AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY 2011 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 7

Analyze the impact of science and technology on European society in the period from 1800 to 1900.

9–8 points

- Thesis is sophisticated and clearly stated and addresses <u>both</u> science and technology.
- Organization is clear and effective.
- Discussion is well balanced and contains <u>both</u> scientific and technological developments, mostly from the specified time period.
- All major assertions are supported by <u>multiple</u> pieces of relevant evidence.
- Essay contains insightful analysis of the impact of scientific discoveries and technological advances on society.
- Essay may contain some minor factual or chronological errors that do not severely detract from the argument.

7–6 points

- Thesis is clearly stated and addresses <u>both</u> science and technology.
- Organization is clear and effective.
- Essay is mostly balanced between science and technology; most of the discussion is chronologically on task.
- Assertions are supported by at least <u>two</u> pieces of evidence.
- Essay contains some analysis, though it tends to read more as historical narrative.
- Essay may contain some minor factual or chronological errors that do not severely detract from the argument.

5–4 points

- Attempted thesis may address only <u>one</u> component (science or technology) or may be a restatement of the prompt.
- Organization may be unbalanced and ineffective.
- Discussion tends to focus on <u>either</u> just science <u>or</u> just technology.
- Major assertions are supported by <u>at least one</u> piece of evidence.
- Essay tends to read as factual narrative with little analysis of social impact.
- Essay may contain factual or chronological errors that detract from the argument (e.g., discussions of the scientific or agricultural revolutions).

3–2 points

- Thesis is missing or just restates the prompt.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective.
- Discussions shows serious imbalance or may be largely or mostly off task chronologically.
- Essay contains <u>at least one</u> piece of specific historical evidence.
- Essay may contain several errors that detract from the argument.

1–0 points

- Thesis is missing.
- Essay is poorly organized.
- Essay is off task or not responsive to the prompt.
- There is little or no supporting evidence.
- Essay contains major errors.

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AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY 2011 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)

Question 7

Sample: 7A Score: 9

The essay presents a clear thesis in the final two sentences of the introductory paragraph. The discussion addresses developments in the correct time period. The essay is well organized, addressing both science and technology. Multiple specific examples are provided in support of the argument regarding advances in transportation, medicine and sanitation, and industrialization. The social impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations is insightfully analyzed (for example, the impact of advances in transportation on urban life, of advances in medicine and sanitation on standards of living, and of advances in steam power and steel-making technologies on economic development and the rise of the middle class), and the essay stays focused on the question throughout. There are no major errors. The essay features analysis at a level of sophistication that merited the maximum score of 9.

Sample: 7B Score: 5

The essay has a clear thesis, articulated in the final sentence of the introductory paragraph. The first body paragraph contains a largely off-topic discussion (with the exception of reference to Darwin's evolutionary theory) of the diminishing role of religion in European society since the medieval period. The discussion is more focused in the second and third body paragraphs, presenting a coherent, if not particularly sophisticated, narrative of the social impact of advances in mass production, transportation and communications. Both science and technology are addressed, although the emphasis is on technology. The essay is more narrative than analytical, but it does make a few original analytical points (for example, the discussion of the "flip side" of technological progress, including a higher incidence of work-related injuries, environmental problems and urban overcrowding). The essay did not earn a score of 6 because it is not strongly focused on the question of science and technology's impact on society, and it contains little analysis. It merited higher than a score of because it does have a thesis and supports the argument with a sufficient amount of evidence.

Sample: 7C Score: 1

The attempted thesis appears to be merely a restatement the question, with the addition of confusing terminology (the reference to "enlightenment"). The essay is poorly organized. Most of the discoveries and technological advances mentioned either are out of period or have been misunderstood or misinterpreted. The essay earned a score of 1 because there is some correct information (albeit presented in a basic and general manner) in the first body paragraph regarding transportation advances (the reference to railroads, and an attempt to explain their social impact).