
AP[®] European History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

Inside:

Long Essay Question 2

- Scoring Guideline**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY 2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2 — Long Essay Question

“Evaluate the most significant effect of state centralization by European monarchs during the period 1450–1648.”

Maximum Possible Points: 6

Points	Rubric	Notes
A: Thesis/Claim (0–1)	<p>Thesis/Claim: Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning. (1 point)</p> <p><i>To earn this point, the thesis must make a claim that responds to the prompt, rather than merely restating or rephrasing the prompt. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion.</i></p>	<p>The thesis statement must make a historically defensible claim about the most significant effect of state centralization by European monarchs during the period 1450–1648, with some indication of the reasoning for making that claim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Therefore, whereas the deprivation of rights and numerous wars were significant impacts of state centralization by European monarchs, neither left such a lasting impact as economic decline caused by the central governments needs for military spending and displays of grandeur to maintain its power over its people.” • “The most significant effect of state centralization was the lessening of the power of both nobles and the clergy.” • “The most significant effect of state centralization was the creation of strong, national armies because countries could wage war and put down internal conflicts.” • “Centralization of European states by their monarchs resulted in increased warfare; this was due to religious beliefs becoming forced on citizens unwillingly, instigating backlash.”

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2 — Long Essay Question (continued)

B: Contextualization (0–1)	<p>Contextualization: Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt. (1 point)</p> <p><i>To earn this point, the response must relate the topic of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question. This point is not awarded for merely a phrase or a reference.</i></p>	<p>To earn this point, the essay must accurately describe a context relevant to state centralization by European monarchs during the period 1450–1648.</p> <p><i>Examples of context might include the following, with appropriate elaboration:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protestant Reformation • Voyages of exploration • Wars of Religion • Military Revolution • Feudalism/manorial system • Middle Ages/Renaissance
C: Evidence (0–2)	<p>Evidence: Provides specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. (1 point)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Supports an Argument: Supports an argument in response to the prompt using specific and relevant examples of evidence. (2 points)</p>	<p><i>To earn the first point, the response must identify specific historical examples of evidence relevant to state centralization by European monarchs during the period 1450–1648.</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p><i>To earn the second point, the response must use specific historical evidence to support an argument in response to the prompt.</i></p> <p><i>Evidence used might include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thirty Years’ War • Edict of Nantes • English Civil War • Specific European monarchs

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Question 2 — Long Essay Question (continued)

D: Analysis and Reasoning (0–2)	<p>Historical Reasoning: Uses historical reasoning (e.g., comparison, causation, continuity, and change over time) to frame or structure an argument that addresses the prompt. (1 point)</p> <p><i>To earn the first point, the response must demonstrate the use of historical reasoning to frame or structure an argument about the most significant effect of state centralization by European monarchs during the period 1450–1648, although the reasoning might be uneven, imbalanced, or inconsistent.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Complexity: Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the prompt. (2 points)</p> <p><i>To earn the second point, the response must demonstrate a complex understanding of the effects of state centralization in Europe in the period from 1450 to 1648.</i></p>	<p><i>Examples of using historical reasoning might include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a causal relationship between state centralization by monarchs and an effect of that centralization and explaining the connections between cause and effect • Providing a broad category of effects of state centralization, such as religious change, and then discussing subcategories/examples in order to support a broader argument regarding the most significant effect • Describing change over time or elaborating on the changes and continuities that occurred over the period covered by the topic of the prompt <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><i>Demonstrating complex understanding might include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explaining the most significant effect of state centralization, and noting that other effects were also significant and interrelated • Explaining how multiple countries underwent changes as a result of state centralization • Explaining relevant and insightful connections across time by discussing the development of Enlightened absolutism as a continuation of the trends from 1450 to 1648 • Qualifying or modifying an argument by considering evidence that supports an alternate position <p><i>This demonstration of complex understanding must be part of an argument, not merely a phrase or reference. Complexity should emerge from the essay’s argumentation and use of evidence, and while it does not have to be present throughout the essay, the complexity point should consist of substantial elaboration.</i></p>
<p>If response is completely blank, enter - - for all four score categories: A, B, C, and D.</p>		

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2 — Long Essay Question (continued)

Scoring Notes

Introductory notes:

- Except where otherwise noted, each point of these rubrics is earned independently; for example, a student could earn a point for evidence without earning a point for thesis/claim.
- **Accuracy:** The components of these rubrics require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts, and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain grammatical errors.

A. Thesis/Claim (0–1 point)

Responses earn 1 point by responding to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis or claim about the most significant effect of state centralization by European monarchs during the period 1450–1648, with some indication of the reasoning for making that claim.

Responses earn 1 point by responding to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis that establishes a line of reasoning about the topic. To earn this point the thesis must make a claim that responds to the prompt rather than simply restating or rephrasing the prompt. The thesis must suggest at least one main line of argument development or establish the analytic categories of the argument.

The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion, which does not have to be contained in the first or last paragraph.

The thesis is not required to encompass the entirety of the period, but it must identify a relevant development or developments in the period.

Examples of acceptable theses:

- “The state centralization by European monarchs between 1450-1648 caused the entire landscape of Europe to become more powerful and well-off: politically, strong leaders such as Louis XIV and Peter the Great improved their countries standing; socially, religion was able to become more centralized and controlled; most importantly, economically, centralization caused overseas colonization and mercantilism.” *(The response makes a historically defensible statement linking the development of state centralization in Europe to increased monarchical power over economic and religious matters within states, and to increased international prestige and competition between states.)*
- “The political centralization of European monarchs most significantly led to religious conflicts and changes that opened Europe up to a sense of intellectual freedom unlike ever before though the religious developments in Britain, France, and the HRE.” *(The response links political centralization to challenges to established religious authority. There is a line of reasoning established in the thesis that is carried through the body of the response.)*

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2 — Long Essay Question (continued)

- “From 1450-1648, European monarchs centralized their power to drastically lower the power of the nobility, establishing absolutism.” (*The response links the development of centralized European monarchical power from 1450 to 1648 to the decline in noble influence, allowing for the rise of absolutism. The body of the response further illustrates the ways in which centralized state authority resulted in the decline of the power of the aristocracy.*)

Examples of unacceptable theses:

- “This centralization or inability to entirely centralize crafted the European balance of power for only like the past six hundred years on and also the French Revolution and the Enlightenment.” (*There is no historically defensible claim or stance relevant to the prompt.*)
- “The most significant effect of state centralization by European monarchs was the extent of power of the monarch, as it resulted in economic damage from the spending of the monarch and in future political reform to shape the next governments.” (*The attempt at thesis is historically indefensible and does not clearly describe economic difficulties or provide any indication of types of political reforms or government changes.*)
- “Caused by the political instability and new states found from attempts and successes of state centralization, the massive and deadly European Wars of the early modern era were significant for their resulting religious pluralism and destruction they wrought on Europe.” (*The thesis fails to identify the most significant effect of state centralization and makes generalizations about religion and war.*)

B. Contextualization (0–1 point)

Responses earn 1 point by describing a broader historical context relevant to the prompt. To earn this point, the response must relate the topic of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occurred before or during or continued after the time frame of 1450 to 1648. This point is not awarded for merely a phrase or a reference.

To earn the point the essay must accurately describe a context relevant to state centralization by European monarchs during the period 1450–1648.

Examples might include the following, with appropriate elaboration:

- Age of Exploration
- The Protestant Reformation
- Wars of Religion
- Feudalism
- Middle Ages
- Peter the Great/Catherine the Great/Joseph II
- Enlightened absolutism

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2 — Long Essay Question (continued)

Examples of acceptable contextualization:

- “After the fall of Rome, Europe entered a dark age. After the dark age was over in 1450, European monarchs decide to centralize their states, though Poland was a notable exception. The most significant effect of state centralization was the shift of power from nobles to the monarchy. The shift in power increased the monarchies power, suppressed manoralism and created new conflicts.” (*The response earned contextualization for clearly linking the shift in political power from feudal lords in the Middle Ages to later monarchs as resulting from state centralization.*)
- “During the fall of the Roman Empire, Europe became very divided, held together by a thread of the Catholic Church. The nobility as able to gain much power over their respected lands. Without a strong king to keep the nobility in check, the nobles fought each other for a very long time. All of this was about to change with the Crusades, Black Death, and the rise of towns, when the system of feudalism began to decline. Because of this, kings are now able to collect more taxes, have a standardized army of many common folk, and not knighted noblemen, and keep nobles in check.” (*The response successfully relates broader events in the Roman Empire and Middle Ages to state centralization by European monarchs in the early modern period.*)
- “During the years 1450-1648, European monarchs consolidated power, centralizing their state. ‘New Monarchies’ arose in Spain, England and France and worked to consolidate power as outlined by Machiavelli’s ‘The Prince.’ ‘The Prince’ called for a ruler who was strong minded, willing to remove all noble influence and threats and able to ignore morality in making decisions.” (*The response mentions multiple countries and connects state centralization in the early modern period to Renaissance-era political theory.*)

Note: In order to earn this point the response should clearly connect the relevant contextual information to the topic. A mere passing reference to another event or time period, such as the Middle Ages, does not suffice for this point.

Examples of unacceptable contextualization:

- “In America, we have checks and balances to make sure no branch of government gets too powerful. There have been dictatorships with all the power such as Vladimir Lenin and Hitler.” (*The response fails to link historical context to the topic of the prompt, and details are too far removed from the time frame of the prompt to be considered relevant contextualization.*)
- “What also came from the Italian Renaissance was Christian denominations such as Lutheranism, birthing the Protestant Reformation. Due to sudden beliefs in Religions other than Catholicism, nations became incredibly decentralized.” (*The response provides factually inaccurate background information, and also it fails to link religious changes in the Renaissance to state centralization.*)
- “This began during the Renaissance and ended with the end of the religious wars, meaning there was lots of tension and pressure in Europe.” (*While the response refers to a potentially relevant context, it does not link this development to the centralization of state power by monarchs.*)

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2 — Long Essay Question (continued)

C. Evidence (0–2 points)

Evidence

Responses earn 1 point by providing at least two specific examples of evidence relevant to the **topic** of the prompt. Responses can earn this point without earning the point for a thesis statement. To earn this point, the response must identify specific historical examples of evidence relevant to the topic of state centralization by European monarchs during the period 1450–1648. These examples of evidence must be different from the information used to earn the point for contextualization.

Typically, statements credited as **contextualization** will be more general statements that place an argument or a significant portion of it in a broader context. Statements credited as **evidence** will typically be more specific information.

Examples of evidence used might include:

- Consolidation of Habsburg dominions
- Peace of Augsburg
- Peace of Westphalia
- Edict of Nantes
- English Civil War
- Mercantilism

Examples of successful use of evidence:

- “As knowledge of the New World spread after its exploration by Christopher Columbus in 1492, countries wanted to gain more land, materials and subsequently power by gaining land in the new world. This led for intense competition for this land. Mercantilism states that the supply of materials such as gold and silver is limited and for a country to be more powerful than another country it must have more of these supplies/materials.” (*Response provides accurate evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt, which is further explained in the body of the essay as it relates to economic competition between England, France, and Spain.*)
- “In Spain, Ferdinand and Isabella sponsored voyages of Christopher Columbus in 1492. His voyages to the Americas brought wealth to Spain in the form of precious metals and new goods such as sugar. Second, with higher taxes and wealth from overseas colonies, monarchs were able to maintain large standing armies, for example Louis XIV fought several wars and gained much territory.” (*Response uses specific evidence from multiple countries to show the effect of state centralization on a country’s economy and ability to acquire colonies.*)

Note: These statements could be credited as evidence supporting an argument if their placement in the essay or additional connective language made it clear that they were being offered in support of a particular point.

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2 — Long Essay Question (continued)

OR

Supports an Argument

Responses earn 2 points if they support an **argument** in response to the prompt using specific and relevant examples of evidence. To earn the second point the response must use specific historical evidence to support an argument regarding state centralization by European monarchs during the period 1450–1648.

Examples of successfully supporting an argument with evidence:

- “The English Civil War occurred in England due to Charles I attempting to rule without parliament. For 11 years, he ruled without Parliament, and then called them back for money that he needed to solve militaristic issues. He refused to let Parliament stay, and when Charles I began arresting major Parliament opposers, the English Civil War began. Monarchs gained so much power throughout the 15th to the 17th centuries, that they did not want to give power to the people. Therefore, after the time of absolute monarchs, people began to want constitutional monarchy.” (*Response successfully uses evidence to support a line of argument that links the centralization of state power to civil war and further to the development of constitutionalism.*)
- “New monarchs encouraged exploration overseas on behalf of the nation. For instance, Henry the Navigator in Portugal commissioned Cabral and da Gama to explore the New World and establish trading posts, bringing prosperity to Portugal. Second, state centralization brought about the market revolution as centralized nations were able to harness resources brought in by overseas exploration and establish trade and production. State centralization increased regulation, standardization, and efficiency, encouraging economic growth. Due to systems such as mercantilism, joint-stock companies, and new industries, state centralization ultimately revolutionized the European economy and promoted economic growth.” (*Response successfully uses evidence to connect state centralization to economic improvements in Portugal.*)

D. Analysis and Reasoning (0–2 points)

Historical Reasoning

Responses earn 1 point by using historical reasoning to frame or structure an argument concerning the most significant effect of state centralization by European monarchs during the period 1450–1648. To earn this point, the response must demonstrate the use of historical reasoning to frame or structure an argument, although the reasoning might be uneven, imbalanced, or inconsistent.

Examples of using historical reasoning skills:

- Establishing a causal relationship between state centralization by monarchs and an effect of that centralization and following through on that relationship in a coherent argument. Examples may include the development of mercantilism, national armies, and colonization.
- Providing a broad category of effects of state centralization, such as religious change, and then developing into subcategories/examples in order to support a broader argument. Examples may analyze state control over religion in England, France, Spain, and the Holy Roman Empire.

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2 — Long Essay Question (continued)

- Describing change over time, elaborating on the changes and continuities that occurred over the period covered by the topic of the prompt. Examples could include changes from the feudal system of the Middle Ages with decentralized monarchies to the consolidation of state power by the New Monarchs, or a continuation of centralization into Enlightened despotism.
- Comparing state centralization in western European nations to decentralization in eastern European nations, or comparing state centralization between western European nations.

OR

Complexity

Responses earn 2 points by demonstrating a complex understanding of state centralization by European monarchs during the period 1450–1648.

Demonstrating complex understanding might include:

- Analyzing the nuance of an issue by explaining the most significant effect of state centralization, and noting that other factors were also significant and interrelated
- Explaining how different countries underwent different changes as a result of state centralization
- Explaining relevant and insightful connections across time by discussing the development of Enlightened Absolutism as a continuation of the trends from 1450 to 1648
- Qualifying or modifying an argument by considering evidence that supports an alternate position

Note: This demonstration of complex understanding must be part of an argument, not merely a phrase or reference. Complexity should emerge from the essay's argumentation and use of evidence, and while it does not have to be present throughout the essay, the complexity point should consist of substantial elaboration.

Examples demonstrating complexity:

- The response analyzes links between state centralization and its impact on politics, religion, and the economy, prioritizing one effect over the others. The response analyzes the ways in which state centralization changed attitudes toward European politics and religion, while discussing how economic effects were more significant.
- The response analyzes change and continuity over time. The response explains how state centralization in the 16th and 17th centuries led to the development of absolutism and constitutionalism in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- The response analyzes causation between state centralization and the growth of monarchical power, linking it to the decline of church power and that of the old nobility, and to the Age of Exploration and the rise of a “new aristocracy.” The response discusses Louis XIV and his creation of Versailles for the purpose of weakening the nobility, links the Protestant Reformation to state centralization in England, and links the development of state centralization in Spain to voyages of discovery. The response is structured within a clear framework, connecting evidence to the argument and clearly analyzing the nuance of the issue by explaining the most significant effect of state centralization, and by noting that other factors are also significant and interrelated.
- The response compares developments in multiple European countries and discusses the policies of multiple European monarchs, and it discusses the differences between countries that centralized and those that did not: Spain and France are contrasted against the Holy Roman Empire and Poland.

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page

2A
104

Mandatory 1	Circle one 2 or 3 or 4
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The Period from 1450 to 1648 was one marked by great state centralization. ~~XXXXXX~~ Monarchs began to use their power to influence absolute power over the state in unprecedented ways, ^{economically and religiously} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~. This was also a period marked by colonial expansion and the development of new economies that required and allowed for greater state control by the monarch. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Monarchs also, with the advent of the reformation, had more choice in the state religion (since more than one church now existed), allowing for further state centralization. However, the greatest impact the state centralization had was economic, because the state could exercise control by creating a mercantilist economy, ~~creating taxes on the people and facilitating colonization,~~ and facilitating trade within a ^{state} ~~country~~ itself.

Mercantilism was an economic theory that emerged around the latter part of the 15th century. It posited that the best way for a state to grow rich was to accumulate as much physical gold and bullion as possible. This also meant that there were a finite number of resources in the world, and that ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ getting money became a zero-sum game. A mercantilist economy required a certain level of control that would not have been possible without state centralization. Mercantilism also held that a country wants to export more than it imports. So, it places high tariffs on foreign goods and creates monopolies

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page.

2A

2004

Mandatory 1	Circle one 2 or 3 or 4
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Within the state to overcome this deficit. The creation of a monopoly requires a centralized state to plan and enact the logistics of it. As opportunities for expansion came about, states like Spain and France adopted mercantilist economies that were highly planned by those countries' monarchs (and financial advisors).

The development of mercantilism as the primary economic system in the 15th and 17th centuries shows the importance of state ~~re~~ that economic development as a result of state centralization was widespread.

~~Another economic effect of state centralization was the ability of the monarch to more effectively tax his people. With a centralized state, the process of collecting taxes is facilitated. One such example is~~

Another economic effect of state centralization is the possibility that it leaves for growing the economy through colonization. Colonization of the New World began in earnest around the back half of the 15th century. With better planned mercantilist economies as well as central banks ~~and~~ joint-stock companies (such as the Dutch or French East India Company), colonization was facilitated. Colonization, of course, helped to grow economies with the influx of specie and ~~raw~~ goods that it provided to the mother countries. Colonies, although annexes of the physical European states

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Mandatory 1	Circle one (2) or 3 or 4
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2A
3 of 4

showed how ~~economic~~ state centralization had a positive impact on states' economies (or, at least, initially positive) because they allowed for ~~the~~ ^{an} increase in ~~natural~~ raw goods and materials that could be traded, in keeping with mercantilist policies. Monarchs were important to this process because although they were not directly exploring or running banks, the central planning ~~facilitated~~ that monarchs did to create mercantilist economies facilitated the creation of joint-stock companies and banks, which in turn facilitated colonization, which was a way to grow the economy for the state. Also, ~~without patronage of the explorers by the~~

~~Monarchs also had~~ state centralization by monarchs also had a significant economic impact because it ~~facilitated~~ ^{facilitated} ~~trade within the state~~ ^{trade}. An example of this ~~taxation~~ ^{trade} is the system that Louis XIV implemented with the help of his finance minister, Colbert. Colbert's system of five Great Farms, essentially a duty-free zone inside of France, made it much easier to trade within the nation itself. Such a development would not have been possible without state centralization and the uniting that went on in France under Louis' principle of "one king, one law, one faith." Aided by a mercantilist economy and colonies, France was able to grow its economy through state centralization under a monarch.

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page.

2A

Mandatory 1	Circle one 2 or 3 or 4
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4/24

State centralization paved the way for mercantilist economies, colonization, and trade within a state. While the most profound impacts that the ^{central} state had during the period 1450 - 1648 may have been economic, the central state would later become important to the development of absolutism and nationalism in Europe, as well as desires for unification in places such as Italy and Germany. While during the period, state centralization had an important influence on religion and culture, its most profound impact was on the economy, ~~part~~ making way for mercantilism, colonization, and eased trade within the state itself.

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page.

Mandatory 1	Circle one 2 or 3 or 4
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2B
102

The most significant effect of state centralization was the tolerance that developed from religious turmoil. Throughout the 15th through 17th century the leading power changed based on the religious atmosphere within each country. This can be observed in the changes made to the Holy Roman Empire. In the 15th century, the Holy Roman Empire or HRE could best be described as a secular, German association of numerous states. The leader Charles V was left with many problems from ~~the~~ ~~previous~~ ~~its~~ prior leaders. Moreover at the start of the 16th century the birth of a protestant religious news by Martin Luther sparked conflicts. Germany was divided and it was up to the monarch to decide what to do. The Holy Roman Empire is a unique example because while much of the empire was preserved its smaller sectors were growing. The empire was admist much more powerful and growing countries who rose to the responsibility an absolute monarch must assume. Therefore as the power within each country centralized monarchs and leaders discovered that religion was a major dividing factor. Consequently, the Peace of Augsburg in 1555 was a seemingly temporary solution as it allowed local princes to decide the religion for their province. This decentralized feudalism only caused more religious conflict in the future with the Thirty Years' War. Moreover the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 which is the end of the period previously delineated was the pact that ended religious wars insinuated solely

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page.

Mandatory 1	Circle one (2) or 3 or 4
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2B
282

by religious disagreements. Moreover during the period of 1450-1648, state centralization set the stage for the European power struggle put forth by nationalists. The developed countries with strong central powers would not be able to focus on economics and politics without addressing the differences in religious thinking. Also the Peace of Westphalia was a marking for period one and strikingly, the years to follow began ~~the~~ counter-centralization like the Fronde in France which was a final fight from the nobles for power; however in this conflict religion had no major part. Conclusively, the establishment of European monarchs led to a religiously tolerant atmosphere.

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page.

Mandatory 1	Circle one ② or 3 or 4
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2C
1 of 2

Rulers were always ^{played} a major role in history. Early in history everyone wanted all of the Power, causing monarchs to rule. During this time they wanted control over everything and everyone. This caused people to revolt and people to turn against their rulers or religion. ~~caused~~ ^{Monarchs} caused a significant ~~distress~~ ^{distress} to ~~the~~ ^{the} people beneath them.

Religion played a major role in most people's lives. The church is where people get their purpose of life from. People went to church to ~~learn~~ ^{learn} and accept their faith. The church had a lot of power and the people accepted it. But monarchs had more. Monarchs didn't want to give any ~~to~~ ^{to} power to anyone else. So they did their best to control and rule the church also. Just like Henry VIII, he was a lone ruler who wanted control. He only cared for himself and no one else. Henry VIII wanted an annulment to his marriage and when the church declined he fought them for control. Then, the people had to follow Henry's religion. ~~When other monarchs tried to take over everything~~ ^{This caused people to get angry} and lose faith in their leaders. When other monarchs ~~tried to take over everything~~ including the church, the people got mad. The people stopped supporting their leader and wanted change.

The want for change created a new goal. People decided that they had enough ~~of~~ ^{of} the controlling. People wanted to follow their own religion, not ~~to~~ ^{to} the religion of their ruler. Some people tried to create religions like Martin Luther and John Calvin; and Zwingli but the monarchs always tried to overrule the beliefs with his own. People were being forced to study a certain religion, apply themselves to a certain job, live in a specific class,

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page.

Mandatory 1	Circle one 2 or 3 or 4
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2C
272

and live under the power of ~~one~~ person. People wanted to get a new ~~leader~~ ~~classes~~ would revolt, genders would revolt, and religions will revolt. A religious ~~revolt~~ isn't in terms of war but in documents. Martin Luther even created a revolt of his own. He posted the 95 theses on the church door showing ~~the~~ demands for the people. Many others followed ~~his~~ his ways since then.

Some people thought that centralization of the state ~~benefited~~ benefited Europe. The ~~higher~~ ~~classes~~ classes were able to make more money from the taxes and job offers. The states ~~economy~~ economy increased ~~putting~~ putting the state in better condition. Elizabeth I threw parties for ~~the~~ the wealthy and supported the poor. She had expensive things showing how well the taxes were paying off. This allowed room for more trading and even more money. It also brought the community closer together. People ~~could~~ could connect with an be close to each other.

Monarchs had control and the power to do whatever they pleased. In early European history Monarchs wanted their land to be a whole. They then centralized the people, churches, and the ~~state~~ ^{State} into one. This ~~made~~ ^{made} people angry at their leaders and also showed their anger through revolts. Centralization in a state created many effects to the lives of the people, the religious state, and economic income.

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY

2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2 — Long Essay Question

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

The Long Essay Question (LEQ) asks students to formulate a thesis/argument in response to a prompt about a particular historical development or episode in European history. In 2019 each LEQ asked students to determine the most significant effects of historical events or processes in European history. LEQs require students to formulate arguments, utilize evidence, address historical context, and display an ability to employ historical reasoning skills. In the case of LEQ 2, responses were expected to demonstrate historical reasoning, specifically analyzing the most significant effect of state centralization during the period 1450–1648 (Key Concept 1.5.I). Responses were expected to relate the topic of the prompt to the broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame specified in the prompt. Responses were expected to provide specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of state centralization in the period 1450–1648 and to use this specific historical evidence to support an argument in response to the prompt. Responses were expected to demonstrate the use of historical reasoning to frame or structure an argument that addresses the prompt, and, although the prompt directed students toward the historical reasoning process of causation, responses could also frame their arguments around other types of historical reasoning (comparison, continuity and change over time). Responses were expected to demonstrate a complex understanding of state centralization during the period 1450–1648. This demonstration of understanding could be achieved in various ways, for instance by explaining the most significant effect of state centralization, such as the increasing state control over religion or the decline in the power of the nobility, while noting that other effects such as increased taxation were also significant and interrelated. Responses could also explain relevant and insightful connections across time by discussing the continuation of the process of state centralization into the 20th century. Responses were assessed on the extent to which they performed in the following four categories: thesis and/or claim, contextualization, evidence, and analysis and reasoning.

Sample: 2A

Score: 6

The response earned 1 point for the thesis, located in the last sentence of the first paragraph, because it identifies the most significant effect of state centralization as the impact on the economy, noting that “the state could exercise control by creating a mercantilist economy.” The response earned 1 point for contextualization because it includes a discussion of the Reformation, found in the opening paragraph, as well as discussion of the future impact of state centralization and the development of nationalism in Germany and Italy, leading to their unification, in the final paragraph. The response earned 2 points for evidence because it effectively discusses mercantilism, monopolies, colonization, and Colbert’s Five Great Farms and links this evidence to the economic effects of state centralization. The response earned 2 points for historical reasoning and demonstrating complex understanding because the essay is structured using the historical thinking skill of causation in each body paragraph to connect state centralization to the subsequent economic developments, and it extends the argument into later time periods. It also exhibits a focused and nuanced argument with relevant and insightful connections within and across time periods.

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2 — Long Essay Question (continued)

Sample: 2B

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for the thesis, located in the first sentence, because it makes a claim that the most significant effect of state centralization is the religious tolerance that developed from the religious warfare of the time period. The response did not earn the point for contextualization because the reference to “decentralized feudalism” is merely a phrase and is, therefore, inadequate contextualization. Evidence used within the body of the essay supports the argument and is not counted for the contextualization point. The response earned 2 points for evidence because there is specific information on the disastrous effect of the Protestant Reformation on the Holy Roman Empire, which further decentralized it. The response uses the evidence to support the argument that a lack of religious unity caused state decentralization, while those monarchs who centralized their power also unified the people religiously or allowed religious toleration as a way to keep peace and maintain control. The response did not earn the point for historical reasoning or demonstrating complex understanding because there is no discernible attempt to structure an argument using historical thinking skills.

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

The response did not earn the point for the thesis because the attempt at the end of the last paragraph does not identify a single most significant effect of state centralization. The response did not earn the point for contextualization because the statements are generalizations that could be applied to multiple time periods or geographic regions. The response earned 1 point for evidence because it provides specific references to Henry VIII and Martin Luther, but it did not earn the second argumentation point because the evidence provided does not develop an argument. The response did not earn the point for historical reasoning or complex understanding because there is no apparent attempt to structure an argument. The response is a simplistic yet lengthy narrative that fails to connect state centralization to the Protestant Reformation or to any line of reasoning.