

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY

2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

Analyze the similarities in the methods that various absolute monarchs used in the 1600s and 1700s to consolidate and increase their power.

9–8 Points

- Thesis is explicit and fully responsive to the question.
- Organization is clear, consistent, and effective in support of the argument; discussion of similarities is explicit throughout.
- Essay is well balanced, discussing more than one monarch and more than one method.
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by multiple pieces of relevant evidence and are well developed; essay addresses similarities of monarchs from both centuries.
- May contain errors that do not detract from the argument. (An essay scored 9 does not need to be perfect.)

7–6 Points

- Thesis is explicit and responsive to the question.
- Organization is clear, effective in support of the argument; discussion of similarities is explicit but may be less developed than a higher scoring essay.
- Essay is balanced, discussing more than one monarch and more than one method.
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence, although some arguments may be less developed than a higher scoring essay; essay may address similarities of monarchs from both centuries.
- May contain an error that detracts from the argument.

5–4 Points

- Thesis is explicit, but not fully responsive to the question or thesis is only partially proven.
- Organization is clear, effective in support of the argument, but not consistently followed; discussion of similarities is implicit or not sufficiently developed.
- Essay shows some imbalance; discussion contains more than one monarch and at least one method.
- Most of the major assertions in the essay are supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence.
- Essay is more descriptive than analytical and may be limited to one century.
- May contain a few errors that detract from the argument.

3–2 Points

- No explicit thesis, a thesis that merely repeats or paraphrases the prompt, or thesis is not proven.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective; may contain no discussion of similarities.
- Essay shows serious imbalance, only one specific method and monarch are discussed.
- Only one or two major assertions are supported by relevant evidence.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

1–0 Points

- May have a barely discernible attempt at a thesis, or thesis is not supported.
- May have some discernible organization or is irrelevant.
- May have little or no supporting evidence, or evidence is irrelevant.
- May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.

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Question 3 (continued)

Historical Background

Thesis:

Acceptable theses may include statements about monarchs:

- asserting their control over established elites, such as the landed nobility;
- curbing the power of traditional consultative bodies such as parliaments;
- increasing and maintaining standing armies;
- expansionist wars;
- expanding service bureaucracies;
- employing mercantilist policies;
- asserting control over church affairs and religious appointments;
- early colonization;
- taking measures to grow government revenues;
- supporting the arts, scientific academies, or both, to increase royal prestige;
- benefiting from the work of political theorists propounding the theory of the divine rights of kings.

Organization:

It is expected that the most effective essays will be organized according to the types of methods monarchs used, with examples drawn from various case studies as needed, but essays can also be organized as point-by-point comparisons or narratives of two monarchs' actions. Essays employing the latter organization (comparison of just two monarchs) may earn all nine points, provided the discussion of the categories is analytical and well developed.

Balance:

Perfect balance between periods is not required, but high-quality essays must make some attempt to address both the 17th and the 18th centuries.

Evidence:

a) Monarchs addressed might include:

Louis XIV
Charles I
James I
James II
Frederick II
Frederick William, the "Great Elector"
Maria Theresa
Joseph II
Peter the Great
Catherine the Great

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Question 3 (continued)

b) Methods that monarchs used to consolidate their power may include:

Standing armies

Taming the nobles

Bureaucracy, civil service, service nobility

Symbolic politics – visual displays of power

Mercantilist politics, taxes

Control of the church, attempts to control the church

Intellectual theories in support of the monarchy, divine rights, enlightened absolutism

Terminology:

For the purposes of this question, essays may discuss as “absolute monarchs” rulers that are referred to under the rubric of “Enlightened monarchs” in European history textbooks.

To modern persons, the idea of an ~~an~~ absolute monarchy, much less an "enlightened despot," appear unlikely and paradoxical, the idea that one soul can rule ~~to~~ millions by the grace of God and that ~~we~~ they might be able to increase human freedom simultaneously. But ~~the~~ rulers did increase their ^{absolute} power across Europe during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, using similar methods. In the former century, the consolidation of the military and ~~is~~ enlargement of the bureaucracy subordinated the nobility in France, Russia, and Prussia (in the 1700s), while in the ~~the~~ latter century, intellectual and religious tolerance ~~was~~ increased the popularity, at home and abroad, of Prussian, Austrian, and Russian rulers. The most essential and earliest method was by increasing military ~~power~~.

Yes, the development of mercenary armies had been propelled by the Hundred Years and Thirty Years Wars, but under ~~King Louis XIII~~ and Cardinal Richelieu, a truly professional French army ~~was~~ replaced the "nobility of the sword" (the traditional aristocratic commanders and soldiers) using greater ~~of~~ resources from taxes. Louis XIV then used said armies in the wars with the Netherlands and the War of

Spanish Succession - towards the end of the seventeenth century, gunpowder was in use. But perhaps more impressive were the military reforms of Peter the Great around the same time. He attempted to make Russia a great power by building a navy on Russian rivers, securing a warm sea port in the Black Sea, and using Western commanders and organizers. He also weakened the power of the boyars (i.e. the aristocracy) by instituting a mandatory service in the military and the creation of a secret police. These tactics, and his creation of an iron industry, allowed Russia to defeat Sweden, once a feared military power. But ~~even more~~ ^{the most} impressive change must have come from Frederick William the Great Elector, King Frederick William I, King Frederick ~~II~~ ^{William II}, and King Frederick II (the Great), all rulers of Prussia. The Great Elector began military buildup by making the landed aristocracy (Junkers) tend less to their serfs and focus on military service, and this trend was continued by his predecessors, especially Frederick the Great, who engaged in the War of Austrian Succession. Thus, Prussia became a continental military power as well. All of these monarchies increased their power by building

armies, but this would not have been possible without a bureaucracy.

As always, France led the trend in centralizing the government into a true nation state.

Richelieu instituted a system of intendants to collect taxes, and later taxes included the taille and paulette. The taille was raised on the commoners, and the paulette allowed nobles to buy offices in the bureaucracy, thus expanding the "nobility of the robe" and filling the crown's ever-depleted coffers. Later on Louis XIV's finance minister Colbert instituted changes bringing in more revenue. ~~But~~ Other

~~monarchs also~~ Even Versailles served the dual purpose of ^{relegating} ~~reducing~~ nobles to court frivolities and centralizing government.

Other nations followed suite - Peter the Great, for instance, westernized his boyars by shaving their beards and building a new, central capital of St. Petersburg, ~~though other~~ monarchs such as Frederick the Great did so as well in addition to military buildup. In these cases bureaucracy increased monarchical power at the expense of nobles. Yet, even the rationalism of the Enlightenment provided oppor-

tunities to seize more, absolute power.

Enlightened despotism took the form of intellectual and religious tolerance. Frederick the Great exemplifies this idea. His court at Sanssouci was a place of culture. Voltaire was allowed at Frederick's court, and the king himself played the flute, composed, and read often. He also allowed religious freedom in his domain. Joseph II of Austria, in contrast to his mother Maria Theresa, instituted many liberal reforms, including religious toleration. However, Catherine the Great of Russia more or less paid lip service to eighteenth century ideals - she adopted French political thought, and at one point favored lessening punishments doled out to criminals, but she never was truly liberal. She never freed the serfs and ended up refusing boyar military service. Strangely enough, Louis XIV found consolidation of power in ~~reversing~~ revoking the Edict of Nantes and expelling the Huguenots, but this may have backfired - they went to the Netherlands, an enemy of the French. Still, the general trend was towards toleration of intellect and faith (even in France, salons ~~were~~ were not closed down). This increased monarchical power in that

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the kings and queens gained the support of religious minorities and intellectuals without enacting liberal constitutions or English-style government.

"L'etat, c'est moi" - This is a statement epitomizing the idea of the absolute monarch, a sun king that commands vast armies and bureaucratic institutions. This was achieved by Louis XIV, Frederick the Great, and others via the consolidation of the military, centralization of the bureaucracy, and adopting of some Enlightenment ideals. All of these things reduced the power of nobles and made the dictates of kings easier to be carried out. Government - the state - is the key to absolute monarchy.

The 1600s and 1700s saw the rise of many absolutist monarchs in European countries. Louis XIV used his ~~exercise of Versailles~~ control of the nobility using Versailles, ~~the~~ the title "Sun King", and the Treaty of Fountain-Bleau to ~~to~~ consolidate and increase his power. Peter the Great of Russia ~~built~~ built Saint Petersburg, and ~~attempted~~ attempted to modernize to increase his power.

Louis XIV of France became an absolutist ruler through various ways. He recognized the need to control the nobility in order to hold his power, and so created the estate of Versailles. He ~~sent~~ sent the nobility to the elaborate halls of Versailles for a majority of the year, in order to keep them distracted, and out of his way while he continued to increase his power. ~~Louis XIV~~ Louis XIV referred to himself as the "Sun King" in order to show his power. He made people watch him wake up, showing that, just like the sun, his waking was important to all, and that he ran things in his country. At the beginning of his reign, Louis XIV made the Treaty of Fountain-Bleau, in order to undo

the edict of Nantes previously established by Henry III to give the Huguenots religious freedom. Louis XIV wanted to control religion, and so he made Catholicism the official religion by the treaty of Fontaine-Bleau. By doing so he had greater control over the affairs of the people and eliminated the concern of religious wars.

Peter the Great of Russia also wished to increase and consolidate his power through absolutism. Similar to Versailles, he built the city of Saint Petersburg, on the swampy ~~coastline~~ coastline of northern Russia. He concentrated ~~the~~ nobility to Saint Petersburg, and lived there the majority of the year ~~at Saint Petersburg~~. By building this city he was able to more fully control the nobility and the trade and economics of his country. In addition to the building of Saint Petersburg, Peter the Great attempted to modernize Russia. He tried to closely copy the Western ideas and implement them into his own country. By doing so he believed he would be able to compete with the more highly developed ~~countries~~ countries and help him gain more

power ~~as~~ in the global community as well as his own country.

As one analyzes the similarities in the ways various absolute monarchs gained power, one can see that Louis XIV and Peter the Great had similar ways of doing so. They both built places to keep the nobility out of their business, and they both wished to ~~increase~~ gain more power through control.

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During the ~~cento~~ 17th and 18th century absolute monarchies were very common, these monarch had various attempts to gain absolute power over their whole nations. All monarchs had an ego that they had to maintain by gaining power, wants of money to fuel their ideas to gain more power, and they needed peoples loyalty.

First, each monarch that was an absolute had a very big ego to uphold, Louis XIV was nicknamed the sun God due to his view of himself being the center of the universe. Louis XVI saw that he had an ego obtained by money and he did whatever it took to maintain absolute and obtain money, even if it was the peoples. Napoleon Bonapart had his ego of being the soon to be ruler of the world. In this mindset he crowned himself King, instead of the Pope, and went upon his business to remain a true absolute French ruler.

Second, Absolute monarchs needed money to fuel their political and personal ideas, rather it benefitted

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anyone or not. Louis XIV needed money to build the city of Versailles, because he had the idea to build this city in order to watch over his nobility to prevent the possibility of being overthrown. Louis XVI used any money he obtained to benefit himself in a scheme of gaining all the worldly things he or his family desired. This created a time where he required more money, to, in his mind, stay an absolute and he took money from the people, and from parliament, to fund his physical desires. Napoleon required a multitude of funds because he wanted to have a very strong French army to take over all of Europe. He was able to succeed in spending the money for the military; however, he was unable to conquer the world or remain absolute because of his poor militaristic strategy.

Finally, they used the people's loyalty to sustain their position of being an absolute monarch. Louis XIV was able to gain the loyalty of his nobility

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by bringing them to Versailles and letting them be part of a separate society that was away from the commoners and Peasants. Louis XVI kept the loyalty for a limited amount of time because of his lack in frugality and his choice of trying to run to Austria instead of facing his people, this caused his reign to fall short. Napoleon thrived on French loyalty and determination to follow his military strategy. He was able to remain Absolute in France and somewhat rebuild their economy.

In conclusion, Absolute monarchs had many ways that they used to remain in Absolute power, such as maintaining their egos, using money to fuel their remaining Absolutism and capturing the loyalty of their people. There is a reason that absolutism did not make it too far.

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2014 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 3

Overview

The intent of this question was to have students analyze similarities in the methods that various monarchs utilized to consolidate and increase their power. Students needed to identify “methods” and then explain how the methods increased or consolidated (or both) the monarchs’ power in a similar manner and why the monarchs used the methods in a similar way. Although not explicitly required, the question also provided students with an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the “methods” in achieving the monarchs’ goals.

Sample: 3A

Score: 9

The essay has an explicit thesis which introduces distinct methods used by monarchs to consolidate their power and thoughtfully outlines the changing methods used in the 17th versus the 18th century. The essay is organized by method and provides rich evidence in support of the thesis, using multiple examples for most methods. Monarchs’ policies, such as the professionalization of armies, expansion of the tax base, weakening of the power of the aristocracy, expansion of state bureaucracies, enlightened despotism, etc., are richly illustrated with evidence from French, Russian, and Prussian contexts. The comparison of monarchs is explicit throughout and the analysis of the methods is incisive and extensive, which earned the essay 9 points.

Sample: 3B

Score: 5

The essay’s thesis is minimally acceptable. It mentions some of the key policies that two monarchs (Louis XIV and Peter the Great) pursued to consolidate their power, but it does not analyze these policies as expressions of distinct methods. There is some imbalance in the discussion, with the paragraph on Louis XIV containing more relevant and varied evidence than the paragraph about Peter the Great. No explicit attempt at a direct comparison between different monarchs’ methods is made until the concluding paragraph. The essay earned 5 points because it has a thesis and presents a moderate amount of evidence tied explicitly to the argument (especially in the discussion of Louis XIV’s policies).

Sample: 3C

Score: 2

The essay does not have an acceptable thesis. The comparison being made fails, in part, because Napoleon Bonaparte’s reign as emperor is out of the time period specified in the prompt and, in part, because the discussion of Napoleon’s policies does not address the prompt in an analytical way. Much of the information the essay presents is confusing and erroneous, but there is a one valid argument made about Louis XIV, namely, his gathering of French nobles at Versailles “in order to watch over his nobility to prevent the possibility of being overthrown.” This and the reference to Louis’s identification with the “Sun God” earned the essay 2 points.