

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2007 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 6

“In the second half of the nineteenth century, most European governments were conservative.” To what extent is the quotation above an accurate statement? Use specific examples from at least TWO countries.

8–9 Points

- Explicit thesis responds fully to all parts of the prompt.
- Consistently clear organization supports the argument.
- Demonstrates an accurate understanding of conservatism as it related to nineteenth-century Europe.
- Clearly develops two relevant and specific examples.
- Evidence connecting examples and conservatism is specific.
- The concept of “extent” of the quote’s accuracy is addressed in the argument.
- Errors do not distract from the argument.

6–7 Points

- Explicit thesis is responsive to the question, perhaps less fully than in the 8–9 category.
- Organization is clear but may not be consistently followed.
- Suggests an understanding of nineteenth-century conservatism (may be contextual).
- All assertions are supported by using at least two countries (one assertion may be more developed than the other).
- “Extent” of accuracy may be more implied than specific.
- Errors may detract from the overall essay.

4–5 Points

- Thesis is explicit but may not respond fully to the entire question.
- Organization is less effective than in essays scored higher.
- Demonstrates a simplistic understanding of nineteenth-century conservatism.
- Utilizes relevant examples, but examples lack specificity.
- Makes some attempt to link the quote to chosen examples, but linkage is tenuous or underdeveloped.

2–3 Points

- Thesis is not explicit or merely rephrases/repeats the question.
- Unclear, ineffective organization.
- Shows little knowledge of nineteenth-century conservatism.
- Fails to generate relevant examples in one or two countries.
- Serious imbalance—makes little attempt to connect the examples to the quote.
- Several distracting errors.

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Question 6 (continued)

0–1 Point

- No discernable attempt at a thesis.
- No discernable organization.
- Little or no understanding of nineteenth-century conservatism.
- Does not correctly use two examples of European countries.
- Little or no supporting evidence.
- No attempt to explain the relationship of conservatism and the given examples, or has false linkage.
- Numerous errors that distract from the thesis.

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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 examination.

In general, it can be said that in the second half of the nineteenth century, most European governments were conservative. The most notable were the Austro-Hungarian empire, Russia, and Prussia (later the German Empire). Great Britain gravitated between liberal and conservative governments, but by continental standards was quite liberal.

Austria had always been a very conservative state. After the Napoleonic Wars, under the leadership of prince Metternich, they were the most conservative government on the continent. All the revolutions of 1848 were brutally crushed. There came a time, however, when the Magyar nobility of Hungary were becoming too much to handle. At this time, the Austrians made concessions and formed what became known as the dual-monarchy. Both Austria and Hungary had the same monarchy, but were otherwise two separate countries. Nationalism had triumphed for the Hungarians, but both governments within the Austro-Hungarian Empire remained conservative until the end of the First world war, when the empire was dissolved.

Another very conservative country, some would even say more so than Austria-Hungary, was that ~~of Prussia~~ of Tsarist Russia. With the possible exception of Peter the Great and ~~Catherine the Great~~ ^{Catherine the Great}, who is considered to have been an Enlightened Despot, most every Russian

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~~TSAR~~ TSAR was ultra conservative. Even Peter and Catherine turned conservative by the end of their reign. It was not until ~~the~~ around this time period that the Russian Serfs were finally emancipated, something that had happened ~~centuries~~ centuries earlier in other parts of Europe. During this time, there were also multiple small uprisings in Russia all of which were brutally crushed by the TSAR.

Another example of conservatism was Prussia, which around this time unified with other states to form another conservative state, the German Empire. Prussia had always been conservative under the leadership of the Hohenzollern nobility and the strong military. Later, ~~Prussia~~ Chancellor Otto von Bismarck appealed to nationalism, but not liberalism, to help him unify Germany. The German Empire was almost as conservative as Prussia, even censoring the press and limiting student organizations.

Great Britain was a definite exception to the statement that Europe was largely conservative at this time. For some time, Britain had been rotating between Liberal and Conservative prime ministers and administrations. By continental standards, however, even the Conservative party in Britain was rather liberal. Indeed, one of the most significant changes in British politics, the expansion of the franchise, was done mostly by Conservative leaders. They believed that they could afford to

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do that, because people would tend to vote conservative, which brings up a point - the fact that Britain was moving towards a democracy, even when conservatives were in power, shows in continental eyes that they were very liberal. Of the earlier mentioned countries, the German Empire was a constitutional monarchy, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was ruled by the monarch, and Russia was ruled by an authoritative, autocratic Tsar. In comparison, Britain was very liberal indeed.

Using the above named information, it can be easily drawn that most, but by no means all, of the European governments in the second half of the nineteenth century were conservative.

Part C Q. 6

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Throughout the centuries forms of government have either become more and more conservative or more and more ~~liberal~~ liberal, and of course many particular events led to the forming of each type of government. To say that "In the second half of the nineteenth century, most European governments were conservative" would be a ^{It was quite accurate} partly accurate statement, with Metternich having led Austria in ~~the~~ a conservative direction, and the "Iron ~~Prussian~~ Chancellor" himself, ~~Prussian~~ Otto von Bismarck, advising Kaiser Wilhelm I in "Blood and Iron" and instituting his own balance of power.

Bismarck was a staunch conservative who ~~aggressive~~ always wanted Germany and successfully isolated France. ^{one of} The most important of Bismarck's actions was the Reinsurance treaty with Russia, which, at least temporarily, staved off an inevitable two-front war, if not war with France alone.

Now France on the other hand, the very force that Bismarck was trying to isolate, was leaning more left. The French, after fighting a bloody revolution at the end of the previous century, and following the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte and Louis Napoleon were ready for the political, social and religious freedom that they had so long been fighting for. French monarchs from Louis XVIII to Charles X to Louis Philippe and

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Part C Q.6

How Buly Louis Napoleon all failed in controlling the free liberalism of the French people. By the end of the nineteenth century France would become a Republic and remain so until modern times. So ultimately towards the end of the nineteenth century there were a combination of conservative and liberal governments across Europe, with the turn of the century bringing about even more staunchly conservative governments.

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When compared to the politics of today, every government in existence during the nineteenth century was extremely conservative. However, to claim that European governments were conservative in the second half of that century, for that period, would be far from correct.

Many radical changes either were occurring or had already occurred in Europe at this time. In France, for example, the practice of serfdom had long since been abolished. This was true for just about every other nation in its proximity as well. Russia was quickly becoming Westernized, despite having waited much longer to take measures like abolishing serfdom. Great Britain is probably one of the best examples of a liberal government. This is because throughout history nearly every civilization has had^a totalitarian form of government, led by a King, Emperor, or Dictator of some sort. Since the time of the Glorious Revolution, however, England has been one of the most democratic of all the nations of the world. Absolutism was struck down and replaced by a system in which the power of the Parliament was constantly increasing. Self-representation is one of the most radically

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liberal characteristics any government can have. It was a departure from the norms of the past, and a sign that England (along with most other European governments) were anything ~~but~~ but conservative.

In conclusion, the statement that ~~most of~~ ^{most of} the governments of Europe were conservative during the second half of the nineteenth century is not very accurate. They were quite forward-thinking in a variety of ways, when compared to governmental systems previous to ~~that~~ that particular period.

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2007 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)

Question 6

Sample: 6A

Score: 9

This essay's convincing thesis recognizes subtleties present in nineteenth-century European conservatism. Relevant and specific evidence from four countries is used to support the argument, including the point that Great Britain was an exception.

Sample: 6B

Score: 4

With a minimal thesis, this essay tries to maintain a focus, including some limited discussion of Bismarck's foreign policy and the rise of France's Third Republic. The student also makes some effort to address the extent to which the quotation provided is an accurate statement.

Sample: 6C

Score: 2

The essay acknowledges the historical context of conservatism and provides some information on Great Britain, but dwells on a much earlier era; Russia and France are barely mentioned. Minimal effort is made to address the extent to which the quotation is true, and the thesis is flimsy.