



SAMPLE QUESTIONS

for the Redesigned AP European
History Course (as of August 2017)

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EUROPEAN HISTORY

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

SECTION I, Part A

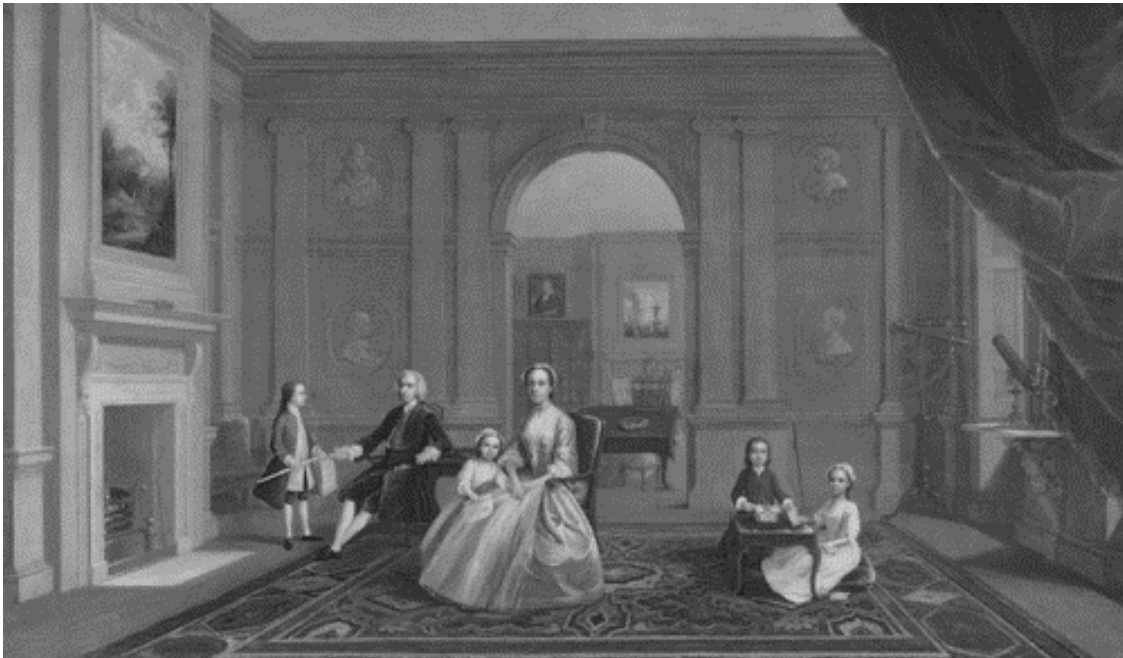
Time – 55 minutes

55 Questions

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by four suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case and then enter the appropriate letter in the corresponding place on the answer sheet.

Source materials have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

Questions 1-4 refer to the image below:



Arthur Devis, 1712–1787, British, *The John Bacon Family*, between 1742 and 1743, Oil on canvas, Yale Center for British Art.

1. The affluence displayed in the image is most likely a result of which of the following developments in early modern European history?
 - (A) An increasing standard of living as a result of the waning of the plague
 - (B) An increasing standard of living as a result of the commercial revolution
 - (C) An increasing standard of living as a result of the agricultural revolution
 - (D) An increasing standard of living as a result of early practices of birth control
2. Which of the following advances would have most likely contributed to the affluence shown in the image?
 - (A) An increase in the number of families involved in the cottage industry

- (B) The introduction of new business practices and a market economy
 - (C) The expansion of the enclosure movement
 - (D) Mercantilist practices of western European governments
3. During the eighteenth century, the ideals of family life as displayed in the image reflected which of the following changes?
- (A) Child rearing techniques remained largely static and unchanged throughout the eighteenth century.
 - (B) The ideals displayed in the image were increasingly adopted by wealthy peasant families
 - (C) The ideals changed over time as wealthy families devoted more resources to private life and comfort.
 - (D) As child mortality rates increased, wealthy families devoted less resources to child rearing techniques.

4. How did the ideals of family life as displayed in the image compare with family values of the working class in urban areas during the eighteenth century?
- (A) Working class families, although not as wealthy, grew up in a healthy environment in cities.
 - (B) Working class families were still the only victims of plague as a result of their urban environment.
 - (C) The rates of illegitimate births decreased in working-class areas.
 - (D) Working class families in urban areas were more often victims of poverty, crime, and an unhealthy environment.

Questions 5-8 relate to the passage below.

“When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty; ... lest the same monarch or senate should enact tyrannical laws, to execute them in a tyrannical manner... There is no liberty, if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers. Were it joined with the legislative, the life and liberty of the subject would be exposed to arbitrary control, for the judge would then be the legislator. Were it joined to the executive power, the judge might behave with all the violence of an oppressor.”

--Baron de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, 1748

5. The ideas in the above passage directly influenced
 - (A) the development of absolutism based on “divine right” of kings
 - (B) the growth of deism
 - (C) the development of capitalism
 - (D) the development of constitutionalism
6. Which of the following trends is best supported by the passage?
 - (A) Absolutism increasingly dominated western Europe throughout the eighteenth century.
 - (B) Enlightened despotism emerged in eastern Europe in the mid-eighteenth century.
 - (C) Natural rights philosophy inspired a challenge to absolutism.
 - (D) The Partitions of Poland resulted from a tyrannical monarchy.
7. The passage was likely inspired by the political ideas of
 - (A) Thomas Hobbes
 - (B) John Locke
 - (C) Jean Bodin
 - (D) Michel de Montaigne
8. *The Spirit of the Laws* most directly inspired
 - (A) the National Assembly during the early phase of the French Revolution
 - (B) the Committee of Public Safety led by Maximilien Robespierre
 - (C) the Consulate Period under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte
 - (D) the Brunswick Manifesto on behalf of French *émigrés*

Questions 9-13 refer to the passage below:

Sir,—Till now the Protestant religion has been opposed in my states; its adherents have been treated like foreigners; civil rights, possession of estates, titles, and appointments, all were refused them. I determined from the very commencement of my reign to adorn my diadem with the love of my people, to act in the administration of affairs according to just, impartial, and liberal principles....

Fanaticism shall in future be known in my states only by the contempt I have for it; nobody shall any longer be exposed to hardships on account of his creed; no man shall be compelled in future to profess the; religion of the state, if it be contrary to his persuasion, and if he have other ideas of the right way of insuring blessedness.”

-- Letters of Joseph II, Austrian Emperor, December 1787

9. The ideas expressed in the passage best illustrate which of the following Enlightenment beliefs?
 - (A) Beliefs that rejected the idea of organized religion
 - (B) Beliefs that promoted the idea of natural rights
 - (C) Beliefs that endorsed the idea of deism
 - (D) Beliefs that encouraged the idea of universal elementary education
10. The actions of previous Austrian rulers towards Protestants as described in the passage were a result of which of the following?
 - (A) The Peace of Augsburg which allowed individual Austrian rulers to choose either Catholicism or Lutheranism as the religion within their realms
 - (B) The Edict of Nantes which enabled Huguenots to worship freely and to fortify their towns
 - (C) Increased monarchical control over religion as a result of religious changes inspired by the Reformation
 - (D) Successful efforts of the Habsburg rulers to restore Catholicism throughout central and northern Europe
11. Which of the following rulers would have been most likely to approve of Joseph II's beliefs as described in the passage?
 - (A) Louis XIV of France
 - (B) Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor
 - (C) Napoleon Bonaparte of France
 - (D) Isabella I of Spain
12. Which of the following would have been least likely to approve of Joseph II's beliefs as described in the passage?
 - (A) Voltaire
 - (B) Denis Diderot
 - (C) Jean-Jacques Rousseau
 - (D) Maria Theresa
13. Which of the following policies would be a result of the Enlightenment and French Revolutionary eras?
 - (A) Many European governments extended religious tolerance to Christian minorities within their countries.
 - (B) Religion would continue to be controlled by European governments.
 - (C) All serfs would be emancipated throughout the continent.
 - (D) Male peasants would gain suffrage throughout most of the continent.

Short Answer Questions (SAQs)

1. Use the passage below to answer all parts of the question that follows.

“Thus the famous young warrior [Napoleon] had clutched at power and was not soon to let it slip....He was to etch the impress of his amazing personality with deep, precise bold strokes upon the institutions and the life of France.

He was, in reality, a flinty young despot with a pronounced taste for military glory. “I love power,” he said later, “as a musician loves his violin. I love it as an artist.” He was now in a position to indulge his taste.”

--Charles Downer Hazen, Professor of History at Columbia University,
Modern European History, 1917

- A. Provide ONE piece of evidence that supports Hazen’s contention in the passage.
B. Provided TWO pieces of evidence that undermines Hazen’s contention in the passage.

Key Concept 2.1.V.A, 2.1.V.B Skill: Analyzing Secondary Sources

2. Use the passage below and your knowledge of European history to answer all parts of the question that follows.

“Darkest England, like Darkest Africa, reeks with malaria. The foul and fetid breath of our slums is almost as poisonous as that of the African swamp. Fever is almost as chronic there as on the Equator. Every year thousands of children are killed off by what is called defects of our sanitary system. They are in reality starved and poisoned, and all that can be said is that, in many cases, it is better for them that they were taken away from the trouble to come.

....much of the misery of those who lot we are considering arises from their own habits. Drunkenness and all manner of uncleanness, moral and physical, abound.

....The grimmest social problems of our time should be sternly faced, not with a view to the generation of profitless emotion, but with a view to its solution.”

--William Booth, social reformer and founder of the Salvation
Army, *In Darkest England and the Way Out*, 1890

- A. Describe one demographic cause that led to the conditions described by Booth in the passage.
B. Describe one economic cause that led to the conditions described by Booth in the passage.
C. Explain one way in which the conditions described by Booth had improved by the end of the century.

Key Concept 3.2.II, 3.2.III Skill: Causation

Long Essay Questions (LEQs)

1. Evaluate the extent to which the “New Monarchies” during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were different than the “Absolute Monarchies” of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Key Concept 2.1.I

Skill: Comparison

2. Evaluate the extent to which the demographic patterns and the consumer revolution of the eighteenth century contributed to maintaining continuity as well as fostering change in family and private life.

Key Concepts 2.4.II, 2.4.III

Skill: Continuity and Change over Time

PERIOD 2 EXAM

MCQ Answer Key with Explanations (no answer key for SAQs/LEQs)

1. **(B)** The growth of the middle class as a result of the Commercial Revolution led to increased consumerism. The nobility and the bourgeoisie both enjoyed disposable income necessary for increased consumption of consumer goods including a wider variety of foods, clothing, and entertainment (e.g. operas, concerts, plays).
2. **(B)** The middle class drove the Commercial Revolution. It emerged as the business class in Europe, although not all middle class people were businesspeople. The wealthiest of the middle class tended to be successful businessmen or merchants. The middle class championed a free market economy and increasingly opposed government intervention in the economy.
3. **(C)** As child mortality rates decreased and the middle class grew in number, well-to-do families increasingly fostered closer relations between children and parents. Family portraits began to emphasize the children in the family. Prior to the eighteenth century, children were often expected to be seen, not heard; and were expected to behave like little adults. Punishment was far more severe.
4. **(D)** While the upper classes continued to enjoy a high standard of living, working class people in cities endured difficult circumstances until after 1850 when the standard of living for the average working-class family gradually improved.
5. **(D)** Montesquieu greatly admired the British system of government. In *The Spirit of Laws*, Montesquieu argued that dividing government into separate branches would result in an effective system of checks and balances that would prevent tyranny. Montesquieu's views were immensely influential on the Americans who drafted the Constitution and the French National Assembly that wrote the Constitution of 1791.
6. **(C)** Natural rights philosophy, first articulated by Locke, argued against absolutism. Locke believed that government derived its power from the consent of the people who elected their representatives to preserve their natural rights. These principles are at the heart of constitutionalism.
7. **(B)** See explanation to #6 above.
8. **(A)** See explanation to #5 above.
9. **(B)** Proponents of the Enlightenment believed that the natural right of liberty gave individuals the right to practice their faith without interference from the state or other religious groups.
10. **(C)** The Reformation in the sixteenth century destroyed the religious uniformity that had existed in Habsburg lands. Lutheranism and Calvinism made headway in many states within the Holy Roman Empire. The Habsburgs initiated the Thirty Years' War in 1618 to restore Catholic uniformity in eastern and central Europe. Therefore, Austrian rulers consistently sought to increase monarchical control over religion as a result of religious challenges of the Reformation.

11. **(C)** Napoleon saw himself as an “Enlightened” monarch. He ensured religious toleration for all Frenchmen, even Jews. Toleration had been one of the hallmarks of the French Revolutionary era, although the government grew increasingly hostile towards the French Catholic Church. Religious toleration is one of the most important characteristics of the Enlightened despots. Frederick the Great, Catherine the Great, and Joseph II did more than any of their predecessors in granting religious toleration to their subjects.
12. **(D)** Queen Maria Theresa of Austria and mother of Joseph II, opposed religious toleration as a threat to Habsburg security and unity. She scolded her son for his inclination toward religious toleration. After she died, Joseph had the freedom to grant toleration to his subjects. All of the other answer choices are Enlightenment *philosophes* who most certainly would have championed religious toleration.
13. **(A)** See explanations for #11 and #12.