

# 2009 AP<sup>®</sup> 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. Compare and contrast the economic factors responsible for the decline of Spain with the economic factors responsible for the decline of the Dutch Republic by the end of the seventeenth century.
6. Analyze various ways in which the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) represented a turning point in European history.
7. Analyze how Galileo, Descartes, and Newton altered traditional interpretations of nature and challenged traditional sources of knowledge.

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**

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### Question 5

**Compare and contrast the economic factors responsible for the decline of Spain with the economic factors responsible for the decline of the Dutch Republic by the end of the seventeenth century.**

#### 9–8 Points

- Thesis is clearly stated and addresses BOTH a comparison and a contrast for the decline of Spain and the Dutch Republic by the end of the seventeenth century (e.g., “While both Spain and the Dutch Republic suffered from massive military expenditures, the decline of Spain was more self-inflicted than the decline of the Dutch Republic”).
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
- Essay is well balanced; even treatment of points of comparison as well as points of contrast.
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by multiple pieces of relevant evidence and historical specificity.
- Essay makes connections between the events of the sixteenth century to the economic decline by the end of the seventeenth century; analyzes the factors of cause and effect.
- May contain some errors that do not detract from the argument (e.g., calling the First Anglo–Dutch War the Nutmeg War or making the assertion that the primary cause of hyperinflation was the flood of bullion into Europe).

#### 7–6 Points

- Thesis is clearly stated and addresses BOTH parts of the question.
- Organization is clear.
- Essay is somewhat balanced, though the treatment of some points of comparison and some points of contrast might be uneven.
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence or historical specificity.
- Essay makes connections between the events of the sixteenth century to the economic decline by the end of the seventeenth century; analyzes the factors of cause and effect.
- Might contain some errors that do not detract from the argument.

#### 5–4 Points

- Thesis is clearly stated but might be uneven. Tends to focus too much on just similarities or just differences.
- Organization is clear and consistently followed, but not necessarily effective.
- Essay shows imbalance; the points of comparison or the points of contrast might be discussed superficially.
- Assertions tend to be general statements with minimal supporting evidence or historical specificity.
- Mostly historical narrative with little attempt at connections and analysis.
- Essay tends to ignore the connections between the events of the sixteenth century and the economic decline by the end of the seventeenth century; little analysis.
- May contain major errors that detract from the argument (e.g., “The Dutch Republic declined because the English took over South Africa in 1694”).

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### **Question 5 (continued)**

#### **3–2 Points**

- Thesis is not clearly stated or just restates the question (example: “There are many similarities and many differences between the economic decline of Spain and the economic decline of the Dutch Republic”).
- Organization is unclear and ineffective.
- Essay shows serious and major imbalance; it either discusses just the factors of comparison OR just the factors of contrast.
- Statements are superficial and general without any factual support.
- Little factual support for analysis.
- Little or no analysis.
- Little evidence of any economic connections or cause/effect.
- Contains major errors that detract from the argument.

#### **1–0 Points**

- No thesis.
- Organization gets in the way of the argument.
- General, superficial, vague, and simplistic.
- Little or no supporting evidence.
- No analysis or historical connections.
- Major errors get in the way of the argument.