

# AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY

## 2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 4

Analyze the differences in the ideas held by various Enlightenment figures concerning the roles of women in European society.

#### 9–8 Points

- Thesis is explicit, fully responsive to the question, and clearly addresses at least two distinct ideas.
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
- Essay is well balanced; all major topics suggested by the prompt are all covered at some length.
- All major assertions about differences in the essay are supported by **multiple** pieces of relevant evidence that relate specifically to women’s roles.
- May contain errors that do not detract from the argument.

#### 7–6 Points

- Thesis is explicit and responsive to the question and clearly addresses at least two distinct ideas.
- Organization is clear, effective in support of the argument, but may not be consistently followed.
- Essay is balanced; all major topics suggested by the prompt are covered at least briefly.
- All major assertions about differences in the essay are supported by **at least two** pieces of relevant evidence that relate specifically to women’s roles.
- May contain an error that detracts from the argument.

#### 5–4 Points

- Thesis is explicit and sufficiently addresses distinct ideas on women’s roles but may use nonspecific language in responding to the question.
- Organization is clear and effective in support of the argument, but it is not consistently followed.
- Essay shows some imbalance; one idea may be more fully developed than the other.
- Most of the major assertions about differences in the essay are supported by **at least one** piece of relevant evidence that relate generally to women’s roles.
- May contain a few errors that detract from the argument.

#### 3–2 Points

- No explicit thesis or a thesis that merely repeats or paraphrases the prompt, may address only one idea.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective.
- Essay shows serious imbalance; most major topics suggested by the prompt are neglected.
- Only one or two major assertions about differences are supported by **at least one** piece of relevant evidence that may relate to women’s roles.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

#### 1–0 Points

- No discernible attempt at a thesis, addresses only one idea, or none.
- No discernible organization.
- Only one or none of the major topics suggested by the prompt are mentioned.
- Little or no supporting evidence is used to demonstrate different ideas of women’s roles or to name one Enlightenment figure with no specific details or ideas relating to women’s roles.
- May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.

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### Question 4 (continued)

#### Historical Background

The question asks for an essay about the differences of more than one idea held by Enlightenment figures about the roles of women in European society. The task requires knowledge of figures from the European Enlightenment and the ability to articulate those figures' different ideas of women's roles. An essay may assert that the legacy of the Enlightenment is ambivalent in that:

- a) many (or most) Enlightenment figures argued that the principles of liberty, equality, and emphasis on reason should be extended to women, and that women ought to have greater access to education, intellectual life, and perhaps even a degree of political equality with men
- b) on the other hand, other Enlightenment figures offered new arguments for the exclusion of women from the public sphere, based on emerging bourgeois ideas of domesticity or "natural" differences between the sexes.

Generally accepted dates for the period of the Age of the Enlightenment, an international and cosmopolitan intellectual and cultural movement with regional and national particularities, range from the late 17<sup>th</sup> (1690) through the 18<sup>th</sup> century (1789), although some textbooks (e.g., Hunt's *Making of the West*) examine the period from 1750–1789. With a singularly secular focus, a large number of figures wrote on reforming governments, and especially the individual's liberties under those governments, in publications addressed to "the publick." Gender is but one of the many topics considered by Enlightenment figures; specifically, writings on traditional gender roles considered not only political and civil rights, but also education, vocation, literature, the arts, mathematics, physics, and so on. Gender is, however, a topic unevenly attended by Enlightenment figures — not all considered gender specifically in their writings, but may have offered passing commentary about the nature of women. Women also authored some of the Enlightenment canon in a variety of fields.

Those who wrote specifically on the nature of women or on women's roles tended to reinforce traditional ideas based on "natural" (biological) differences or criticized as inferior those writers who advocated the inclusion of women in intellectual and other academic affairs. Such figures maintained various views, which ranged from allowing and encouraging women and young girls to pursue an education, to promoting equality of the sexes in economic and political life, to pointing out the contradictions of writers who advocated for being freed from arbitrary or absolute governments while maintaining a similar kind of control over women.

#### Relevant Historical Figures

The following alphabetical list of some prominent Enlightenment figures offers a quick reference of points of view concerning the roles of women in European society. An asterisk (\*) denotes an Enlightenment figure who did not explicitly write or speak on the roles of women, but whose views can be broadly interpreted to fall into a certain category. Placement into a category is based on a preponderance of writings from a figure; an essay could successfully argue for a figure's placement in a different category by using specific evidence.

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## Question 4 (continued)

<u><b>Inclusive view/Progressive ideas</b></u>	<u><b>Mixed view/Limited support</b></u>	<u><b>Exclusive view/Separate spheres</b></u>
d'Alembert, Jean-Baptiste le Rond	Beccaria, Cesare	d'Holbach (Paul-Henri Thiery)
Astell, Mary	Diderot, Denis	Jefferson, Thomas
Catherine the Great*	<i>Encyclopédie</i>	Kant, Immanuel
Cavendish, Lady Margaret	<i>Hobbes, Thomas</i>	Napoleon, Bonaparte
Châtelet, Emilie	<i>Hume, David*</i>	Rousseau, Jean-Jacques
Christina, Queen of Sweden	<i>Locke, John</i>	
Coffeehouses/Debate Societies	<i>Voltaire</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adkins, Elizabeth/Moll King</li> <li>▪ Carlisle House</li> <li>▪ Female Congress</li> <li>▪ Female Parliament</li> <li>▪ La Belle Assemblee</li> </ul>		
Condorcet, Nicolas		
Czartoryska, Zofia		
De Gouges, Olympe		
Franklin, Benjamin		
Herder, Johann Gottfried*		
Kauffman, Angelica		
Macaulay, Catharine		
Maria Theresa*		
Montagu, Lady Mary Wortley		
Montesquieu, Baron de		
<i>Salon/Salonnieres</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaumer, Mme.</li> <li>▪ Gacon-Dufour, Mme.</li> <li>▪ Geoffrin, Marie-Therese</li> <li>▪ Herz, Henriette</li> <li>▪ Lespinasse, Jeanne-Julie</li> <li>▪ <i>Le Journal des Dames</i></li> <li>▪ Maine, Duchesse</li> <li>▪ Maintenon, Mme.</li> <li>▪ Necker, Suzanne</li> <li>▪ Poisson, Jeanne-Antionette</li> <li>▪ Pompadour, Mme.</li> <li>▪ Puisseux, Mme.</li> <li>▪ Rambouillet, Catherine</li> <li>▪ Récamier, Jeanne-Françoise</li> <li>▪ Sevigne, Mme.</li> </ul>		
de Staël, Germaine		
Smith, Adam*		
Smith, Charlotte Turner		
Wollstonecraft, Mary		

Any period that would be termed "Enlightenment" must have had its share of intellectual revolution, and it did. Not since classical times had Europeans from so many backgrounds come together, championing reason and natural liberty to guide human society. But in all their flowering rhetoric, women were often overlooked and the role of the opposite sex in society would be questioned with no clear cut answer. Some philosophers chose to reaffirm the old domestic role of women while some championed greater freedom for them.

Of all the Enlightenment philosophers (A majority of whom were men), Jean Jacques - Rousseau was perhaps one of the most exciting and controversial. His views in particular, laid out in his book "Emile", describe social relations between women and men to be dominated by "separate spheres"; that is, a woman should focus on house keeping and child rearing, while the man could do whatever he really pleased. He used rationality and to reason the status quo of social relationships and presented a highly comprehensive, but patriarchal view that inspired many prominent women thinkers. In this

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regard, Rousseau, foremost among the philosophers, advocated a different outlook on the same social structure through an "Enlightened lens."

However, many philosophers culturally rejected the old stereotypical notions of women and welcomed female ~~intellect~~ intellectualism; Voltaire, a prominent and vitriolic critic of the

Ancien Régime, lived and discussed theories with one of his close confidants, Madame Ciry, especially when he lived in exile in Geneva.

However, women themselves showed that the role of women would not be so limited by Rousseau's "separate spheres". In particular, Mary Wollstonecraft and Olympe de Gouges, from Britain and France respectively, fiercely admonished Rousseau for his sexist take on society. Olympe de Gouges would later go on to publish the Declaration of the Rights of Women during the French Revolution, proclaiming that women were integral components of society and should not be ignored. Aside from outright political thinkers, many high bourgeoisie women proved invaluable as they welcomed and hosted salons where Enlightenment thinkers like Diderot and Voltaire could come and talk freely. Slowly, they had slowly begun to establish

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themselves as different.

Even during the Enlightenment, many traditional values were still held, even reinforced by the collection of new ideas. As a whole in the long run, however, the role of women was looked upon with a new interest, not only by revolutionary male figures, but by female intellectuals and everyday women.

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During the Enlightenment period in Europe, there was question about the amount of influence ~~women~~ and power women should have in society. People like Mary Wollstonecraft believed that women should have influence and rights, and others, such as Jean-Jaques Rousseau believed that women should leave such influence to men.

Mary <sup>Wollstonecraft</sup> ~~Wollstonecraft~~, in "The Vindication of the Rights of Women", expressed the belief that women, equals to men, should have the right to influence their society. This belief was greatly frowned upon, because up to that point, women had virtually no rights. She argued that women should have rights when it came to political decisions, and should be allowed to work and be paid. Womens rights activists of the time argued that women should be allowed to vote and hold office. They also worked towards better education for women, further allowing them to have jobs in ~~arts~~ and science, which many women were denied the right to. They also wanted rights to have their own property and have custody of their children. At the time anything a woman owned

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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 exam.

became her husbands at marriage, including children.

In opposition to Wollstonecraft, was Jean-Jaques Rousseau, an Enlightenment thinker who wrote "The Social Contract". Rousseau believed that women and men lived on "seperate spheres". He believed that the role of men was to work and be in charge. He supported the idea that only men were suited to vote and have jobs. Rousseau claimed that women were designed to be domestic figures. He believed their job was to do household jobs, cook, clean, and watch and raise their children. Some arguments oppasing feminist movements was that women, who were uneducated, were inferior to men, and were also too delicate and frail to do mens work. They also argued that God created women as a servant and companion to men, and that wives should be subservient to their husbands according to the Bible. Some even argued that women were more property to men than equal citizens.

To conclude, both the ideas of Wollstonecraft and Rousseau contributed to the



The Enlightenment marked a significant change in the role of women. Women still will not achieve many of their goals, such as the right to vote, until the 20<sup>th</sup> and late-19<sup>th</sup> century. However, women's roles in society were under constant scrutiny, and while some figures, mainly women, advocated for their rights and equality, other figures of the Enlightenment did not approve of women's increasing significance outside the domestic home.

Having begun the feminist movements, women began to explore ways to influence society. A major Enlightenment activity was to go to salons.

This was a party of various intellectuals and artists gathering in the salon of someone's house. These parties were usually hosted by women, such as Madame Geoffrin, but usually only men attended.

Salons allowed free exchange of ideas, which allowed women to become more educated in politics and arts.

With this social education, women could even form their own opinions in these topics and partake in the free exchange of ideas. Some women even began to write about their ideas. Olympe de Gouges and Mary Wollstonecraft (The Vindication of Women's Rights) wrote about the male opinion that women are inferior to

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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 exam.

men and how men and women are actually equal. These two writers were very significant in the feminist movement. However, <sup>European</sup> men in the Enlightenment continued to believe that a woman's place is at home with her family.

While women were significant in encouraging exchange of ideas and playing patron (patroness) to emerging artists of the Enlightenment, they were not given credit for their influence. Women were advocating for their rights and equality, and men were trying to suppress their voice and keep them like prison slaves at home.

# AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY 2014 SCORING COMMENTARY

## Question 4

### Overview

The intent of this question was to have students analyze more than one idea held by one Enlightenment figure, and more than one idea held by at least one other Enlightenment figure concerning the roles of women in European society. The task required students to identify historical figures from the European Enlightenment and discuss those figures' different ideas of women's roles in society. Although not specifically required, the question provided students with an opportunity to contrast the ideas of those Enlightenment thinkers who argued for extending liberty and equality to women and emphasized reason, education, etc. with the ideas of those Enlightenment thinkers who offered new arguments for the exclusion of women from the public sphere, based on emerging bourgeois ideas of domesticity or on supposedly natural differences between the sexes.

### Sample: 4A

**Score: 9**

The thesis is explicitly and fully responsive to the question by clearly addressing two distinct and opposing sets of ideas (reaffirming the domestic role of women versus championing greater freedom for women). The essay has an effective organization, outlining the two opposing sets of ideas (represented by Rousseau and Wollstonecraft/de Gouges, respectively). The essay presents multiple layers of relevant evidence, including an analysis of Rousseau's *Emile*, the idea of "separate spheres," Voltaire's valuing of intellectual women, Olympe de Gouges' *Declaration of the Rights of Woman*, and women's role as hostesses of Enlightenment *salons*. The essay concludes with a sophisticated statement that points to the complexity of views concerning women's roles in the Enlightenment. The essay's complex and nuanced thesis, abundant specific evidence, and avoidance of monolithic characterization of the period earned it the maximum of 9 points.

### Sample: 4B

**Score: 6**

The thesis is explicit and responsive to the question, addressing two distinct sets of ideas (exemplified by Wollstonecraft and Rousseau). This serves as the organizing strategy for essay, which proceeds to outline (a) Wollstonecraft's argument that women should have a larger role in society as opposed to (b) Rousseau's insistence that separate social spheres should be maintained. This essay is balanced, covering all major elements of the question. Some relevant evidence is presented, but the essay also contains some overstatements regarding women's political equality in the paragraph on Wollstonecraft; in the paragraph on Rousseau the references to biblical authority and women as property are also overstated. These and other examples of unspecific references and vague or incorrect attribution of ideas to historical figures kept the essay from earning a score higher than 6 points.

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**Question 4 (continued)**

**Sample: 4C**

**Score: 3**

The attempted thesis and evidence address just one Enlightenment idea concerning the roles of women in Society: that of a beginning of “the feminist movement.” The evidence in support of that claim is adequate, with a discussion of *salons*, Mme. Geoffrin, Olympe de Gouges, and Mary Wollstonecraft’s *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. But the essay fails to fully address the question in the prompt because the views of Enlightenment figures opposing the expansion of women’s rights are not discussed, except for an unspecific, cursory comment that “men in the Enlightenment continued to believe that a woman’s place is at home with her family.” As a result of failing to engage with the comparative aspect of the question, the essay shows serious imbalance, and its organization is not effective in answering the prompt. It earned 3 points for the multiple pieces of evidence in support of the one set of ideas it discusses.