

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 2

How and to what extent did the Commercial Revolution transform the European economy and diplomatic balance of power in the period from 1650 to 1763?

9–6: Stronger

These essays will illustrate the following qualities with varying degrees of effectiveness.

- Has a clear, well-developed thesis.
- Is well organized.
- Supports the thesis with specific evidence.
- May contain minor errors; even a 9 need not be flawless.

Indicators for 9–8

- Has a balanced discussion of BOTH economics and diplomacy of the era.
- Specifically addresses the shifts in economy and diplomacy for the period.

Indicators for 7–6

- May use additional examples outside the time period.
- Demonstrates less balanced treatment of either economy or diplomatic balance of power.

5–4: Mixed

- Contains a thesis, perhaps superficial or simplistic.
- Responds to the question unevenly: task(s), evidence, chronology.
- May contain errors, factual and/or interpretive.

Indicators:

- Mentions both economic and diplomatic aspects but develops only one.
- Offers few specific examples of change relating to the Commercial Revolution.
- May be very generalized with little chronological connection.

3–0: Weaker

These essays demonstrate the following qualities to varying degrees.

- Thesis is confused, unfocused, absent, or simply restates the question.
- Misconstrues the question, or omits major tasks.
- May contain major errors.

Indicators for 3–2

- May completely ignore one of the question's tasks (economy or diplomacy).
- Contains vague/incorrect statements about the Commercial Revolution and economic/diplomatic effects.

Indicators for 1–0

- May attempt to address the question but fails to do so.
- May not contain specific evidence.
- May contain serious errors.

The 17th and 18th centuries witnessed a shift in economic and diplomatic power away from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic nations. This Commercial Revolution included the development of centralised national economies, and colonial empires, and profoundly influenced the course of European history by redistributing wealth and, concurrently, power to the ~~east~~ west. The results of this shift can still be seen to some degree today, as the new powers established themselves as global figures. Thus, the combination of strengthening nations and aggressive economic trends produced a long-lasting and wide-ranging economic and political effect on Europe and the world.

The political centralisation of Western European states such as England ~~and France in the late~~ and France by strong rulers established a basis for strong economic centralisation as well. ~~This development~~ Prior to 1650, first Italy and then Spain had been dominant powers in Europe, albeit structured very differently. Italy's political disunity led to its decline, especially following invasion

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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

2-A2

by the French. Spain became the first great Western power, following the unification with Ferdinand and Isabella. However, they too had begun to decline at the expense of England in the late 16th century during the reign of Elizabeth I, notably after Spain's crushing defeat at the hands of Sir Francis Drake in 1588. England, meanwhile, had ~~more~~ developed a strong parliamentary system, reinforced by the 1688 Glorious Revolution. With a relative lack of religious and domestic political tension after this time, England was able to focus on extending its economic and political influence. France, too, became a centralized nation, cemented by the reign of Louis ~~the~~ XIV. ~~As~~ By firmly controlling the nobility, he was able to create a unified state able to focus on economic and political development.

There were two significant economic consequences as a result of this political centralization: the development of a colonial empire for both France and England, and ~~the~~ behind that the strong mercantilist, centralized economic

In France, Louis XIV's various advisors, such as Richelieu, were instrumental in creating a centralised economy. Louis also dedicated considerable funding to infrastructure improvements, developing road and canal networks to better facilitate a barrierless, unified national economy. England too witnessed a mercantilist approach to the national economy, battling the Dutch in the early 18th century to ensure British ~~to~~ dominance in the North Sea. Parliament passed a series of tariffs to protect English production. Vital to both France and England was the development of extensive colonial networks in North America initially. The result, ~~and~~ was thriving trans-Atlantic trade, which proved especially beneficial for Britain, ensuring them a global source of wealth and materials, as well as protection from European affairs.

This shift to centralised economies focusing on Atlantic rather than Mediterranean trade had profound implications for European balance of power and wealth. The inability of Italy and other central European countries to unify prevented parallel development, and gave both

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2-A4

France and England superiority economically. France used its newfound ~~p~~ unity and wealth to intervene (disastrously) across Europe; Louis XIV's various wars eventually proved to be a major factor in the downfall of the French monarchy in the French Revolution of 1789. England maintained its ~~best~~ advantages, and became the fore-runner in Europe, both ~~the~~ economically and diplomatically, although it remained relatively isolated from Continental affairs. ~~Both France and the~~

The development of France and England into centralized and ^{relatively} wealthy states marked the beginning of a new era in European affairs. ~~The~~ As influence shifted West, Europe began to expand overseas, and economies became more interrelated. Britain and France's ~~new~~ political centralisation proved role models for much Enlightenment thought, and thus led to new ideas about nationalism and economics. In this regard, the Commercial Revolution irrevocably changed Europe, and marked the beginning of Western dominance in European and global affairs.

The Commercial Revolution, also known as the Price Revolution, resulted because of an influx of precious metals to Europe from the New World, ~~especially~~ in particular from South America, and because of a steady growth in population back home.

This Commercial Revolution brought about an inflation that disturbed and transformed the European balance of power.

Spain, along with Portugal, pioneered in the new European pursuit of exploration and foreign trade. Thanks to its many renown explorers and discoverers, it almost enjoyed a colonial monopoly over the rich lands of South America. Traders and explorers brought back home enormous amounts of silver, and to a lesser extent, gold.

For many years, Spain enjoyed this continuous income of precious metals from the New World and engaged in lavish wars out of it. Because of this, however, when later on war expenditure became increasingly expensive and the influx of silver started to decline, the Spanish Empire and its prominence in Europe

Question 2

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2B2

had to decline all together.

Because the economies of European countries were intertwined, an influx of precious metals in Spain resulted in an inflation throughout Europe. Some countries gained from this by experiencing a general rise in demand ~~and~~ and an overall economic growth. Such was the case with the Netherlands who was rising in prominence as a major trading and financial center of Europe.

The increase in the European population that was characteristic of this time also raised the level of demand and stimulated an economic growth throughout Europe. This helped certain high-exporting countries such as the Netherlands to increase its influence in Europe both politically and economically.

The Commercial Revolution transformed the European balance of power in that it saw the decline of the Spanish Empire and saw a rise in regions such as the Netherlands.

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Q2 2-C1

In the past few decades Europe has seen many revolutions that transformed it completely, for example the most important was the industrial revolution in which it transformed Europe from Agriculture to huge industries with the new inventions of machines steam powered and fuel powered. Another example was the Commercial revolution, which is the one we are going to talk about today.

The Commercial revolution transformed the European economy and diplomatic balance of power completely. Today we are going to talk about the Commercial revolution transformation to Europe's economy and diplomatic balance of power in the period from 1650 to 1763.

The Commercial revolution opened European countries to each other, they started knowing more about each other and about ~~the~~ ~~their~~ others products and trade started between them as a result of this openness, this resulted in the ~~agricultural~~ Commercial revolution, in which each country is telling about what it is good at and is willing to sell for good prices. By the year 1650 free trade started so as a result the European economy rose for the skies and became one of the best if not the best in the world. This good economy started some power problems due to each country wanting to have control by ~~being~~ having the best economy.

Q2

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

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By this economic boom and the fights over power and how to balance it diplomatically, Europe was rising very quickly and some countries were getting more power and their economy was rising quickly like Great Britain and France and Germany.

So by that we can see that the Commercial revolution completely transformed the European economy and diplomatic balance of power and changed it to a very different stage.

(This section contains multiple blank lines for additional writing.)

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2006 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)

Question 2

Sample: 2A

Score: 9

The entire first paragraph sets up the progress of this excellent essay. The student does an admirable job of showing chronological changes in both economics and political power due to the Commercial Revolution. A minor weakness is that the student deals with several nations instead of Europe as a whole.

Sample: 2B

Score: 4

The thesis promises an equal treatment of both economics and balance of power but does not deliver both within the essay. The student deals mainly with Spain's economic rise and fall. Only cursory nods to changes in balance of power are provided.

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

This essay shows no real understanding of the concept of the Commercial Revolution. Attempts at explaining the effects on economics and balance of power fall flat.