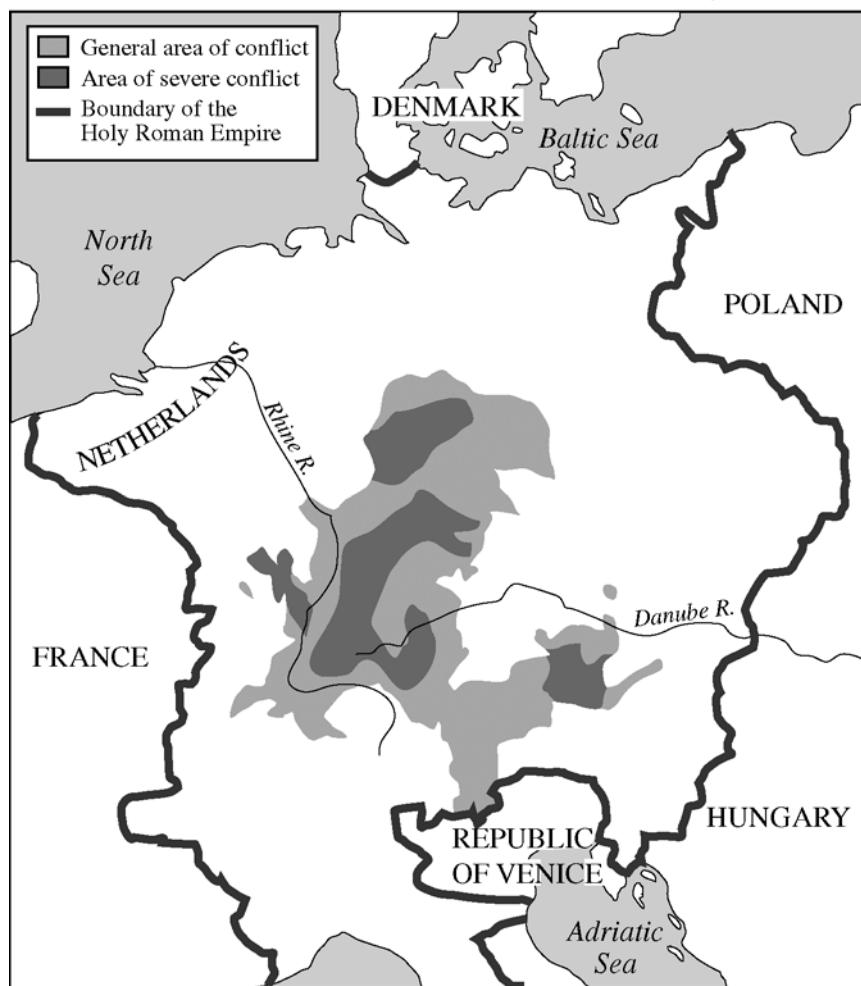
You may refer to relevant historical information not mentioned in the documents.

1. Analyze the causes of and the responses to the peasants' revolts in the German states, 1524–1526.

Historical Background: In late 1524, peasants, craftsmen, and poor soldiers formed bands and pillaged throughout a large area of the Holy Roman Empire. During the revolt, some of the rebel bands authored statements of grievances called Articles. Although most bands did not coordinate their activities, several groups met in Memmingen, Swabia, during March 1525 at a gathering known as the Peasant Parliament. After a series of battles, the authorities managed to suppress the revolts. More than 100,000 rebels and others were killed.

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PEASANT REVOLTS IN THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, 1524–1526



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Document 1

Source: Leonhard von Eck, Chancellor of Bavaria, report to Duke Ludwig of Bavaria, February 15, 1525.

This rebellion has been undertaken to repress the princes and the nobility and has its ultimate source in Lutheran teaching, for the peasants relate the majority of their demands to the Word of God, the Gospel, and brotherly love. The peasants are blinded, led astray, and made witless. If these peasants promised today that they would give their lords no further trouble, they could change their minds within an hour.

Document 2

Source: Sebastian Lotzer, craftsman and lay preacher, and Christoph Schappeler, preacher from Memmingen, *Twelve Articles of the Swabian Peasants*, March 1, 1525.

We will not allow ourselves hereafter to be oppressed by our lords but will let them demand only what is just and proper according to the agreement between lords and peasants. Lords should no longer try to force more services or other dues from peasants without compensation. Peasants should, however, help lords when it is necessary and at proper times when it does not disadvantage the peasant and for a suitable compensation.

Document 3

Source: Peasant Parliament of Swabia to the Memmingen Town Council, from *Articles of the Peasants of Memmingen*, March 3, 1525.

Hitherto we have been held as your poor serfs, which is pitiable, given that Christ has purchased and redeemed us with His precious blood, just as He has the Emperor. But it is not our intention to reject all authority. We will be obedient to all authority appointed by God in all fair and reasonable matters, and we do not doubt that as Christian lords you will release us from serfdom.

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Document 4

Source: Reply of the Memmingen Town Council to the *Articles of the Peasants of Memmingen*, March 15, 1525.

On the article concerning serfdom: we, your lords, purchased this right for a considerable sum of money, and the serfdom of a Christian is no hindrance to the salvation of his soul. However, so that you, the subjects, may see and recognize the council's good will, the council will release and absolve its subjects from such serfdom that the council controls. In return the peasants shall pay us a reasonable amount of money.

Document 5

Source: Pastor Johann Herolt, report of the events at Weinsburg, April 16, 1525.

The peasants arrived so unexpectedly that the count and his subordinates could not return to the castle and had to remain in town with the citizens. The peasants scaled the castle walls, captured the countess and her children, plundered the castle, and then appeared before the town. The townsfolk were peasant supporters. They opened the gates and towers to the peasants and let them in.

Document 6

Source: Thomas Müntzer, preacher and theologian, open letter to the people of Allstedt, April 27, 1525.

How long are you going to resist God's will? The whole of Germany, France, and Italy are awake. Four abbeys were laid waste during Easter week. More peasants in the Black Forest have risen, 3,000 strong! Hammer away on the anvils of the princes and lords, cast down their towers to the ground!

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Document 7

Source: Martin Luther, theologian, *Against the Murdering, Thieving Hordes of Peasants*, Wittenberg, May 1525.

The peasants forgot their place, violently took matters into their own hands, and are robbing and raging like mad dogs. It is clear that the assertions they made in their *Twelve Articles* were nothing but lies presented under the name of the Gospel. This is particularly the work of that devil, Thomas Müntzer, who rules at Mühlhausen. The peasants are not content with belonging to the devil themselves; they force and compel many good people to join their devilish league. Anyone who consorts with them goes to the devil with them and is guilty of all the evil deeds that they commit.

Document 8

Source: Lorenz Fries, chief advisor to the Archbishop of Würzburg, secret report regarding a peasant assembly, June 1, 1525.

The peasants occupying Würzburg were heard to say publicly that, since they were supposed to be brothers with one another, they believed the rich should share with the poor, especially those rich persons who had acquired their property from trade or had otherwise won it from the poor. The same was heard from many peasants in the countryside, where many a prosperous man, who had hitherto observed and taken pleasure in the peasants' uprising, began to scratch his head and to reflect on what a troublesome outcome the affair might have.

Document 9

Source: Caspar Nützel, Nürnberg town councilor, letter to Duke Albert of Prussia, August 5, 1525.

May God grant that the peace be preserved. It is indeed true that the poor, blind, and ignorant peasants have overstepped the mark with their unseemly behavior. No reasonable person could deny how unreasonably, unchristian, indeed, how excessively the authorities have torn out the hair of their subjects, whom they should aid, defend, and rule rather than fleece.

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Document 10

Source: Christoffel von Lichtenstein, nobleman, legal plea for leniency to Count Wilhelm von Henneberg, August 24, 1525.

Many other nobles saved their lives and goods and joined the peasants because no help or consolation had been sent by the territorial prince. As an old man, I begged that the peasants should not force me to swear an oath of allegiance to them, in view of the fact that I had grown up with their parents, gone to school with them, and now in my old age had done them no harm, only good. That was to no avail. I had to swear the oath.

Document 11

Source: Count Wilhelm von Henneberg, letter to Duke Albert of Prussia, February 2, 1526.

At first the nobility looked on, unawares that misfortune was creeping up on us, for it pleased them well that the rebellion attacked the priests and the monks. Now, when the peasants had eaten all that was in the monasteries and drunk up and consumed all that was available, they fell upon the nobility's houses, took all that they found in them, and burnt them down.

Document 12

Source: Decree of the Imperial Diet* of Speyer, August 27, 1526.

In the last year, terrible, unprecedented, and unchristian rebellion by subjects occurred through almost all parts of southern Germany. Therefore his Imperial Majesty expressly commanded that earnest examination be made so that such disturbance and rebellion be prevented in the future. The common man rather grievously forgot himself in the recent disturbance and acted violently against his authorities. In order that he might perceive that the grace and compassion of his superiors is greater and milder than his senseless deeds and actions, each authority shall have power to restore to their previous honorable estate those subjects who have surrendered unconditionally and been punished.

*The formal assembly of imperial councilors and officials advising Emperor Charles V

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EUROPEAN HISTORY

SECTION II

Part B

(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.

2. Analyze the methods and degrees of success of Russian political and social reform from the period of Peter the Great (1689–1725) through Catherine the Great (1762–1796).
3. Describe and analyze the changes that led to Europe’s rapid population growth in the eighteenth century.
4. Analyze the economic and social challenges faced by Western Europe in the period from 1945 to 1989.

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Question 1—Document-Based Question

Analyze the causes of and responses to the peasants' revolts in the German states, 1524–1526.

BASIC CORE: 1 point each to a total of 6 points

1. Provides an appropriate, explicitly stated thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question. Thesis must not simply restate the question.

The thesis must make some effort to address both causes and responses with some degree of specificity (beyond general analytical categories) for at least one part of the prompt. The thesis must suggest a minimal level of analysis or context drawn from the documents. The thesis need not appear in the first paragraph.

2. Discusses a majority of the documents individually and specifically.

The student must discuss **at least seven documents**—even if used incorrectly—by reference to anything in the box. Documents cannot be referenced together in order to get credit for this point (e.g., “Documents 1, 4, and 6 suggest ...”). Documents can be cited by number or by name, or they can be referenced in other ways that make it clear which document is being discussed.

3. Demonstrates understanding of the basic meaning of a majority of the documents (may misinterpret no more than one).

A student may not significantly misinterpret more than one document. A major misinterpretation is an incorrect analysis or one that leads to an inaccurate grouping or a false conclusion.

4. Supports the thesis with appropriate interpretations of a majority of the documents.

The student must use at least seven documents, and the documents used in the body of the essay must provide support for the thesis. *A student cannot earn this point if no credit was awarded for point 1 (appropriate thesis).*

5. Analyzes point of view or bias in at least three documents.

The student must make a reasonable effort to explain why a particular source expresses the stated view by:

- Relating authorial point of view to author's place in society (motive, position, status, etc.) OR
- Evaluating the reliability of the source OR
- Recognizing that different kinds of documents serve different purposes OR
- Analyzing the tone of the documents; must be well developed

Note: (1) Attribution alone is not sufficient to earn credit for point of view. (2) It is possible for students to discuss point of view collectively, but this counts for only one of the three point of views.

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Question 1—Document-Based Question (continued)

6. Analyzes documents by explicitly organizing them in at least three appropriate groups.

A group must contain **at least two documents** that are used correctly and individually. Groupings and corresponding documents *may* include the following (not exclusive):

- Causes:
 - Dissatisfaction/demands in general: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8
 - Revolt against princes: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11
 - Oppression by lords and princes: 2, 3, 8, 9
 - Religious influences: 1, 3, 4, 6
 - End to serfdom: 2, 3, 4
 - Economic relief: 2, 3, 8
- Responses:
 - Condemnation: 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12
 - Riots/plundering: 5, 6, 7, 11
 - Peasants' responses: 2, 3, 6
 - Towns' responses: 4, 5, 9
 - Nobles' responses: 8, 10, 11, 12
 - Lay religious figures/favorable responses: 2, 6
 - Religious authorities/negative responses: 5, 7, 8
 - Empathy: 2, 5, 9
 - Appeasement: 4, 10, 11
 - Favorable: 2, 3, 6, 9
 - Unfavorable: 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

EXPANDED CORE: 0–3 points to a total of 9 points

Expands beyond the basic core of 1–6. The basic score of 6 must be achieved before a student can earn expanded core points. Credit awarded in the expanded core should be based on holistic assessment of the essay. Factors to consider in holistic assessment may include:

- Has a clear, analytical, and comprehensive thesis
- Uses all or almost all of the documents (11–12 documents)
- Uses the documents persuasively as evidence
- Shows understanding of nuances of the documents
- Analyzes point of view or bias in at least four documents cited in the essay
- Analyzes the documents in additional ways (e.g., develops more groupings)
- Recognizes and develops change over time
- Brings in relevant “outside” information

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Question 1—Document-Based Question (continued)

A CLOSER LOOK AT POINT OF VIEW IN THE 2008 DBQ

There are many means by which a student can demonstrate point-of-view analysis in the 2008 DBQ. Students must make a reasonable effort to address point of view by referring to at least three documents.

Examples of ACCEPTABLE point-of-view analysis

Relating authorial point of view to author's place in society

“Leonard von Eck, as a chancellor, would likely hold this view since as a government official he is probably very concerned with preserving order and the stability of the political structure (doc. 1).”

“Since Martin Luther had been deemed a heretic and was dependent upon local princes for protection, it is not surprising that he would be so vehement in condemning events that many linked to him and that were causing such civil unrest (doc. 7).”

Evaluating the reliability of the source

“Lichtenstein may not be a completely reliable source, however, since he was pleading his own case and clearly had something to gain (doc. 10).”

“Since Caspar Nutzel is a local government official writing to a superior, his acknowledgement of ‘excessive’ actions by authorities seems credible since it may have been somewhat risky to offer criticism of authority during this time period (doc. 9).”

Recognizing that different kinds of documents serve different purposes

“It is important to note that Lorenz Fries is commenting in a secret report probably not meant for publication; therefore, he is likely able to be more frank and honest than he might have been in a public document (doc. 8).”

“The demands of the Peasant Parliament of Swabia were announced in *Articles of the Peasants of Memmingen* to the Town Council; since these demands came from a group of peasants, it is reasonable to assume that these were widely held views among the peasantry of this area (doc. 3).”

Analyzing the tone of the documents:

“The passionate tone of Muntzer’s open letter was clearly designed to incite further reaction among an already agitated peasant population” (What counts here is not merely the mention of “tone” but a clear link to the intention of the author).

Examples of UNACCEPTABLE point-of-view analysis:

“Count Wilhelm von Hennenberg, in a letter to Duke Albert of Prussia, noted that nobles were surprised when peasants turned from attacking priests and monks to the property of the nobility (doc. 11).”

Why is this unacceptable? This is merely attribution with no attempt at further analysis beyond the stated information from the document itself; the statement does not explain why Hennenberg held these views.

“Because this is a statement written by two preachers, it accurately reflects the attitudes of the people during this time period (doc. 5).”

Why is this unacceptable? Again, this is really just attribution, since the statement makes no effort to explain how or why these two preachers would be authoritative voices of the people.

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Question 1—Document-Based Question (continued)

"The reply of the Memmingen Town Council to the *Articles of the Peasants of Memmingen* was biased when they stated that serfdom is no hindrance to salvation (doc. 4)."

Why is this unacceptable? This statement merely asserts that the Town Council is biased, with no attempt to explain why they may hold a biased view; the second part of the statement is simply a reference to the content of the document.

"Lorenz Fries writes a secret report to the archbishop to explain that a peasant assembly in Wurzburg believed that the rich should share with the poor (doc. 8)."

Why is this unacceptable? While it may be relevant that this was a secret report, this statement makes no attempt to explain why this may be significant in the interpretation of the document.

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Question 1 Document Summary

Document 1: Leonhard von Eck, Chancellor of Bavaria, report to Duke Ludwig of Bavaria, February 15, 1525

"This rebellion has been undertaken to repress princes and nobility and has its ultimate source in Lutheran teaching, for the peasants relate the majority of their demands to the Word of God ... The peasants are blinded ... and made witless." The peasants cannot be trusted.

Document 2: Sebastian Lotzer, craftsperson and lay preacher, and Christoph Schappeler, preacher from Memmingen, *Twelve Articles of the Swabian Peasants*, March 1, 1525

"We will no longer allow ourselves ... to be oppressed by our lords. ... We will let them demand only what is just and proper according to the agreement between lords and peasants. Lords should no longer try to force more services or other dues from peasants without compensation. Peasants should ... help lords ... at proper times and for a suitable compensation."

Document 3: Peasant Parliament of Swabia to the Memmingen Town Council, from *Articles of the Peasants of Memmingen*, March 3, 1525

We have been your serfs despite the redemption of Christ for us just as for the Emperor. We do not "reject all authority. We will be obedient to all authority appointed by God ... we do not doubt that as Christian lords you will release us from serfdom."

Document 4: Reply of the Memmingen Town Council to the *Articles of the Peasants of Memmingen*, March 15, 1525

We have "purchased" your serfdom "for a considerable sum ... and ... serfdom is no hindrance to ... salvation. ..." As a gesture of "good will," we will "absolve" you of your "serfdom" in exchange for "reasonable" payment.

Document 5: Pastor Johann Herolt, report of the events at Weinsburg, April 16, 1525

The peasants "unexpectedly" captured the count's family and "plundered the castle" while he was away. When the peasants "appeared before the town," the townsfolk supported the peasants and "opened" the town "gates ... to ... let them in."

Document 6: Thomas Müntzer, preacher and theologian, open letter to the people of Allstedt, April 27, 1525

"How long are you going to resist God's will? The whole of Germany, France, and Italy are awake. Four abbeys were laid waste during Easter week. More peasants in the Black Forest have risen. ... Hammer away on the anvils of princes and lords."

Document 7: Martin Luther, theologian, *Against the Murdering, Thieving Hordes of Peasants*, Wittenberg, May 1525

The peasants are out of control and "raging like mad dogs." Their "assertions" in the "Twelve Articles" were nothing but lies presented under the name of the Gospel." This is the "work of that devil, Thomas Müntzer. ... The peasants are not content with belonging to the devil themselves; they force ... [others] to join. ... Anyone who consorts with them goes to the devil with them and is guilty of ... [their] evil deeds."

Document 8: Lorenz Fries, chief advisor to the Archbishop of Würzburg, secret report regarding a peasant assembly, June 1, 1525

"[P]easants occupying Würzburg" believe "the rich should share with the poor, especially those" who profited from the poor. Similar ideas were heard in the "countryside," causing many "prosperous" men to begin expressing concern over the uprisings.

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Question 1 Document Summary (continued)

Document 9: Caspar Nützel, Nürnberg town councilor, letter to Duke Albert of Prussia, August 5, 1525

"May God grant that the peace be preserved. ... [I]gnorant peasants have overstepped the mark with their unseemly behavior" though "the authorities" have also been unreasonable, "unchristian," and excessive to those "whom they should aid ... rather than fleece."

Document 10: Christoffel von Lichtenstein, nobleman, legal plea for leniency to Count Wilhelm von Hennenberg, August 24, 1525

"Many ... nobles ... joined the peasants" in order to save their lives and property. "I begged that the peasants should not force me to swear an oath of allegiance" since I had "done them no harm ... [but] I had to swear the oath."

Document 11: Count Wilhelm von Hennenberg, letter to Duke Albert of Prussia, February 2, 1526

"At first the nobility ... [were] pleased ... that the rebellion attacked the priests and monks," but they were caught unawares when the peasants turned upon the houses of the nobility, taking everything they found and burning houses to the ground.

Document 12: Decree of the Imperial Diet of Speyer, August 27, 1526

"[H]is Imperial Majesty ... commanded ... [an] examination" of the recent "rebellion ... so that such disturbance ... [could] be prevented in the future." Despite the violent actions of the "common man," each authority has the "power to restore to their ... estate[s] ... those subjects who have surrendered unconditionally" in order to demonstrate grace and compassion.