



AP[®] European History 2002 Sample Student Responses

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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.

In the decades before the Thirty Year's War, religious wars raged across Europe. Catholics and Protestants battled for control of the continent's religious future. During this time, ~~the~~ there were rulers, called politiques, who put religion, even their own, below their political ambitions. Two great politiques were Elizabeth ~~the~~ I of England and Catherine de ~~the~~ Médicis of France. Elizabeth worked and lived for her country as a whole, trying to unify her subjects under common religious beliefs. Catherine de Médicis of France worked without regard for religion in her efforts to preserve her family's control of the French throne. Although both of these rulers ~~tried to~~ worked around religion, there were great differences to how each of them handled their situation.

Elizabeth I was a great ruler and a politique in the truest sense of the word. When she came to power, England had experienced many ~~problems~~ religious problems. England had broken with ~~the~~ Catholicism and became Protestant during the reign of Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII. When Elizabeth's half-sister Mary became queen, she married ~~the~~ the Catholic Phillip II of Spain and restored Catholicism in England. Protestants who opposed

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this were executed, earning her the name "Bloody Mary." After Elizabeth became queen, she again broke England away from the Catholic Church. Her new Anglican Church was a compromise between the two sides; it retained the rituals of Catholicism while using Protestant doctrine. Hard-line protestants, called Puritans, sought to remove all traces of Catholicism, but they were not suppressed. There were laws forcing people to submit to ~~the~~ the Anglican Church, but ~~there~~ there were few inquiries of people's true inner beliefs. What mattered most was loyalty to the state.

Catherine de Médicis was the regent for three of ~~her~~ her sons when they were each the king of France. At the time, there were 3 noble families vying for control. The Bourbons and the Chatillons were Protestant, while the Guises were Catholic. Catherine sought to protect the throne ~~from~~ from noble threats. At first, she sided with the Protestants against the powerful Guises. Later, ~~she~~ she changed sides with the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, in which many Huguenots were killed.

Although both were politiques, Elizabeth

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and Catherine were very different. Elizabeth worked for the good of her nation, ~~and~~ Religion was second to national loyalty. Elizabeth used religious compromises as a unifying force for her people. Catherine, on the other hand, worked only to protect her family's throne. She saw religious conflict as a threat to it, and would ~~switch sides take~~ and switch sides against whichever group was perceived as a greater threat. Her policies would plunge her nation into religious war, while Elizabeth was able to keep the peace in her own.

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Part B # 2

Elizabeth I of England and Isabella I of Spain ~~had~~ had extremely different religious policies. However, these women share similarities because of circumstance.

Elizabeth I and Isabella I both came to rule after a tumultuous period. Elizabeth I succeeded her sister "bloody" Mary to the throne. The period before her reign was an intense time of extreme change. Her sister Mary executed any English people who wouldn't convert to Catholicism so as a result Elizabeth inherited religious strife. Isabella I married Ferdinand to consolidate two major powers on the Iberian peninsula. This change in rule consolidated many people into their kingdom not of their faith. ^{Both women used religion to help}

from the Iberian peninsula

The differences between these two women lie in how they chose to deal with the religious question. Isabella imposed mandatory religion on Spain. She and her husband went to war to expell the moors. Catholicism was first and foremost: their priority. The Spanish inquisition occurred during Isabella's reign. She demanded conversion or expulsion/execution of all Jews. The Spanish Inquisition greatly retarded social and cultural growth in Spain. Elizabeth I

handled her internal religious issues entirely differently. Elizabeth I was a politique. She was Protestant herself (because her father Henry VIII began the Church of England), but she didn't impose religion on her constituents. Protestantism remained the official religion but compliance was not mandatory. Elizabeth knew the social unrest such an imposition would cause. She did use the church to her own benefit though. Through the Act of Supremacy she was the head of the Church of England and thus she had final say. Church was used as a means of communication and Sunday acted as a way to spread information. Elizabeth knew how important the religious issue was to her popularity and thus attempted to subordinate its importance. Religion was not her priority like Isabella. Elizabeth repealed the Test Act and allowed Catholics into Parliament. Elizabeth's approach was much more lenient and she enjoyed a thriving society, culture, economy during her reign. Spain declined in the aspects of culture and society during Isabella's reign because of her intolerance.