

2009 AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

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 long-term and short-term factors responsible for the disintegration of communist rule in TWO of the following states:

Czechoslovakia

East Germany

Hungary

Poland

3. Considering the period 1918 to 1948, analyze the political and diplomatic problems faced by TWO of the following newly created Eastern European states.

Austria

Czechoslovakia

Hungary

Poland

4. Analyze the extent to which Frederick the Great of Prussia and Joseph II of Austria advanced and did not advance Enlightenment ideals during their reigns.

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Question 2

Analyze the long-term and short-term factors responsible for the disintegration of communist rule in TWO of the following states:

**Czechoslovakia
East Germany
Hungary
Poland**

9–8 Points

- Thesis explicitly identifies long-term and short-term factors responsible for the disintegration of communist rule in two states.
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
- Essay is well balanced; long-term and short-term factors responsible for the disintegration of communist rule in two states are covered at some length.
- Major assertions in the essay are supported thoroughly and consistently by relevant evidence.
- May contain errors that do not detract from the argument.

7–6 Points

- Thesis identifies long-term and short-term factors responsible for the disintegration of communist rule in two states but may not be fully developed.
- Organization is clear and effective in support of the argument but may introduce evidence that is not pertinent to the task.
- Essay covers all major topics suggested by the prompt but may analyze one set of factors OR one country in greater depth.
- Major assertions in the essay are supported by relevant evidence.
- May contain an error that detracts from the argument.

5–4 Points

- Thesis identifies factors responsible for the disintegration of communism but may ignore the distinction between long-term factors and short-term factors.
- Organization is clear but may not be consistently followed; essay may veer off task.
- Essay may not complete all tasks; it may analyze only one set of factors for two countries OR may only analyze factors for one country OR may be primarily descriptive rather than analytical.
- Offers supporting evidence for some of the long-term and short-term factors responsible for the disintegration of communist rule.
- May contain errors that detract from the argument.

3–2 Points

- Thesis may identify factors as short-term and/or long-term factors without demonstrating understanding of the two concepts OR may paraphrase the prompt.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective.
- Essay shows serious imbalance; treatment of short-term and long-term factors is superficial.
- Offers minimal or confused evidence regarding long-term and short-term factors responsible for the disintegration of communist rule.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

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Question 2 (continued)

1–0 Points

- Thesis is erroneous OR irrelevant OR absent.
- No effective organization is evident.
- Short-term and long-term factors are described generically or polemically.
- Provides little or no relevant supporting evidence.
- May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.

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Question 2 Historical Background (continued)

ended the Prague Spring by invading Czechoslovakia in 1968 and installing a communist hardliner. The events of 1968 raised doubts about the possibility of reforming communism and communist leaders' abilities to be more responsive to the aspirations of their citizens.

4. The 1970s and 1980s

The 1970s were a decade of growing economic hardship and demands for political freedom. In 1980, the announcement of higher food prices by the Polish government triggered a series of strikes and public demonstrations in Poland. The independent labor movement known as Solidarity, supported by the Polish Pope John Paul II and the Polish Catholic Church, challenged the legitimacy of communist rule. Although the movement was temporarily suppressed by the army, Polish communists failed to solve the economic crisis or command the enthusiastic support of the population. Few, however, anticipated that within the decade the Soviet Union would surrender control of its satellites or that communist rule in Central and Eastern Europe would disintegrate.

Mikhail Gorbachev's efforts to save communism in the Soviet Union loosened Soviet control in the satellite countries. Gorbachev's pledge to allow all nations to pursue their own political destinies, coupled with continuing economic problems, resulted in negotiations between the Polish government and Solidarity leaders designed to carry out a peaceful transition of power. By the summer of 1989, Poland was led by a noncommunist leader for the first time in over four decades. The Polish example encouraged dissident groups in other Eastern European countries, and relatively peaceful transfers of political authority had occurred in Hungary, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia by the end of 1989. Gorbachev was surprised by the rapidity of the communist collapse but refused to intervene militarily.

TERMS AND NAMES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER (Not to be treated as a checklist)

Berlin Blockade and Airlift
Berlin Wall
Brezhnev Doctrine
Comecon
De-Stalinization
Dubček, Alexander
Glasnost and perestroika
Gorbachev, Mikhail

Havel, Vaclav
John Paul II
Prague Spring
"Socialism/communism with a human face"
Solidarity Movement
Velvet Revolution
Walesa, Lech
Warsaw Pact