

# AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY

## 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 6

**Analyze the various ways in which the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) represented a turning point in European history.**

#### 9–8 Points

- Thesis is explicit and fully responds to the question.
  - Refers to three significant results of the Thirty Years' War representing a turning point.
- Organization is clear and effectively supports the argument.
  - Body paragraphs go on to develop the various results of the Thirty Years' War as alluded to in the thesis.
- Essay is well balanced; multiple turning points required by the question are covered at length.
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by relevant, specific examples.
  - Examples document major turning points in European history caused by the Thirty Years' War.
- May contain errors or off-topic content that does not detract from the argument.

#### 7–6 Points

- Thesis is explicit and responds to the terms of the question.
  - May refer to only two results, or may refer to three results in a less sophisticated manner.
- Essay is organized and supports the argument, but may stray off task.
  - May merge factors in single paragraphs.
- Essay is relatively balanced; at least two turning points are covered.
  - Some factors may be more developed than others.
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence.
- May contain an error or off-topic content that detracts from the argument but does not significantly interfere with the task of the essay.

#### 5–4 Points

- Thesis is explicit but not fully responsive to the question.
  - May only refer to one significant turning point factor or to two factors minimally.
  - Some turning point factors may be inaccurate.
- Essay is organized and consistently followed, but may ineffectively connect to the question.
  - May be more of a chronological narrative of the Thirty Years' War rather than an analytical essay dealing with the requirements of the question.
- Essay shows some imbalance, perhaps developing only one turning point factor.
- The major turning point in the essay is supported by at least one specific example.
- May contain a few errors that detract from the argument.

#### 3–2 Points

- Thesis is weak or general.
- Essay is poorly organized OR simply a narrative of the Thirty Years' War OR demonstrates little/no knowledge of valid turning points.
- Essay shows serious imbalance, failing to accurately develop any of the terms of the question.
- Supports few if any of the assertions with relevant evidence.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

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**Question 6 (continued)**

**1–0 Points**

- No discernable attempt at an accurate thesis.
- Response suggests little or no understanding of the question.
- Ignores most of the major turning points.
- Uses little or no relevant supporting evidence.
- May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.

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### Question 6 Historical Background

This question was intended to have the students place the Thirty Years' War in a larger diplomatic, social, political, and/or economic context. Students were not required to use those particular categories of analysis, but they were expected to analyze several outcomes of the Thirty Years' War that established it as a major transition from one era of European history to the next.

#### **Decline of the importance of religion as a motive for conflict**

- The alliances across the Protestant–Catholic divide (France's support for Sweden; Lutheran support for the Holy Roman Empire later in the war) and the rivalries within the Protestant and Catholic camps ultimately had the effect of making religion less important as a motive for conflict.
- The reaffirmation and extension of the *cuius regio eius religio* principle, set at the Peace of Augsburg, as a part of the Peace of Westphalia also tended to dampen religious differences as a source of conflict.
- Students may talk about the rise of toleration in the post-1648 European world.
- Students may also discuss a rise of secularism and the decline of papal influence, made very clear at the Westphalia negotiations where the papal representative was ignored. The pope never signed the treaties of Münster and Osnabruck, known together as the Peace of Westphalia.
- The Peace of Westphalia effectively halted the Counter-Reformation in the German states. It added Calvinism to the list of acceptable faiths.

#### **The end of the Holy Roman Empire as an effective entity**

- By the end of the war, the (Austrian) Hapsburgs had given up any pretensions to wielding effective power over the German-speaking states in Central Europe.
  - United Provinces and Swiss cantons withdrew from the Holy Roman Empire.
- The more than 300 German states became virtually sovereign states. They had the right to ratify any laws, taxes, wars, etc. in the Reichstag. Some students will erroneously refer to the post-1648 Austrian world as the beginning of the Hapsburg's eventual demise.
- The Austrian Empire turned its attention to eastward expansion against the Ottoman Empire. Students may discuss the reorganization of the Austrian state.
  - Bohemia and Hungary now under tighter central control and re-Catholicized.

#### **Rise of France**

- Students will often discuss the rise of France, led by Cardinal Richelieu, who masterminded the anti-Hapsburg policy, both Austrian and Spanish.
- France received portions of Alsace and Lorraine at the Peace of Westphalia.
- Students may go on to discuss how Louis XIV built on this foundation, raising France to unparalleled heights in the later seventeenth century.

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### Question 6 Historical Background (continued)

#### The decimation of the German states and the rise of Prussia

- Some historians argue that the destruction caused by the war (perhaps as much as a third of the German population perished) set back the Germanic state's economic development relative to England and France. The economic power of the Hanseatic League was effectively ended.
- The Thirty Years' War also confirmed the long-term division of Germany into numerous small states—none of which could rival the power of England or France. Some students may imply that this fragmentation was initiated by the Thirty Years' War and the Peace of Westphalia.
- Some students may discuss the beginning of the rise of Prussia as a reaction to its ordeal during the Thirty Years' War, led by the Great Elector Frederick William (1640-88) and trace Prussia's leadership to eventual German unification under Bismarck.
- By the Peace of Westphalia, Prussia received eastern Pomerania, Halberstadt, and Magdeburg.

#### Changes in the process of diplomacy

- The Peace of Westphalia assumed the principle of mutual recognition of sovereignty and marked the beginning of the modern system of diplomatic relations; a *Staaten-system*—or modern system of sovereign states.
- Some students will refer to subsequent treaties (e.g., Utrecht, Vienna, and Versailles) as examples of Westphalia's influence.

#### Decline of Poland and rise of Sweden

- The Thirty Years' War contributed to the decline of Poland. Poland's defeat by Sweden ended Poland's attempts to dominate the Baltic Sea region.
- The Thirty Years' War led to the beginning of a brief period of Swedish ascendancy that lasted for about sixty years. Students may discuss Gustavus Adolphus as the leader of that development and may allude to Charles XII (1697–1718) as carrying on that development.
- By the Peace of Westphalia, Sweden received Bremen, Verden, and western Pomerania (including city of Stettin).

#### End of Spanish influence in Northern Europe, Dutch independence

- Spanish influence eroded in Northern Europe. The achievement of Dutch independence in 1648 deprived Spain of an effective foothold in Northern Europe and greatly diminished it as a rival to England and France.
- United Provinces was recognized as a sovereign state and received from Portugal the right to have outposts in Brazil and Indonesia and gain greater control over maritime trade; closure of the Scheldt to ocean-going vessels was confirmed.

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### Question 6 Historical Background (continued)

#### **Military revolution**

- Students may discuss how advances in military organization (e.g., the Swedish army under Gustavus Adolphus) led to more organized armies (regiments) where the central authority wielded more control instead of nobles/mercenary commanders. Gustavus Adolphus also implemented new tactics with more flexible lines of pikemen and muskets and more mobile artillery. Improved military training led to more professionalized fighting forces that were not disbanded at the end of the war or the campaign season. With Wallenstein we see the approach to warfare as a business for personal aggrandizement with more enforced rules of engagement.
- Army size increased significantly. During the Thirty Years' War, the French army had 125,000 men and grew to 250,000 by the Dutch War (1672-78). The Swedish army had 150,000 men by 1632 (growth due to conscription).
- All of this required supporting bureaucracies to expand, as well as increased taxes, placing new burdens on the populations, especially the lower orders.

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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 exam.

The Thirty Years' War was very significant because it shifted the balance of power from the Austrian Hapsburgs, it brought about the toleration and legitimacy of the Lutheran and later the Calvinist faith, and also created the united and independent state of <sup>the Netherlands</sup> ~~Denmark~~. These factors ~~led~~ led to a significant change in Europe by legitimizing the protestant religion as well as making France the most powerful country in mainland Europe.

The disintegration of the Holy Roman Empire came in two ~~for~~ phases. First with the treaty of Augsburg because the power of the Holy Roman Empire was based on the Catholic faith. The legitimization of the Lutheran religion dealt a serious blow to the power of the Hapsburgs. Secondly, the Peace of Westphalia gave the Netherlands their independence from Hapsburg control, but also recognized the third religion of Calvinism. If this wasn't enough the protestant victory had been greatly helped by that of Catholic France. Cardinal ~~Reich~~ Reich believed that even though he was helping protestants it was legitimized because it weakened the Holy Roman Empire so greatly that it would shift the balance of power in Europe to France.

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The Outcome of the Thirty Years War in regards to the religious ~~aspect~~ <sup>aspect</sup> of Europe was monumental. Catholicism which had held sway for hundreds of years now faced the threat of both ~~Catholicism~~ Lutheran and Calvinist influence on ~~the~~ Europe. The protestant faith shaped Europe very significantly following the Thirty Years' War. Also ~~with~~ with both the treaty of Augsburg and the Peace of Westphalia giving the German Princes the right to chose their religion as well as trade agreements led to a more fragmented Holy Roman Empire. ~~There~~ ~~was~~

Also with the emergence of the Netherlands as a new power led to the lowest center of Europe to become Amsterdam. With the Dutch involved in so much trade ~~to~~ <sup>and</sup> banking led to the ~~downfall~~ <sup>downfall</sup> of the Portugese as being the leaders in trade which also effected the state of Europe at the time.

The Thirty Years' War was a turning point in European history because the beginning of the end of the Holy Roman Empire. The emergence of Lutheranism as a religion. Also the shift of the balance of power from the Hapsburgs to France ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> finally the emergence of the Nether lands as a trade and banking power in Europe.

The thirty years War ~~was~~ was a leap in European Progress. It demonstrated two modern ideals, real politigue and toleration.

Intro ~~\*\*\*~~ The 30 years war was a brutal conflict within the Holy Roman Empire. It was a division caused by a difference in religion and ended in a unique new way. It ended with a sense of tolerance, a only ~~superior~~ <sup>superior</sup>, and a sense of modern politics shown in the ~~Victors~~ <sup>Victors</sup> actions, both of which mark a new direction for Europe. <sup>French</sup>

During the 30 years War, started by the defenestration of Prague, the Catholics should have easily put down the insurrection. Rather because of Real politigue the protestants won their concessions. The <sup>Protestants</sup> ~~Victors~~ of France were politically motivated and even did done by the Hapsburgs of the Holy Roman Empire. Thus they ~~did not~~ took advantage of the 30 years War and rather than crush the protestants, as a Catholic Monarch would, they supported them in defiance of their arch-enemies the Hapsburgs. This advanced their political <sup>position</sup> ~~position~~ and set the stage for making political decisions in a political rather than ideological manner.

The success of the protestants also created a spirit of tolerance which climaxed with the 18th century writings of Voltaire. Previously, monarchs looked to practise conformity and exclude those different from society, in an effort to add to national



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unity and support. The increasingly more tolerant governments that followed allowed for the scientific revolution and empirical thought. Without the backdrop of tolerance the works of Newton, Darwin and Diderot would have been condemned as the works of Galileo and Copernicus + ~~Kepler~~ was. Tolerance ~~also~~ fostered breakthroughs in all aspects of science, especially thought and inventions.

One If the Catholics would have won and exterminated protestantism Europe would have been controlled by the strict and sometimes backwards initiatives of the Church. We will never know the extent to which the effect of the Peace of Westphalia ~~changed~~ Europe. Sculpted Madonna

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

~~The Wars of the Reformation~~

Between 1618 and 1648 during the Thirty Years' War, an avid battle between Catholics and Protestants took a toll on Europe. The question of whether Protestant teachings that arose during the Enlightenment caused some nations like Britain and France to struggle to maintain a stable government. But once the war had ended, religious toleration showed up among several nations.

Men like Martin Luther and John Calvin spread their own <sup>Protestant</sup> ideas in various ways, which caused questions to arise on the legitimacy of their teachings. As they gained followers, conflicts began to occur between Catholics and Protestants. Through the Thirty Years' War, the Lutheran and Calvinist views on religion were more accepted. Some countries even formed treaties to allow the leader to decide the main religion. As religious toleration became more popular in Europe, the Holy Roman Empire was weakened. Europe no longer had just one accepted religion.

Religious toleration and the Fall of the Holy Roman Empire caused the Thirty Years' War to be known as a turning point in European history.

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Protestant teachings like those of Luther and Calvin became more accepted and conflicts of religion were halted for some time.

# AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY 2009 SCORING COMMENTARY

## Question 6

### Overview

The intent of this question was for students to place the Thirty Years' War in a larger diplomatic, social, political, and/or economic context. Students were expected to analyze several outcomes of that conflict that established it as a major transitional event linking one era of European history to the next.

### Sample: 6A

**Score: 8**

This essay has a very clear three-part thesis and is well organized with three paragraphs. The essay covers multiple turning points including the disintegration of the Holy Roman Empire and the rise of France, the emergence of Lutheranism and Calvinism, and the rise of the Netherlands. Evidence is consistently provided throughout the essay. The first body paragraph describes the decline of the Hapsburg Empire. France's rise is clearly argued. The second body paragraph describes changes in religion. The essay describes changes in trade, offering a clear argument regarding the increase in trade/banking by the Dutch and the decline of Portuguese influence.

### Sample: 6B

**Score: 6**

This essay has a clear but unsophisticated two-part thesis. The organization of this essay is solid. The student describes two turning points, the rise of political realism and toleration; the second is better supported than the first. Evidence in the first supporting paragraph includes a discussion of political trends, with France's role in changing the idea of war from religious to political. The second body paragraph focuses on toleration, with a discussion of governments becoming increasingly tolerant after the Thirty Years' War and allowing for the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment. This essay has good analysis and evidence on the subject of Catholicism's declining role.

### Sample: 6C

**Score: 2**

This essay has a weak thesis with references to religious toleration. The organization is problematic because the thesis, which is mostly a narrative of the Protestant Reformation and the Thirty Years' War, is vague. The essay does not accurately develop any major turning points beyond one-sentence assertions, none of which are supported by evidence. There is indication of a basic understanding of the Thirty Years' War and Calvinism, but the discussion is underdeveloped.