

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2007 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 5

To what extent did the structure of Russian government and society affect its economic development in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries?

8–9 Points

- Explicit thesis responds fully to all prompts: Russian government, society, and economic development.
- Consistently clear organization supports the argument.
- Demonstrates an understanding of Russian government and society during the period.
- Clearly links both Russian government and society to economic development in this era.
- Evidence connecting government and society to economics is explicit.
- Errors do not distract from the argument.

6–7 Points

- Explicit thesis is responsive to the question, perhaps less fully than in the 8–9 category.
- Organization is clear but may not be consistently followed.
- Essay is balanced, with equal emphasis on Russian government and society (perhaps conflated) and economic developments of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- All assertions are supported by at least one piece of specific information.
- Linkage of Russian government and society to economics is attempted.
- Errors may detract from the overall essay.

4–5 Points

- Thesis is explicit but may not respond fully to the entire question.
- Organization is less effective than in essays scored higher.
- Essay shows some imbalance. Some major topics (Russian government/society and economic development) have little specificity.
- May be almost totally dependent on an analysis of government OR society.
- May venture outside the time period or ignore one of the time periods.
- Most of the major topics are supported by at least one relevant piece of evidence.
- Suggests linkage between government/society and economic development.

2–3 Points

- Thesis is not explicit or merely rephrases/repeats the question.
- Unclear, ineffective organization.
- Shows little knowledge of Russian government and/or society for the period.
- Shows little knowledge of Russian economic development during the period.
- Serious imbalance—major topics are neglected. No clear linkage between Russian government/society and economic development.
- Almost totally outside the time period.
- Several distracting errors.

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Question 5 (continued)

0–1 Point

- No discernable attempt at a thesis.
- No discernable organization.
- Only one or none of the prompts (eighteenth- or nineteenth-century government, society, or economics) is mentioned.
- No understanding of any of the question's prompts.
- Significant chronological errors and does not address the given time period.
- Little or no supporting evidence.
- Numerous errors that distract from the thesis.

5 Part C

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

The structure of Russian governments ^{and society} had major, negative effects on ~~the~~ economic development. Most people in Russia were poor. Serfdom was not abolished until 1861 with Alexander II. The government was very authoritarian under the control of the czar.

Peasants were abundant in Russia during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. While the Western part of Europe had experienced the Industrial Revolution, Russians remained poor and agrarian (rely on farming and agriculture). The poor economic conditions of the Russian people did not allow for rapid industrialization. Capital, money, was not available for industrial development.

Czar Alexander II abolished serfdom in 1861, but Russian society was still conservative. Though they were free, serfs did not have the social mobility experienced by Western European nations. This strict conservatism did not allow for a strong middle class which was necessary for industrial and economic growth. Free serfs were not granted much land except for what they could farm themselves.

Strict, authoritarian czars did not allow for great economic development. While some czars, such as Peter the Great, tried to ~~modernize~~ "Europeanize" Russia, most were very authoritarian. Government control of the economy did not allow for the growth

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#5 Part C

that was experienced by Great Britain and France who were mainly laissez-faire capitalist nations. That is, the government did not interfere with the economy. The strict government suppressed liberal and radical beliefs which could have led to greater economic development.

The many radical revolts and rebellions that took place in Russia also slowed development. Radicals did not have a voice in government and were ~~mainly angry~~ ^{angry}. The government under the Czar spent much time and money trying to put down revolts that were frequently occurring such as the Decembrist Revolt of 1925 against Nicholas I.

The structure of Russian government and society did not allow for rapid economic growth. It actually had adverse effects on development. Poor conditions, serfdom, conservatism, and authoritarianism of the Czar all ~~prevented~~ prevented economic growth and development that was experienced by Western Europe.

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

#5

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the structure of Russia's government and society greatly hurt its economic development.

While Western Europe abolished serfdom for a much more liberal way of society, Eastern Europe, including Russia, kept serfdom and feudalism alive and well. ~~The~~ Tsars, such as Catherine the Great & the Romanovs, remained at the top rung of society with the small populations of nobles close behind. However, the majority of the population were peasants who were bound to the land & were ruthlessly watched over by a landowner. Russian society allowed for basically no movement between social classes because the peasants had nothing to advance themselves with. Education did not filter down to them, and they really didn't make much money for themselves as most of it went to the landowner. Even when serfdom was abolished in Russia, land for the

#5

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peasants were still communal. They had no private property as the Russian government would not give them any. Instead, the tsar placed them in communal villages called mir which the peasants were bound to remain living in. The rigid class society in Russia provided the peasants with basically no incentive to ^{try to} achieve economic success. They were basically stuck in living the unwanted life that was handed to them by the tsar and government officials whose positions were held by none other than the nobility.

~~Delayed~~

~~Therefore~~ the economic development of Russia was also hindered by the fact that the Russia people were so spread out in its vast territory. Communication was hard to get from one place to another. Plus, developments in transportation methods had not really begun, so even internal trade within Russia could not be achieved with much success. Russia Russia Even

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

45

If developments of such aspects of society were occurring in Western Europe, the advancements would be very unlikely to reach Russia because many of the tsars despised Western ideas & influence. So, Russia remained very isolationist from countries such as Western Great Britain, the United States, and France where developments in technology & economics were occurring ~~at~~ to some extent at the time. This isolationist attitude of several of the Russian tsars greatly added to the hindering of Russia's economic development.

5.

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

The Russian government ^{& society} greatly affected Russia's economic development, due to its Czarist regime ^{& conservative ways}.

Russia has always lagged behind the rest of Europe, due to its leaders, but ~~es~~ especially in the seventeenth [&] eighteenth centuries. While the rest of Europe underwent absolute rulers and the nation state formation along with the Industrial Revolution, Russia did nothing, ~~because~~ since Russia's nobility was so powerful the czar had no chance to reform.

Finally when Peter the Great came to power he implemented his policy of westernization, modernization, [&] Europeanization. He set up the Duma (Russian Parliament), ~~and~~ [&] drastically reduced the nobility, and took control of the church. By doing this he gave himself absolute power and no one could revoke his decisions, even the Duma. By setting up St. Petersburg, Peter's "window to the west", he jump-started Russia's ways. Sadly, Russia ~~is~~ still could not

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5.

complete, except on a small scale with the rest of Europe. Czar Nicholas I was a harsh, conservative ruler who did nothing to help Peter the Great's plans. Instead he took Russia backwards again. Peasants became serfs again and nobles their large farms when Alexander I came to power. He ruled very much the same as Nicholas the First. By the time Russia got a reformist czar, Western Europe had undergone the 2nd Industrial Revolution.

Alexander the second was Russia's only reformist czar. Alexander had drastic reforms with serfs and the economy. Unfortunately, he wasn't radical enough for one group, they assassinated him in 1881.

Alexander the III seeing what happened to Alexander the II was the most conservative ruler of all. He took Russia back and repressed any and all reforms.

The Russian Society wanted reforms

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2007 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)

Question 5

Sample: 5A

Score: 8

This student compares Russian economic and social development to that of other European nations and effectively defends the sound thesis. The essay also uses relevant supporting detail throughout.

Sample: 5B

Score: 5

The essay, with an adequate thesis, concentrates primarily on a discussion of the problems presented by Russian serfdom. It also mentions the vastness of Russia and Russia's isolation from the West, but it does not develop these ideas.

Sample: 5C

Score: 2

The thesis in this essay is weak, resulting in a rambling discussion of Russian rulers that is intended to serve as a discussion of how the Russian government works. The student has a muddled understanding of Russian society and makes only minimal mention of the Russian economy