Question 5

Analyze the political and economic effects of changing population patterns in Western Europe in the period circa 1950 to the present. Cite specific examples from at least TWO countries.

9–8 Points

- The essay provides a sophisticated thesis that addresses EITHER political effects OR economic effects in TWO European countries.
- The organization is clear and effective.
- The essay is well balanced between TWO European countries.
- The essay clearly connects changing population patterns to political OR economic effects.
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by at least TWO pieces of relevant evidence from at least TWO different countries.
- The essay may contain minor errors.

7–6 Points

- The essay provides a good thesis that addresses EITHER political effects OR economic effects in TWO European countries.
- The organization is clear and effective.
- The essay clearly connects changing population patterns to political OR economic effects.
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by at least ONE piece of relevant evidence from at least TWO specific countries.
- The essay may contain minor errors.

5–4 Points

- The essay provides an adequate thesis that is clearly stated but uneven. It tends to focus too much on a single country OR just restates the question.
- The organization is unbalanced and not very effective. The essay feels like a German political paper or a Dutch economic paper.
- The essay struggles with the connections between changing populations and political OR economic effects.
- The essay contains mostly general statements without any reference to any individual countries.
- Assertions are supported by at least ONE piece of evidence.
- The narrative is mostly factual with little analysis and little sense of connections.
- The essay may contain minor errors.

3–2 Points

- The essay provides no thesis or just restates the question.
- The organization is unclear and ineffective.
- The essay shows serious imbalance.
- The essay makes little or no connection between changing population patterns and political and economic effects.
- The essay is off task with irrelevant material.
- Statements are superficial, vague and general.
- There is little historical proof or evidence, and the essay never mentions a single European country.
- The narrative is all factual with no analysis or connections.
- The essay may contain several errors that detract from the argument.
1–0 Points

- The essay provides no thesis.
- The organization is poor.
- The essay is off task and nonresponsive to the question.
- Irrelevant material is provided.
- There is little or no evidence of any understanding.
- No factual evidence is presented.
- There are no connections and no analysis.
- The essay may contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.
Postwar Europe witnessed widespread migration and immigration patterns. This fell into roughly two general periods: 1950–1970 and following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

- West Asian — Pakistani and Indian — immigrants arrived in the British Isles following the establishment of India and Pakistan in 1947. The arrival of West Asian immigrants was followed by a wave of immigrants from the British Caribbean.
- The arrival of Turkish, Italian and Greek Gastarbeiter (guest workers) in West Germany in the 1950s and 1960s helped transform the Federal Republic, resulting in the Wirtschaftswunder (economic miracle) of the 1970s. By 1970 the second largest Turkish city in the world was Berlin.
- The Pieds Noirs (black feet) phenomenon arose in France as tens of thousands of Algerians and North Africans migrated to France following the Algerian War of Independence, 1954–1962. Most North African immigrants arrived in France after 1967. France currently has the largest Muslim population in Western Europe.
- In the late 1970s clandestine women from Africa snuck into Italy for jobs.
- Primarily Poles but also many Eastern Europeans flooded the newly united Germany in the 1990s, willing to work for lower wages. All of this was mitigated by the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.
- Chechens and peoples from the Caucasus region migrated north to Russia for better jobs and housing following the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.
- Tens of thousands of displaced Bosnians, Croats and Serbs migrated west to Italy to escape the Bosnian civil war, 1992–1995.
- Thousands of Iraqis found safety and asylum in Scandinavia following the first Gulf War (1990–1991) and the second Gulf War (2003).

Massive waves of migration and demographic shifts in Europe resulted in what has been termed the “wage revolution.” Since most immigrants were willing to work longer hours for less wages, the phenomenon called the “browning of Europe” took place, especially following decolonization in the late 1940s and 1950s. This phenomenon explains the dramatic shift in industries that traditionally employed white Europeans (construction, city services and the auto industry) to those populated by non-European immigrants. The wave of immigrants to Europe since 1950 has become a politically explosive issue. At the same time, since 1980 birth rates in many Western European countries continued to decline because of easier access to birth control pills and to abortions.
In 2000, 14 European countries were no longer reproducing their populations. Italy and Spain led the way followed by Germany and Sweden. In other countries population growth has been zero.

- Some 1.7 percent of the Italian population is foreign born.
- Some 3.4 percent of the UK population is foreign born.
- Some 6.3 percent of the French population is foreign born.
- Some 8.8 percent of the German population is foreign born.
- Some 19 percent of the Swiss population is foreign born.

Many Europeans since 1980 have felt themselves overwhelmed by immigrants. Rising intolerance, racism and xenophobia have become apparent in Europe, resulting in the dramatic radicalization of European politics to the right. Ultranationalist and right-wing political parties have increased in membership since the 1960s in Western Europe. The common themes are anti-immigration, anti-foreigner and ultranationalism. All the nationalist parties mentioned below advocate strict immigration laws coupled with “right to work” legislation.

- The National Labor Front was founded in the UK in 1967.
- The National Democratic Party was founded in Germany in 1964.
- The National Front was founded in France in 1972 by Jean-Marie le Pen.
- The Alliance for the Future of Austria was founded in 2005 by Jörg Haider.
The last 60 years have seen great changes in the social makeup of the European population. For one, the population explosion as a result of the post-WWII baby boomer era has led to evolving trends in family sizes and political ideologies. Other trends include decreasing death rates as a result of better health, as well as modern-day immigration questions. In Western Europe especially, for example in England and France, major political and economic effects of populations evolving to include new roles for women, the creation of the modern "welfare state," and more culturally diverse societies as a result of immigration.

An important population trend during the 1960s and 70s was defined by the advent of birth control pills for women and abortion rights. Women like Simone de Beauvoir were instrumental in fighting for these sexual freedoms in France and across the Western world in the 1960s. The birth control pill, coupled with increased economic prosperity following WWII as part of technological and industrial advances, has led to smaller
Family sizes in Western Europe: a recent estimate in France is that each couple on average has about 1.2 children, a sharp drop from even 100 years before. These smaller families have allowed citizens to invest more resources in their children, promoting the importance and education in the development of the "child-centric home," and has reduced poverty and economic problems as a result. For women, increased sexual rights, civil liberties, and opportunities in the workplace have both contributed to the modern-day "permissive society" but also to near-equality in political and social standing of women and men.

Another key factor in the changing population patterns in Western Europe is the birth of the modern "welfare state." England is a perfect example of this. Very diminished death rates have led to more and more as a result of better health care, nutrition, and economic success. This has led to more and more people living (but not working) at the age of 80 or
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10. This has in turn led to the need for more social welfare to support these people; a potent example is England's National Healthcare Service, a government-run national healthcare system that offers coverage to all citizens. An important economic effect of this is high marginal tax rates of up to 60% or so, which until Margaret Thatcher's time believed that this inhibited economic growth on a bigger scale. A healthier workforce has for the most part correlated to a healthy, growing economy. Western Europe is only second to the United States in being among the most economically developed in the world.

Immigration has played a large role in evolving population patterns. The need for lots of cheap labor to fuel the industrial and service centers of growing Western European economies over the last 50 years has led to a large number of "guest workers" living in Western Europe. These immigrants often come from poorer Eastern European countries or from Africa and Asia.
A powerful example of the effect of these social and political developments in Western Europe is in France. France, which opened up its borders to many workers from former French colonies, has seen a large number of unhappy immigrants (and those native French) living in their countries. Unemployment statistics among these immigrants are very high. A recent example of tensions as a result of immigrant comes from the immigrant uprisings in France during the 2005 under Jacques Chirac and Nicolas Sarkozy. Some historians believe that the number of immigrants living in European populations over the last 60 years has led to multicultural societies that are more pluralistic others cite an increase in racism and anti-immigrant spirit.

The invention of the birth control pill and the work of the feminist movement in the 1960s, coupled with economic success, has led to smaller family sizes in Western Europe. Declining birth rates have in part led to the idea of the modern welfare state. Immigration
has also been a significant factor in the changing
taste of European populations. These changes have
resulted in the state of policies, economics and
social patterns today.
The political and economic effects of changing populations were many in Western Europe. Firstly, the political effects of changing population patterns included a need to adapt to the changing population compositions and with economic effects, the development of economic policies to suit the population.

Firstly, with the influx of foreigners into Western Europe, the political effect of such an event would be the adjustment of policies to suit these people. In Great Britain, with an increased number of foreigners in recent years and the government seeking re-election, the various political parties would have to include policies to enable the foreigners, when they become citizens, to vote for them. This would include introducing members of parliament that were of that foreign group.

Economically, as foreigners could take up jobs in the informal sector, the policies given to foreigners would have impact on such activities. Hence, foreigners played an integral part in the formation of political and economic policies.

Secondly, there was a declining birth rate. This meant that politicians had to address such issues in their speeches and enact legislation that was to counter such an issue. There would have been increased parliamentary debate about the measures proposed by the various parties as well as interest groups. Economically, this caused the dependent population to increase their burden on the young. This meant that the effective economic state of their nation was in greater risk since there were now fewer of the young citizens in most Western European nations.

Lastly, there was an increased migration of people citizens to other
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countries. Politically, this meant that there were fewer people who were capable of running the country or stand for election. The movement of people was mostly a brain drain where people sought greener pastures. Policies would have to promote an incentives for people to stay. This was shown in France where several incentives were given to people for them to stay in the country. The economic ramification was that the contribution to the economy especially in knowledge based economies was decreasing.

The population was changing in terms of composition, structure and citizens. This led to changes in policies enacted.
As the time goes, people tend to live longer, and bear less children. Although Western Europe is well known for its welfare, especially France, which once had a slogan ‘Cradle to the grave’ seems to disappear these days. Because there are too many people who live on the government welfare, and that gives so much burden on young workers. The welfare policy didn’t disappear yet, but it is changing to give more burden by increasing tax to people. Also, the government pays for women who bear more than three children. In France, women who have three kids are able to get the government’s welfare funds, even if she doesn’t work. As we can see in France, increase of older population influences on policies. Also, various human thoughts are being considered. For example, in Netherlands it is allowed to marry with the same sex people. This is also occurring in England.

Secondly, by the increase of older people, there are lots of silver towns and goods that are made for old people. Also, the amount of immigrants are increasing, effecting the economy of Western European countries. The fine cuisine of France is sold out to worldwide, their wine is also exported to various countries. British is famous for the immigrants, who come from various countries as a labor force. They are the ones who do the 3-D jobs in Britain, and the numbers of them are increasing, and their part of the society is also increasing for the decrease of birth. This is also the same situation happening in France. The policies will consider the immigrant’s right and encouragement of giving birth.
Question 5

Sample: 5A
Score: 9

This essay provides a sophisticated thesis. It makes clear connections between population shifts and economic and political effects. The writing is very analytical, demonstrating a clear appreciation of the relationship between cause and effect. The essay discusses two countries, France and the United Kingdom. It provides at least two relevant examples for changing population patterns in France and the UK. The analysis is more sophisticated than most essays. The essay uses examples that are specific and extremely relevant.

Sample: 5B
Score: 5

This essay provides a good thesis. It is very general, with a brief mention of the UK and France and a brief mention of Parliament in the UK. In the second paragraph it is not clear what country is being discussed. The essay is too vague and nonspecific to merit a higher score. However, compared to essays that earned lower scores, there are two briefly discussed examples of at least two European countries.

Sample: 5C
Score: 3

This essay does not provide a thesis. It discusses two countries, France and the UK. It includes a generalized discussion of birth rates in France and a generalized discussion of immigrants in the UK. The essay shows little appreciation for the connection between changing populations and political and economic effects. It lacks relevant and specific examples, other than superficial statements, and states the obvious with little depth of understanding. It is too vague, with too few attempts to develop an argument concerning France and the UK. However, it does attempt to address the question.