

2008 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 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 3

Describe and analyze changes that led to Europe's rapid population growth in the eighteenth century.

9–8 Points

- Explicit thesis fully responds to the prompt and refers to a minimum of THREE correct changes that led to European population increase in the eighteenth century.
- Clear, consistent organization completely supporting the thesis.
- Essay is clearly balanced; all topics ("changes") are covered at some length.
- Each assertion ("change") is linked to population growth by specific, detailed evidence.
- Any errors do not detract from the thesis.

7–6 Points

- Explicit thesis responds to the prompt with less depth but does refer to a minimum of THREE correct changes that led to European population increase in the eighteenth century.
- Organization is clear and effective but perhaps not consistently followed.
- Essay is balanced; all "changes" are covered at least briefly.
- Each assertion ("change") is linked to population growth by at least one piece of relevant, specific evidence.
- May contain an error that detracts from the thesis.

5–4 Points

- Thesis is explicit but not fully responsive to the question. May use only TWO correct "changes" from the eighteenth century, OR may have three or more changes, but only two are correct.
- Organization is clear and effective in support of the thesis but not always followed.
- Essay shows imbalance; some "changes" are not covered as in depth as others.
- Most assertions ("changes") are linked to population growth by at least one piece of relevant evidence.
- May contain errors that detract from the thesis.

3–2 Points

- Thesis is not explicit or acceptable; may merely repeat/paraphrase the question; rarely refers to more than two "causes."
- Organization is unclear and ineffective; usually follows a weak thesis.
- Essay shows serious imbalance; refers to more than one "change" but is specific with only one.
- Only one or two minimal uses of relevant evidence, less specificity, more generalities; linkage of causes to population increase may be weak.
- May contain several major errors that detract from the argument (i.e., too reliant on nineteenth-century information).

1–0 Points

- No discernable attempt at a correct thesis.
- No discernable organization.
- Only ONE or none of the topics ("changes") is mentioned.
- Little or no supporting evidence is used.
- May contain serious errors (off task, completely incorrect era).

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Question 3 Historical Background

Material in this section is derived from the following texts:

- Armesto, *The World: A History* (1st edition, 2006)
Cannistraro and Reich, *The Western Perspective* (2nd edition, 2004)
Hunt, *The Making of the West* (2nd edition, 2005)
Kagan, *The Western Heritage* (9th edition, 2007)
Lerner and Burns, *Western Civilizations* (13th edition, 1998)
McKay, *A History of Western Society* (9th edition, 2008)
Merriman, *Modern Europe from the Renaissance to the Present* (2nd edition, 2004)
Palmer et al., *A History of the Modern World* (12th edition, 2007)
Spielvogel, *Western Civilization Since 1300* (6th edition, 2006)

Though the evidence is fragmentary and based on few official facts, it is evident that the population of Europe, as a whole, grew quickly in the eighteenth century. The first official European census of the era was not taken until 1801 in Britain, but many historians estimate that the following growth took place:

- Russia's population tripled, 1700–1800
- Prussia: population doubled
- Hungary: population tripled
- England: population increased from 5.5 million to 9 million
- France: population increased from 20 million to 26 million
- Spain: population increased from 7.6 million to 10.5 million
- Total population growth: from 120 million to 190 million, especially after 1750

The following topics are examples (certainly not limited to these) that might be included in answering this question.

- Better transportation, better ability to deal with famine, move food around; diet improvements, great vegetables, potatoes, and other New World foods; more meat/protein; tea, boiled water, less likely to get sick.
- Commodities in general more available.
- Health care improvements (e.g., inoculations), gradual decline of the plague; use of cotton cloth that could be washed; vermin destroyed.
- Industrialization leading to breakdown of traditional families; more opportunity to marry younger.
- Gradual improvement of law and order; people less vulnerable to random violence; more sense of security.
- Not many major killing wars; armies not living off the land as much.

Various texts and historians list other changes in Europe that led to this population growth:

- All texts make reference to the benefits of the Agricultural Revolution and Enclosure Acts (in Britain), which helped to produce more food on less land with fewer workers, thus lowering the price of food and contributing to better diets, longer lives, etc.

Note: We must remain aware that the question refers to all of Europe and not just Britain.

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Question 3 Historical Background (continued)

Kagan

- New inventions/methods of agriculture.
 - Tull: seed drill, iron plows.
 - “Turnip” Townsend: crop rotation.
 - Arthur Young: *Annals of Agriculture*.

Palmer et al.

- Organized sovereign states put an end to civil wars, thereby allowing population to increase.

Additional Notes

- Earlier marriages as serfdom declined.
- Improved transportation of food (canals and roads). NOTE: NO railroads, steamships, etc., for this particular question (out of the time frame).
- Improved sanitation in some places (usually reference to cleaner streets).