



AP[®] European History 2003 Sample Student Responses Form B

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~~the~~ Using their superior military capabilities, the German armies, using the blitzkrieg tactic invaded and overwhelmed France during the second World War. After France's armies suffered defeat, a new government was established led by Marshal Philippe Pétain which would last till 1944. Pétain viewed the Vichy regime which he led as a tool to keep France alive resorting to siding with Germany ^{and} propaganda while Charles de Gaul and ~~all~~ ~~resistance~~ ~~leaders~~ believed Pétain to be a ruthless traitor.

Pétain claimed that he sided with the Germans as a method to preserve what he could of France. In Dec 10, he states that the Armistice "saved France and ^(Doc 10) contributed to ~~his~~ ^{the Allied} victory. However one must question the validity of this statement due to the fact that he said this ~~while~~ while being ^{by treason} tried with a penalty of death. Under the threat he reaffirmed his commitment to his country. In Dec 1, when Pétain is first made Prime Minister ^(Doc 1) of the Occupied French state, he states he will do what ever it took to alleviate the suffering of France attempting to boost nationalism and support for his

(Doc 8) governments. In document 8, a Fascist and therefore a sympathizer with the Nazi party, writing in a newspaper states that Pétain's ~~choice~~ choice to stand behind Germany is good for only with a "German victory" could save France from disaster. He also talks of the threat of Communism if the Germans were to leave. And him being a Fascist would consider Communism one of the greatest ~~the~~ threats imaginable.

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Pétain even resorted to propaganda to gain the support of the public for the Vichy Government. In Doc 2, Pétain goes so far as to state that it was the old government, rather than the ~~Germans~~ Germans, that was the cause for France's current state. In

Doc 6) Doc 6, the poster shown reveals the ideals of the Vichy government. Accusing the old government of every sin in the bible and sympathy with Jews, the picture contrasts what they consider evil to the new France they would create. Having values extremely similar to those valued by the Nazis, the picture portrays France as the very concept of order and unity. Pétain's

further tries to gain support by bolstering the German reputation to show that he is doing what is right for France.

(Doc 9) In Doc 9, ~~the~~ a poster proclaims that Germany leads the fight against the Communists and that it protects France from those who would hurt it.

Many, however, believed that Pétain was a traitor, only looking out for his own ~~of~~ interests. Patriots such as Charles de Gaulle accused the entire ^{Vichy} government of disgrace.

(Doc 3) France. In Doc 3, he states that Pétain has given the domination of France to Hitler. However, the fact that he is in the African Continent and seeing his homeland overrun, he may not see that Pétain is working in the best interest of France. French Resistance

(Doc 5 & 7) leaders in documents 5 and 7, question Pétain's motives, in which Valet (Doc 7) directly questions ~~the~~ why Pétain would want collaboration with Germany and ~~to~~ come close to

(Doc 4) calling him a traitor. Document 4, clearly portrays this view by depicting

The French views, ^{contrasting with} ~~including~~ that of Marshall Petain, on the Vichy regime was varied. The French people condemned the regime and considered it treason to compromise with the Germans. On the other hand Petain considered the ^{armistice} ~~compromise~~ with Germany as vital to the future of France. The documents greatly ^{show} ~~support~~ the contrasting ideas that the French had towards the Vichy regime.

First, let's analyze the views of Petain regarding the Vichy Regime in which he led. The documents that will be used to show his views, all primary documents and words of Petain himself. They show a Petain which is nationalistic to the French cause, yet he feels that the German occupation is inevitable. Doc 1 which is a speech of Petain, supports the latter statement in assuming power of the government, but not glorifying the French armies for their efforts. Petain's nationalistic feelings is also shown in how he speaks "with a heavy heart" to call for the armistice

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C-2

with Germany. Doc 2 further calls for the rebuilding of France, even though half of France is being occupied by the Germans. Petain certainly shows nationalistic feeling and these documents show his determination to bring France out of the depressive, defeated state. Therefore, we can agree from here that Petain support the Vichy regime and considers it the only way to rebuild France.

Contrasting with Petain, are the views of Charles De Gaulle, Francois Valentin, and Pierre Laval. All the documents that show their opposition and doubting of Petain and his government are also primary, and contrast with the other primary docs that showed Petain's views of the Vichy. First, Doc 3 is a speech from De Gaulle where he firmly goes against the acceptance of the Vichy to allow Germany to keep control half of France. This idea in the Doc 3 obviously is different from that of Doc 1 and 2, here De Gaulle does not approve of the

occupation, while there they consider it to be the only way for France to rebuild. Doc 7 also shows the ideas against Pétain and the Vichy's. It also incorporates extra value because Volentin, the speaker in the Doc, had formerly been part of Vichy's government. This doc shows the disapproval of the government and of the German occupation. Volatin refuses to abide by Pétain's idea of "united ^{with} along the Germans, Volatin wants unity with no Germans. Doc 11, where Pierre Laval talks also shows another side of the fight with the Vichy regime. This speech given by the time the Vichy regime had been done attacks Pétain and his way of taking the power for himself and saying that he had no "republican legitimacy" which would contradict, in term, Doc 1 and 2 where Pétain speaks as a republican-like leader that wants to support France. Documents 4, 6, and 8 are propaganda/posters which show the ideas of a painter, and of the

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C-4

Vichy regime. Doc 4 shows how the painter, Penner, considers Pétain to be a puppet of Hitler. This view against the Vichy government is like the ideas previously expressed by Doc 3, 7, and 8. Doc 6 is a propaganda poster which shows the old destroyed France destroyed by democracy, communism, Judaism contrasting with the new house which is the new government. Seeing how Judaism is included as the things that destroyed France, one would wonder if the Vichy's were in fact puppets of the Nazis. Doc 9, another Vichy propaganda poster calls for the support the Germans against the Soviets, communism. The restriction of these Docs are that they don't show what many French thought of the Vichy but merely the views of the Vichy and of a painter. Doc 5 shows how some people even supported the Vichy government, hailing and applauding Pétain. Doc 8 also shows the

support of a French fascist to the
Petain government. This document shows
how the people were greatly divided
and not set on one side.

The French and Petain had
contrasting views on the government
not everyone thought towards it in
the same way. This Doc's show
that certain people supported it and
others didn't.