

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY

2008 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4

Analyze the economic and social challenges faced by Western Europe in the period from 1945 to 1989.

9–8 Points

- Thesis is explicit and fully responsive to the question; addresses both the economic and social challenges faced by Western Europe during the time period.
- Organization is clear and consistent; all major assertions (“challenges”) are developed with substantial evidence and well-developed examples (a score of 9 demonstrates a more sophisticated analysis).
- Major topics suggested by the prompt are all covered at some length
- Essay is well balanced; analyzes both the economic and social challenges faced by Western European nations firmly in the context of the time period (essays that discuss the Cold War must provide linkage with the economic and/or social challenges faced by Western Europe during the time period).
- May contain errors that do not detract from the argument.

7–6 Points

- Thesis is explicit and responsive to the question; addresses both the economic and social challenges faced by Western Europe in less sophisticated, more general language.
- Organization is clear and effective in support of the argument but with less sophisticated development (a score of 7 will demonstrate more cohesiveness than a score of 6).
- All major topics suggested by the prompt are at least briefly covered.
- Essay is balanced and contains a discussion of both the social and economic challenges faced by Western Europe within the context of the time period (essays that discuss the Cold War must provide linkage with the economic and/or social challenges faced by Western Europe during the time period).
- Each major assertion (“challenge”) is supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence.
- May contain an error that detracts from the argument.

5–4 Points

- Thesis is explicit but not fully responsive to the question in that it may only address one of the challenges (either economic or social).
- Essay is organized but may not address the requirements of the question.
- Essay shows imbalance by developing one task (either economic or social) thoroughly but addressing the other inadequately (score of 5); OR omitting one task while developing the other (score of 4); OR addressing both tasks but with basic understanding (score of 4) (essays that discuss the Cold War must provide linkage with the economic and/or social challenges faced by Western Europe during the time period).
- Most of the assertions (“challenges”) in the essay are supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence.
- May contain errors that detract from the argument.

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2008 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4 (continued)

3–2 Points

- Thesis is not explicit or acceptable.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective.
- Essay shows serious imbalance; most major topics suggested in the prompt are neglected.
- Offers very limited specific evidence concerning the challenges faced by Western Europe during the time period.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

1–0 Points

- No discernable attempt at a thesis.
- No discernable organization appropriate to the prompt.
- One or none of the major topics suggested in the prompt is mentioned.
- Little or no appropriate evidence used.
- May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.

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

4A-1

World War Two was a total war, ~~however~~ ~~economically~~ damaging the economic position as well as social norms of many western European countries. Economically, western Europe was in debt and had to restore their industry. Socially, they had to appease the working class, as they were in communist fear, as well as adjust to ~~the~~ the rise of feminism.

After putting so much money into the war, European countries were in debt. However, the Marshall Plan started to stimulate the western European economy. The Marshall Plan, allocated monetary grants from the United States, to try to fix the failing economy. With the help of the Marshall Plan, western European countries quickly recovered.

With Soviet domination in Eastern Europe, western European countries lived in fear of communism. They did not want the working class to revolt and pursue communism in ~~the~~ democratic, western Europe. Therefore, socially, western Europe began expanding welfare programs. Charles de Gaulle brought socialist leanings into France while England saw the rise

4A-2

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

of the Labour Party. By helping the poor, western Europe prevented itself from dealing with social upheaval in the working class.

Feminism was introduced to Europe in the time after world war two and remained powerful into 1989. Women were expressing their strength. They wanted to prove now they were just as important to society as men. This time period saw the rise of women in the work place. Western European countries had to adjust to the fact that women no longer felt tied down to their traditional societal roles.

The youth in the 1960s/1970s in western Europe also served as a social challenge. They became rebellious and lost faith in the world after such a terrible war had happened. The youth experimented with drugs and experimented in more promiscuous sexual behavior, especially because of the popularity of birth control. Western Europe had to adjust to the outlandish behavior of the youth.

Although the war was a terrible occurrence it brought about much change socially; western Europe became more accepting

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

4A3

and cared more for its citizens economically, although it started off poorly, the Marshall Plan caused industry to boom, making Europe stable and prosperous.

43-1

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

In 1945, Europe was very much experiencing the after-effects of the war. America, Britain, and France were celebrating their victory, but Germany was devastated in every way. During the period between 1945 and 1989, social life and the economy were greatly affected in Western Europe. Economically, many countries entered a period of stagnation, and socially, many countries had entered a completely different mindset than they had before the war.

Just after the war, Britain and France entered a period of economic prosperity, but Germany had been ravaged by the war. Britain and France had benefited from winning the war, but when the Nazi party had been overthrown, rebuilt Germany with the help of the United States. Germany's economy had been torn to shreds and parts of Germany had been split between America, France, Britain, and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union took its section and cut it off from all the others and ended up building the Berlin Wall, separating Eastern Germany from Western Germany. This further interrupted the reconstruction

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

4 B2

of Germany, until it was torn down once the Cold War had ended. Through the Cold War, many countries had been experiencing an economic standstill.

During the period after World War II, the social life of many countries changed dramatically. In Germany, social life had been completely destroyed by the bombs. Many houses and other buildings ceased to exist. In Britain and France, and especially in America, new developments began to steadily alter the lives of many people. Drugs were discovered, as well as many new types of music that advocated peace, freedom, and the ability to be carefree. But, during the Cold War, fear was also a part of everyday life. World War II had greatly affected the lives of many people.

The period after World War II was a time of change. It altered the world economy and the social aspects of Europe. Western Europe will never be the same as it was before the war.

40.1

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

WWII devastated the European economy but led to many social changes. The years from ~~the 1940s~~ 1945-1989 saw a huge amount of change in Europe both socially & economically.

One social difference came with the role of women. Following the huge role of women in the factories and workforce during WWII, it was difficult for them to resume their standard role in the domestic sphere. After WWII, women ~~continued~~ continued their roles in the workplace. They ~~also~~ also had an increasingly important role in home life. They ~~continued to do~~ became the moral compass of the home. As each decade progressed, women's dress & demeanor was becoming less strict.

Social change was also evident. The middle class grew more prominent & powerful with each decade.

→ AS The middle class grew, it became increasingly more comfortable with its economic role. Luxury goods became something the middle class was able to afford.

With the end of WWII, the ~~end of the~~

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

4C-2

Industrial boom also ended. War creates jobs. With the end of the war, ~~there~~ many jobs became unnecessary. This created a problem of unemployment. But the ~~end~~ of the war had positive effects as well. The war had destroyed many factories on the continent. This forced many countries to rebuild which meant new, technologically advanced factories. Great Britain's ~~factories~~ factories were not destroyed, though, meaning that their factories were not the newest models.

Technology played a huge factor in the years from 1945-1989. Technology created jobs and helped the economy, ~~along with~~ ~~creating~~

The years from 1945-1989 brought about many social & economic changes for Europe

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY 2008 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 4

Overview

The question instructed students to analyze (determine the components) the challenges (problems, solutions, consequences) faced by Western Europe during the period corresponding to the end of the Second World War to the end of the Cold War (1945–1989). Students were required to consider economic and social actions taken by Western European nations *only*, not by the Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellites. In creating cohesive, analytical essays, students could choose from many topics, such as the rebuilding of Western Europe after the Second World War, economic integration, women’s roles in the labor force, the rise of the welfare state, massive expansion of access to higher education, the redefined family, the youth rebellion, and the influence of science and technology on the economy and society.

Sample: 4A

Score: 8

The thesis of this essay is fully responsive to the prompt, and the student provides substantial evidence for both economic and social challenges. The essay shows clear, consistent organization and is well balanced. The discussion of the Cold War is linked to both social and economic challenges: fear of communism is tied to welfare programs to help the working class and the poor. The response did not merit a score of 9 because the analysis is less sophisticated than that found in the highest-level essays. It earned more than a 7, however, because of the strength of its discussion of social challenges and economics.

Sample: 4B

Score: 6

This essay’s thesis addresses both social and economic challenges and is supported throughout by evidence that is by and large relevant. The organization is effective (the initially unclear mention of “mindset” is clarified later) but less sophisticated than that of top-level essays. The information provided is appropriate to time and place and offers more than brief coverage of major topics. The essay is reasonably well balanced—both challenges are treated during much of the time period. The student links the Cold War to Germany, examining the challenge of rebuilding, although the discussion is generalized. No errors detract significantly. The essay received a score greater than 5 because its thesis is responsive to the prompt, organized around economic/social issues, and reasonably balanced. It did not merit a 7, though, owing to a lack of cohesiveness and thin evidence.

Sample: 4C

Score: 3

The thesis of this essay merely rewords the prompt. Organization is ineffective; sentence content and paragraph structure are weak. Overly generalized statements provide very little specific evidence and virtually no acceptable analysis. Some of the evidence is out-of-period or not specific to time and place. The response does not achieve a score of 4 because it lacks evidence to support its assertions; it received more than a 2 because there is nevertheless some specific evidence.