AP® European History
2002 Sample Student Responses
Form B

The materials included in these files are intended for use by AP teachers for course
and exam preparation in the classroom; permission for any other use must be
sought from the Advanced Placement Program®. Teachers may reproduce them, in
whole or in part, in limited quantities, for face-to-face teaching purposes but may
not mass distribute the materials, electronically or otherwise. These materials and
any copies made of them may not be resold, and the copyright notices must be
retained as they appear here. This permission does not apply to any third-party
copyrights contained herein.
From the late 1510s, Luther began criticizing the Catholic church by representing "95 theses" on the wall of the castle church in Wittenberg. Afterwards, the Fredrick the Wise protected Luther to continue Luther's Protestant Reformation movement by preaching new thoughts and translating the bible. Without Frendrick's help, Luther could hardly express his idea freely against the hostile Catholic church and the Emperor Charles V.

Evidenced by Luther's example, the political authorities, especially in Northern Germany, significantly affected the course of Protestant Reformation. Moreover, in the German peasants' revolt in the early 1520s, Luther accused of the peasants for breaking up the traditional order of society dominated by the kings, princes, and noblemen. Because of Luther's support of ruling classes, the political authorities could possibly give a certain credit for Protestantism, as a safe and useful institution for their dominant positions in society.

On the contrary, the extreme Catholic advocates such as Phillip II in Spain and Charles V
in Austria banned Protestantism to spread over their territories. In such countries, their governments implemented harsh methods, including "inquisition", to suppress any threat to the Catholic church. Because many absolute rulers believed that the unity of religion in their nations should be achieved, the governing classes made an effort to keep their nations in line with their personal faith, the way how the Peace of Augsburg in 1555 imposed.

In France, the French government France, although traditionally led by the Catholics, suffered from a number of religious conflicts called "the Huguenot's Wars". The Protestant minority, the Huguenots, was often persecuted by the French monarchy, which tried to unify the French religion under the Catholicism. In the second half of the sixteenth century, Cathrine de Medici affected great influence to the French politics. She made a plot against the Protestants on the wedding day of her daughter and Henry the Navarre, a leader of the Protestants. The Bartholomew's night's massacre
greatly harmed the influence of the Protestantism in France. However, *Henry the Navarre*, who became the king of France, Henry IV, pronounced the Edict of Nantes to recognize the rights of Huguenots in France.

In Germany, Austria, Spain, and France, their political authorities greatly concerned the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century. Considering the impact of religious thoughts on their nations, almost rulers controlled the course of Protestant movements in their countries. Finally, each country decided whether or not it accepted the Protestant Reformation on the behalf of its ruling class who firmly strived for national unity and stability.
The various political authorities, whether through action or inaction, significantly influenced the spread of the Protestant Reformation. Whether from Charles I's preoccupation, Henry VIII's desire for an heir, or the new universal desire to lessen Rome's influence, political authorities used the Reformation to further their political goals.

Charles I could have stamped out Protestantism before it became a major force while it was still developing and before it became deeply rooted in the Holy Roman Empire. He could have crushed it. However, he did nothing until it was an unstoppable force.

His diversion with wars outside was, especially with the Turks, allowed the Reformation to spread and take hold in his empire. His action occurred too late—Peasants' War and the Protestant Reformation had garnered enough strength to obscure him and remain intact.

Henry VIII furthered the Protestant Reformation's influence in England. Because the pope would not grant him a divorce, he had parliament separate England from Rome and the Pope. While still remaining mostly Catholic in belief and practices, his heirs and their advisors brought the full Reformation to England. Under Elizabeth, Protestantism took full hold in the form of Anglicanism.
Question 2

A general feeling among monarchs and leaders of state was the desire to separate from Rome and the Pope's influence. The Reformation provided an opportunity to escape and still maintain a form of religion within the Holy Roman Empire, the same action occurred. The leaders of German states, especially from the North, wanted to end both Rome's influence and the Holy Roman Emperor's influence. This a religious dispute supplied the pretext for greater political autonomy. Many political leaders took up the banner of the Protestant Reformation only to further their own ambitions, but also led to the spread of the Reformation. Political authorities, to a great extent, influenced the spread of the Reformation and its course. Without the diverted attention of Charles V, the Reformation may never have occurred on the enormous scale that it did. Without political leaders to take up its banner, it would not have spread and become a threat to Catholicism. The political authorities used the Reformation as a basis for them to accomplish their desires, and in so doing drastically changed the outcome of the Reformation. The Reformation went from reform to a new religion.