



AP[®] European History 2001 Sample Student Responses

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~~The~~ The trend characteristic of the ~~mid~~ 19th century into the next decades in society had been that of sure progress and certainty ~~in~~ regarding more and more matters, concerning all aspects of people and the universe. With the Great Depression emerged the Age of Anxiety, during which time new theories in Physics and Psychology threatened to do away with antiquated ones, and seemed to expose the gradual erosion and influences of the human mind, as well as the infinite ~~scope and~~ ^{- and society -} scope and tendencies of the universe in which we live.

Previous knowledge of Physics began to unravel with the discovery that the atom, once thought to be the most minute of particles, could be split. Heisenberg's Principle of Uncertainty diminished (at least temporarily) any hopes of in-depth study on atoms, as their location and speed, dependent on each other, couldn't be determined. The most significant contribution came with Einstein's development of his Theory of Relativity, which linked time and space; and more importantly, directly implied that the universe's ~~is~~ characteristics, once thought to be concrete numbers and figures, ^{were} ~~was~~ rather abstract tendencies, which presented trends and as well as nothing to the point of absolute certainty.

The notion of the human mind as a ~~to~~ single, rational psychological state was directly contested

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with by the work of psycho-analyst Sigmund Freud. He divided the ^{processes} ~~processes~~ of one's train of thought into three distinct portions. ID represented one's most raw and primal urges, inherent to us from our evolution from a ~~more~~ less-developed life form. The Ego, was the part of the process that tells what one can or is capable of doing. Lastly, the Superego implies the highest side of thinking, what one should do, which takes into account various restraints, reasons, and motives. With his theories, Freud uncovered the subconscious ~~element~~ elements of the mind, ~~that~~ a discovery which brightened ~~many~~ those who refused to believe in a single line of thought, a rational and restrained deductive mechanism devoid of subconscious and primal urges.

Advances in Physics and Psychology discarded old ~~theories~~ theories, and ~~it~~ induced a re-evaluation of the individual and society. The individual, once thought to be purely rational, was found to act based on several subconscious elements, one of which turned out to be completely irrational (ID). Einstein's Theory of Relativity implied ~~to~~ the abstractness and unpredictability of the universe, which was then related to the ways and happenings of society. Dramatic changes in the beliefs ~~to~~ ~~the~~ regarding these two areas may have toppled old ~~beliefs~~ ~~in~~ notions of certainty, but have given rise to new ~~discoveries~~ discoveries.

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and ways of thinking that will continue to inch closer
and closer to the ~~settled~~ certainty of the truth, rather
^{simply} than that of our ~~own~~ own unproven theories.

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The period from 1900 to 1939 ~~was~~ ^{and beyond} was characterized ~~and~~ by a move from the rationality and ~~the~~ ^{emphasis on} natural laws of the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment ~~that~~ ^{culture} reflected this change, through ~~artists~~ ^{artists} such as Pablo Picasso, whose modern ~~style~~ ^{style} represented irrationality. But what caused this shift from the intellectual ideals followed for a century and a half? Advances in ~~physics and psychology~~ ^{physics and psychology} played key roles in ~~changing~~ ^{altering} the theory of reason.

In physics, ~~a~~ ^{the} new interest in atoms led to a startling discovery. Previously, Newton's law of gravitation had ~~fuelled~~ ^{fuelled} the idea that all of nature can be explained through universal laws, or ~~rules~~ ^{Rules} that are true all of the time. However, while studying the atom, scientists discovered that the path of an electron is random, with no law governing its movement. This led scientists to wonder if all of nature could really be ~~understood~~ ^{explained by laws,} as they had previously believed. Also, one of the most brilliant physicists of all, Albert Einstein's discoveries led to even more uncertainty. ~~His~~ ^{His} theory that as speed increases, time slows caused upset ~~among~~ ^{among} intellectuals, as it defied rationality. Thus, advances in physics led to ~~more~~ ^{uncertainty} about the world's ~~workings~~ ^{workings} and a realization that all of nature could not be explained by reason, some abstractness and randomness was also involved.

Another field which had long been dominated by the ideal of the natural law was ~~the~~ ^{psychology} psychology. Many early psychologists stressed the idea that human behavior was also driven by natural laws and by reason. However, the advances of Freud opened up a new idea: actions were not ~~based~~ ^{controlled} solely ~~by~~ ^{by} the ~~conscious~~ ^{conscious} and rational thought, but also by the workings of the subconscious. Carl Juen furthered this idea by theorizing that even the rationality of a subconscious was not correct. In other words, ~~the~~

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humans were not rational. These theories led to upset and a feeling of being lost, ~~and~~ even in your own mind. suicide, Alcoholism, and depression skyrocketed as individuals lost a sense of reason or rationality ~~by a subconscious, ~~new~~ ~~idea~~~~

Thus, advances in physics and psychology led to a furthering of the irrationality advocated ~~in the~~ ^{by the} romantics of the ~~late~~ ^{late} 1800's. Also, without natural laws governing society and science, people were unsure of where truth lay. The destruction and turmoil caused by world war I only furthered the confusion people felt about themselves and thier world.