

**AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 7

Considering the period 1933 to 1945, analyze the economic, diplomatic, and military reasons for Germany's defeat in the Second World War.

9–6: Stronger

- Has a clear, well-developed thesis.
- Is well organized.
- Addresses the terms of the question.
- Supports the thesis with specific evidence.
- May contain minor errors; even a 9 need not be flawless.

Indicators for 9–8

- Provides appropriate analysis and detail for all three sets of factors.
- Specifically addresses entire period from 1933 to 1945.

Indicators for 7–6

- Chronological introduction may stand in place of thesis.
- May discuss interwar period in general, prior to more detailed discussion of war years.

5–4: Mixed

- Contains a thesis, perhaps superficial or simplistic.
- Uneven response to the question's terms.
- May contain errors, factual or interpretive.

Indicators for 5–4

- Contains a thesis, possibly simplistic or a restatement, sustained by organization.
- Chronological introduction may stand in place of thesis.
- Responds to question unevenly but with specific examples; may omit one set of factors.

3–0: Weaker

- Thesis is confused, absent, or merely restates the question.
- Misconstrues the question or omits major tasks.
- May contain major errors.

Indicators for 3–2

- Responds to question incompletely with limited specifics.
- May contain multiple errors.

Indicators for 1–0

- Essays scored 0 or 1 may attempt to address the question but fail to do so.
- May not contain specific evidence.
- May contain a number of serious errors.

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 7 Historical Background

Economic Factors:

- May 1933: German Labor Front replaces trade unions.
- 1935 Nuremberg Laws and later loss of Jewish expertise and talent weaken German economy.
- 1936 “Four-Year Plan” largely failed: steel, iron, fuel, rubber all heavily dependent on imports.
- Food shortages continue until 1936, although rearmament did lead to economic recovery.
- German exploitation of economic resources of conquered states effective in short-run.
- Diversion of resources to pursuit of genocide proves costly.
- Allied bombing highly destructive, although German industrial capacity continues to expand.
- Soviet industrialization (5-Year Plans) underestimated.
- U.S. economic might underestimated: Lend–Lease program; “Arsenal of democracy.”
- Hitler’s refusal to commit to full war economy prior to 1943 is detrimental.

Diplomatic Factors:

- Hitler repudiates Versailles Treaty and League of Nations.
- March 7, 1936: Hitler remilitarizes Rhineland.
- October 1936: Germany allies with Italy, followed by Anti-Comintern Pact with Japan.
- September 1939: Having agreed to the absorption of the Czech Sudetenland the previous year, Chamberlain signed Munich agreement promising “peace in our time.”
- April 6, 1939: Following invasion of Czechoslovakia, Britain signed defense pact with Poland.
- May 1939: Germany and Italy enter military alliance, Pact of Steel.
- August 23, 1939: Germany and Soviet Union sign Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact.
- France and Britain declare war on Germany.
- German invasion of Soviet Union in June 1941 invalidates Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact.
- December 11, 1941: Germany declares war on United States, following Pearl Harbor.
- Hitler unable to shake solidarity of Big Three (U.S., U.S.S.R., G.B.)

Military Factors:

- Hitler announces military expansion in 1935.
- March 12, 1938: *Anschluss* brings Austria under German control.
- March 16, 1939: Germany invaded Czechoslovakia, occupying Prague.
- September 1, 1939: Germany invades Poland with 1.5 million troops—*Blitzkrieg*.
- Spring 1940 saw defeat of Norway and Denmark, Netherlands, and Belgium.
- June 14, 1940: Paris occupied, with Pétain signing armistice on June 22.
- Britain, however, evacuates troops from Dunkirk and also survives the blitz.
- June 22, 1941: Germany invades Soviet Union with 3 million troops.
- Two-front war, German overextension.
- Stalingrad, February 1943 leaves 300,000 German soldiers dead.
- Allied technological and industrial capacity surpasses that of Germany.
- Submarine warfare in Atlantic proves ineffective.
- North African front collapses after El Alamein in November 1942.

**AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 7 Historical Background (continued)

- July 20, 1944: Disenchantment with Hitler's military leadership leads to failed assassination attempt by Stauffenberg.
- German preparation for D-Day invasion is misdirected.

Note: Many of the examples listed above fit under several of the headings. For instance, a student might correctly discuss the invasion of Russia as either a diplomatic or a military factor. The foregoing guide is just that, a guide. It is NOT a checklist.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

7-A-1

The evil genius of Adolf Hitler lay in his power of propoganda and political maneuvering. In the years leading up to the outbreak of WWII in 1939, Hitler was able to rise in party ranks, establish himself as Führer, and elevate the German people to a Fascist frenzy of imperialist aggression. Despite these strengths to unite and motivate the German people under his absolute leadership, Hitler was unable to win the war for Germany for reasons economic, diplomatic, and military. He failed to mobilize the nation fully economically, constructed a weak ally network in Europe, and proved a pathetic military strategist. Because Hitler ruled autocratically and unilaterally his failings would not be corrected by others in Germany, culminated^{ing} in the nation's defeat in the War.

Hitler began preparing Germany militarily ~~in~~ before 1935, with increased troop and weaponry numbers, violating Versailles' agreements. Economically, however, Hitler refused to convert fully to the production of war matériel. He believed Germans should continue enjoying wealth as consumers. Despite economic minister Albert Speer's advice during the war, Hitler would not order total conversion from consumer to war good production until 1944. This was a desperate act that came too late, as German troops had suffered insufficient supplies while fighting abroad.

The fighting itself was a ~~strongly~~ German dominated affair on the Axis powers side. Germany had allies, but these ally states ^(Austria, Turkey, Bulgaria, Italy) were weak and could ^{Vichy} not contribute the level of money, troops, food, and supplies needed to win the war. ^{France} This was especially true once the Soviet pact of 1939 was broken with Operation Barbarossa in 1941, the same year as Pearl Harbor. The ~~isolation~~ ~~and~~ antagonism of the USSR and the entrance of the ultra-powerful U.S. into the war rang the death knell, diplomatically, for Germany. The fall of Mussolini ~~to~~ in 1943 was the loss of a fellow Fascist and marked the

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

C-7

7-A-2

almost full diplomatic isolation of Germany from any other formidable state in Europe.

The lack of strong allies and the antagonism of the Soviets was combined with bad military strategy, a combination which spelled defeat for the Germans in the field. Hitler was not a military strategist. Several coups by frustrated military officers, ^{which} failed, were planned to overthrow the inept military leader. Hitler did have Rommel's effective Africa Korps; this effective unit would, however, ~~be~~ be overshadowed by bad decisions. Hitler bombed London and Britain's countryside, which did little but unite and galvanize the British people. Also, Hitler miscalculated the Allied amphibious landing; ^{in 1944} he sent a huge majority of military strength to Calais, while Allies actually land^{ed} at Normandy. This defeat lead to the opening of the Western Front, the Battle for Germany, and ^{the war's end in May 1945.} Hitler's mistakes ~~was~~ strategically, diplomatically, and economically proved to be the ~~defeat~~ downfall of Germany. Perhaps if Hitler had trusted the advise of his specialists in these three areas, Germany could have won. Luckily for the democratic powers of the victors and his foe Stalin in Communist Russia, Hitler listened to no ~~one~~ ^{advice} but his own ^{that of} dogmatic agenda.

Part C, # 7

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

7-B-1

From 1933 to 1945, Germany began to aggressively sweep its way through Europe. They began to annex several countries and make Britain and France very mad. Throughout this period, Germany would make several economic, diplomatic and military mistakes which would eventually lead to their defeat in the Second World War.

Before the Second World War began, many countries, including Germany, began to build up arms and militarize. During the war, the Allies were ~~trading~~ receiving help from the United States, who had established themselves as a world power. Germany had chosen Italy and Japan as its allies, who weren't as powerful economically as the United States. They could give Germany the superior grade of military equipment as the United States. During the war, Germany also began the Holocaust or the burning of Jews and other so-called undesirables. They used much of their government money on the ghettos containing the Jews, their transport to the concentration camps, the concentration camps themselves, the man power to run the camps and the materials used to kill these people. This vast amount of money could be used to further

finance the war.

The Germans also made diplomatic mistakes in who they chose to be their enemies. After Hitler ~~re~~renegged on the Nazi-Soviet Non-Agression Pact of 1937, Stalin wanted revenge. He and his Soviet forces were set out to severely punish the Germans. He also managed to make enemies among Britain and France. Both countries opposed Hitler's styles that he used in militarizing during a peaceful time. He promised that he'd curtail his actions, but those promises were unfulfilled. This led to Britain and France declaring war on Germany, and later the United States.

Military mistakes were also committed by the Germans. Instead of letting the Soviets advance, they fought a few battles in the Soviet Union. One such was the Battle of Stalingrad, which took place during the winter. Because the Germans weren't use to Soviet winters and didn't anticipate to stay long, many German soldiers died from exposure to the cold weather. In the battles leading up to the D-day invasion, the Germans should have attacked weaknesses, but chose not to. This allowed the Allied forces to regroup and prevent the Germans from making

Part C, #7

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination. 7-B-3

another offensive strike.

In conclusion, the Germans made several careless errors from 1933 to 1945, which led to their defeat in the Second World War. They spent their money on a death campaign rather than their military campaign. They chose unreliable allies, economically. They made enemies with the wrong countries and didn't attack military weaknesses that could have been to their advantage.

Many wars have come and gone throughout history. War has always caused and will always cause extreme damage and tension between nations. One of the worst wars throughout history was the Second World War. In wars, someone obviously has to be defeated. Sometimes it is apparent as to who will win a battle, and sometimes it is not. There are many reasons as to why Germany was defeated during the Second World War. The reasons for Germany's defeat can be placed into three categories: the economic reasons, the diplomatic reasons, and the military reasons.

Germany became a very strong country in the period before the Second World War. Hitler came to power in Germany, and with him came the Nazi ~~party~~ party, and many problems. Economically Germany seemed to be doing all right. They certainly had plenty of tanks, guns, and poison gas to win battles and fight during the war. But, like in many war-torn countries, soldiers at the front weren't getting all of the supplies that they needed to survive, and neither were the people who were waiting at home. The economic reasons for Germany's defeat weren't very significant and were not the major contributing factor to the defeat.

Adolf Hitler took power and became a very strong and powerful leader in Germany. He was so strong, in fact, that he didn't think he could lose. Hitler's advisors or other top-notch people in command didn't think it was possible for them to lose either. Germany made some very bad decisions which caused the war, the first of these bad decisions starting in the

Balkans. When Germany decided to move in, other countries came to their aid, uniting against Germany. Then, Germany decided to turn on Russia, and that wasn't a very good idea either. Germany's diplomatic decisions weren't the very best because of Hitler's desire to kill as many Jews as possible during the Holocaust, he had to face the consequences at the end of the war. It also wasn't a smart idea for Hitler to invade neutral Belgium, because that turned Britain and France against him. Germany definitely didn't make the smartest decisions possible when it came down to diplomacy. The most influential and significant reason, besides diplomatic reasons, for Hitler's defeat were his military decisions. When Hitler decided to invade Russia, he thought he was making a great decision. If he stopped the fighting in the East, then he could concentrate on the fighting on the Western Front. What wasn't smart of Hitler was to take his army into Russia, a country that the German Army did not know well, to stop the fighting. He also didn't consider the fact that they might be there during the winter, so the German Army didn't have any extra clothes to keep themselves warm. Not only did the German Army end up rampaging the Russian countryside, but ~~they~~ some of the Army also ended up dying. ~~Germany's~~ Germany's strategy on the Western Front on D-Day must not have been very well either, because that's when the allies started to gain all their ground. Hitler's didn't make

7

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

7-6-3

the best military decisions possible.

All in all, economic, diplomatic, and military decisions led to Germany's defeat in the Second World War.

Many people make mistakes, but Germany just made too many and weren't prepared enough to win a war of the

magnitude of the Second World War. Many more wars will come and go, and many more countries will fight.

Germany was just one of the countries that suffered defeat in a war out of the millions that have faced

that end.

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY 2006 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 7

Overview

The primary intent of this questions was to determine if students could demonstrate an integrated understanding of the factors leading to Germany's defeat in the Second World War and if they could show a relationship between the prewar period of Nazi rule and the war years. The question was also designed to have students demonstrate what they knew about the 1930's, to analyze the Second World War in terms of cause and effect, to analyze the war from the Allied perspective, and to see the interrelationship of diplomacy, economics, and military events.

Sample: 7A

Score: 9

This essay has a very strong, analytical thesis that covers all aspects of the question. Economic discussion begins in the 1930's and rightly stresses Hitler's intentional and prolonged unwillingness to convert to a total war economy and the consequences thereof. The diplomatic discussion contains an extensive list of Germany's allies, judged to be of little value, and stresses the significance of the repudiation of the Soviet–German nonaggression pact and the entrance of the United States into the war. Poor military strategy is exemplified by plots against Hitler, the ineffectiveness of the *Blitzkrieg*, and the poor preparation for D-Day. The conclusion draws the various reasons for German failure together nicely in Hitler's refusal to trust the advice of specialists.

Sample: 7B

Score: 6

This essay contains an adequate thesis. The economic factors cited for Germany's defeat include the economic strength of the United States and the diversion of German resources to the Holocaust. The student discusses diplomatic consequences of the failure of appeasement as well as the German repudiation of the Soviet–German nonaggression pact, although the chronology of these events is not clearly conveyed. Military reasons for Germany's defeat include the failed invasion of Russia and Germany's poor preparation to repulse the Allies in Normandy.

Sample: 7C

Score: 3

This essay's thesis is essentially a restatement of the question. The student claims that Germany was doing all right economically but that both soldiers and civilians lacked adequate supplies. Additionally, the assertion that Hitler's advisors agreed with him is an error. World War I, rather than World War II, is reflected in the discussion of diplomacy. While the military discussion rightly focuses on the failed Russian invasion, it refers only vaguely to D-Day strategy.