

2005 AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

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. Historians speak of the rise of mass politics in the period from 1880 to 1914. Define this phenomenon and analyze its effects on European politics in this period.
6. Assess the extent to which the economic and political ideals of Karl Marx were realized in postrevolutionary Russia in the period from 1917 to 1939.
7. Analyze the economic, technological, and institutional factors responsible for western Europe's domination of world trade from 1650 to 1800.

END OF EXAM

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Question 6

Assess the extent to which the economic and political ideals of Karl Marx were realized in postrevolutionary Russia in the period from 1917 to 1939.

9–6: Stronger

- Has a clear, well-developed thesis.
- Supports the thesis with specific evidence.
- Addresses the terms of the question.
- May contain minor errors; even 9 need not be flawless.

Indicators

- Contains a clear thesis that effectively addresses all aspects of the question in a historically accurate manner.
- Demonstrates a clear understanding of Marx's economic and political theories (which may intertwine).
- Clearly assesses extent to which Marxist ideals were realized under *both* Lenin *and* Stalin.
- Supports assessment with specific examples of Leninist and Stalinist economic and political policies.

NOTE: Essays scoring 8 or 9 will typically be better balanced (discussing economic and political policies of both Lenin and Stalin in some depth) with more examples and fuller discussion. Less balance or depth might be expected for a 6 or 7.

5–4: Mixed

- Contains a thesis, perhaps superficial or simplistic.
- Provides uneven response to the question's terms.
- May contain errors, factual or interpretive.

Indicators

- Has a weak thesis and provides a superficial treatment of the question.
- Shows some understanding of economic and political theories of Marx.
- Shows a basic understanding of how Lenin and Stalin aligned with Marxist ideals—may emphasize either Lenin or Stalin.
- Provides few relevant and specific examples.

3–0: Weaker

(Essays scored 1 or 0 may attempt to address the question but fail to do so.)

- Thesis is confused, or absent, or merely restates the question.
- Misconstrues the question or omits major tasks.
- May contain major errors.

Indicators

- May not contain a thesis that addresses the question.
- Shows minimal understanding of economic and political theories/policies of either Marx, or Lenin, or Stalin.
- Shows little, if any, understanding of how either Lenin or Stalin aligned with Marxist ideals.
- Provides a mere outline of historical events.
- Provides no relevant or specific examples.

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Question 6 Historical Background

Marx's Views on Economics

- The subsistence theory of wages; the labor theory of value; the concept of “surplus value.”
- Social classes are based on economic production.
- In industrialized society, bourgeois, capitalist, and proletarian classes have their own class interests.
- These lead ultimately to a clash of interests, or “class antagonisms.”
- The inevitable result will be a fierce struggle for dominance between classes.
- One result will be the abolition of property, and therefore the creation of a classless society.

Marx's Views on Politics

- The state—and therefore government *per se*—represents bourgeois, capitalist interests.
- The proletariat must, therefore, never forget that government works against workers' interests.
- Workers must never imagine that concepts like democracy, religion, and even government-sponsored social legislation will ever improve their lives.
- The urban proletariat should realize their growing power in the industrial system, and should therefore resist government suppression.
- The workers will ultimately revolt against their capitalist, government-backed exploiters and replace them as a ruling force.
- The state as a consequence will “wither away” and will be replaced by a communist society.
- Through the dialectical process, the socialist revolution will spread around the world: “WORKING MEN OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!”

Lenin's Alignment with Marx's Economic and Political Ideals

- Distrust of democratic government.
- Hatred of capitalism, especially in its “highest” form (i.e., big business).
- A hatred of religion as an expression of bourgeois government's suppression of the laboring classes.
- A loathing of bourgeois exploitation of workers.
- A determined commitment to the concept of class struggle.
- The withdrawal of Russia from World War I, which he saw as a clash between capitalist states.
- War Communism.
- Establishment of the Comintern (1919) to spread Communism around the world.

Lenin's Departures from Marx's Economic and Political Ideals

- It is possible to skip over a capitalist stage on the way toward a socialist state.
- Capitalism leads inexorably to imperialism and colonialism.
- The means of production should be controlled by the state—not as in Marx's idea by “the association of producers.”
- New Economic Policy (NEP).
- Use of the party apparatus (i.e., the Communist Party) to orchestrate political revolution—to establish “the dictatorship of the proletariat.”
- The Communist Party must assume the role of “revolutionary vanguard.”
- This ruling party, comprised of intellectuals and activists, would then carry out the overthrow of the capitalist-controlled state.
- The end result would be realized in a highly centralized political structure, in which all policies were determined by a “central committee.”