



## **AP<sup>®</sup> European History 2002 Sample Student Responses Form B**

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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 examination.

The period from 1640 to 1780 had great political significance in Europe. This was a time of great change in government for many European nations. The two most important theories of government ~~are~~ were constitutional monarchy and absolutism. These two political theories occurred in England and France, respectively. England went from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy with the Glorious Revolution in 1688. France, ~~on the other hand~~ on the other hand, maintained an absolute monarchy during this period.

The year 1640 was ~~the year~~ when Charles I was king of England. He took over after his father, James I, died. Charles wanted to centralize his power and become an absolute monarch. He dismissed the parliament various times and angered them. The Civil War started with Oliver Cromwell as the head of Protestants against the king. Charles was beaten and executed in 1649. Oliver Cromwell then ruled as Lord Protector until the Restoration in 1660 with Charles II, <sup>Charles's son</sup> returning to rule. James II <sup>a Catholic</sup> ~~took over~~ took over after his brother, Charles II, died and again tried for an absolute monarchy. In 1688, he was ousted

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6C

*bloodless revolution*

by parliament in the Glorious Revolution, and William and Mary were brought in to rule. This ~~was~~ was the beginning of a constitutional monarchy for England. A Bill of Rights was passed and the King's power was checked, which set a precedent for future monarchs of England. The new constitutional monarchy gave the parliament a say in government and checked the power of the king.

In contrast, France was an absolute monarchy with Louis XIV, the "sun-king." He came into power after Louis XIII and his main advisor Richelieu who helped in centralizing the ~~king's~~ power. Louis XIV was always conscientious about his nobles' powers because of a childhood kidnapping during the nobility uprising, the Fronde. Louis XIV built his palace at Versailles to keep his nobles there under ~~close~~ surveillance in order to maintain his power. His minister of finance, Colbert, also kept ~~absolute control~~ absolute control of the economy for him. He changed France's national debt from 22 million pounds to a surplus of 29 million pounds. Louis's minister of war, Marquis de Louvois, kept a tight

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fight around the military and greatly improved it. He standardized the military and made them into professional soldiers with great improvement on various weapons. Louis, therefore, had an absolute government in France and controlled all aspects of society.

The two theories of governments, as represented by France and England, are absolutism and constitutional monarchy, respectively. There ~~are~~ are many differences between the two. Absolutism gives the monarch absolute control over his nation and all its aspects. Constitutional monarchy limits the monarch's power by giving the parliament a say in policies and issuing a constitution or Bill of Rights. The similarities are very scarce between the two theories of governments. Both theories allow for a monarch or a ruler. They both have a birth-right succession with the son or another family member taking over after the previous ruler has passed away. However, the similarities are very minuscule compared to the great differences between the two theories of government.

In conclusion, the period from 1640 to

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1780 was a time of great political change. Two new theories of government were introduced. They were absolutism, as demonstrated by Louis XIV's rule in France, and constitutional monarchy, as demonstrated by the Glorious Revolution in 1688 in England with William and Mary. These two theories of government have great differences with absolutism giving the monarch absolute power and constitutionalism giving the monarch limited power and allowing for a parliament. They have very minor ~~similarities~~ similarities with the differences ~~over~~ overshadowing them. The two theories of government, therefore, introduced in the period from 1640-1780 are absolutism and constitutionalism (constitutional monarchy).

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Part C - Q6

In the period between 1640 and 1780, two distinct political theories <sup>emerged</sup> in Europe: absolute monarchy and constitutional monarchy. France became absolutist, whereas Britain moved towards a constitutional government.

From Henry IV to Louis XIV, French monarchs increased their power. The Duke of Sully, during Henry of Navarre's reign, centralized the economy by establishing monopolies and instituting the gabelle ~~tax~~, which strengthened royal control. Cardinal Richelieu, who in effect ruled France, managed to reduce the power of the nobility by mercilessly imprisoning political opponents. With Louis XIV, ~~the~~ the French monarchy came to the height of its power.

The theorist Bossuet argued the divine right of kings to rule, and the Sun King himself said that "l'état, c'est moi." He used intendants, civil servants, to look over the state, and domesticated the nobility by planning parties and <sup>court</sup> etiquette at the Versailles. Meanwhile, he transferred the actual politics to the middle class, and was able to truly dominate ~~and the~~ politics. ~~the~~

In contrast, British kings lost much of their power to the Parliament. Unlike absolutism, constitutional monarchy divided power between the

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King and the Parliament. Britain experienced a military dictatorship under Oliver Cromwell, a restoration, and then a glorious revolution. During this sequence of events, the Parliament acquired much influence. Parliament could no longer be dissolved without its own consent, and Britain remained Protestant by kicking out James II and inviting William the Orange (& Mary) to rule. The glorious Revolution happened under Parliamentary supervision, and Britain became directed by two forces, the King and the Parliament. The difference in governmental structure accounts for the differences between France and Britain.

Absolutism ~~is a~~ tends to oscillate between extremes according to the ruler, whereas constitutional monarchy provides a check between two powers. France was able to prosper under Louis XIV, although he strained the Treasury by fighting many wars; but under an incapable monarch like Louis XVI, absolutism ~~was~~ <sup>posed</sup> a problem. Since absolutism required a strong ruler, a weak ruler like Louis XVI ~~created~~ <sup>created</sup> a vacuum. The French revolution was caused ~~by~~ <sup>partly</sup> as a result of failed absolutism, since ~~the~~ <sup>the lack of a forceful monarch</sup> made the country vulnerable ~~to~~ <sup>for</sup> upheaval. In comparison, Britain did not have any revolutions, and was naturally stable because the responsibility