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Question 3

Describe and analyze changes that led to Europe's rapid population growth in the eighteenth century.

9–8 Points

- Explicit thesis fully responds to the prompt and refers to a minimum of THREE correct changes that led to European population increase in the eighteenth century.
- Clear, consistent organization completely supporting the thesis.
- Essay is clearly balanced; all topics ("changes") are covered at some length.
- Each assertion ("change") is linked to population growth by specific, detailed evidence.
- Any errors do not detract from the thesis.

7–6 Points

- Explicit thesis responds to the prompt with less depth but does refer to a minimum of THREE correct changes that led to European population increase in the eighteenth century.
- Organization is clear and effective but perhaps not consistently followed.
- Essay is balanced; all "changes" are covered at least briefly.
- Each assertion ("change") is linked to population growth by at least one piece of relevant, specific evidence.
- May contain an error that detracts from the thesis.

5–4 Points

- Thesis is explicit but not fully responsive to the question. May use only TWO correct "changes" from the eighteenth century, OR may have three or more changes, but only two are correct.
- Organization is clear and effective in support of the thesis but not always followed.
- Essay shows imbalance; some "changes" are not covered as in depth as others.
- Most assertions ("changes") are linked to population growth by at least one piece of relevant evidence.
- May contain errors that detract from the thesis.

3–2 Points

- Thesis is not explicit or acceptable; may merely repeat/paraphrase the question; rarely refers to more than two "causes."
- Organization is unclear and ineffective; usually follows a weak thesis.
- Essay shows serious imbalance; refers to more than one "change" but is specific with only one.
- Only one or two minimal uses of relevant evidence, less specificity, more generalities; linkage of causes to population increase may be weak.
- May contain several major errors that detract from the argument (i.e., too reliant on nineteenthcentury information).

1–0 Points

- No discernable attempt at a correct thesis.
- No discernable organization.
- Only ONE or none of the topics ("changes") is mentioned.
- Little or no supporting evidence is used.
- May contain serious errors (off task, completely incorrect era).

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Question 3 Historical Background

Material in this section is derived from the following texts:

Armesto, *The World: A History* (1st edition, 2006) Cannistraro and Reich, *The Western Perspective* (2nd edition, 2004) Hunt, *The Making of the West* (2nd edition, 2005) Kagan, *The Western Heritage* (9th edition, 2007) Lerner and Burns, *Western Civilizations* (13th edition, 1998) McKay, *A History of Western Society* (9th edition, 2008) Merriman, *Modern Europe from the Renaissance to the Present* (2nd edition, 2004) Palmer et al., *A History of the Modern World* (12th edition, 2007) Spielvogel, *Western Civilization Since 1300* (6th edition, 2006)

Though the evidence is fragmentary and based on few official facts, it is evident that the population of Europe, as a whole, grew quickly in the eighteenth century. The first official European census of the era was not taken until 1801 in Britain, but many historians estimate that the following growth took place:

- Russia's population tripled, 1700–1800
- Prussia: population doubled
- Hungary: population tripled
- England: population increased from 5.5 million to 9 million
- France: population increased from 20 million to 26 million
- Spain: population increased from 7.6 million to 10.5 million
- Total population growth: from 120 million to 190 million, especially after 1750

The following topics are examples (certainly not limited to these) that might be included in answering this question.

- Better transportation, better ability to deal with famine, move food around; diet improvements, great vegetables, potatoes, and other New World foods; more meat/protein; tea, boiled water, less likely to get sick.
- Commodities in general more available.
- Health care improvements (e.g., inoculations), gradual decline of the plague; use of cotton cloth that could be washed; vermin destroyed.
- Industrialization leading to breakdown of traditional families; more opportunity to marry younger.
- Gradual improvement of law and order; people less vulnerable to random violence; more sense of security.
- Not many major killing wars; armies not living off the land as much.

Various texts and historians list other changes in Europe that led to this population growth:

• <u>All texts</u> make reference to the benefits of the Agricultural Revolution and Enclosure Acts (in Britain), which helped to produce more food on less land with fewer workers, thus lowering the price of food and contributing to better diets, longer lives, etc.

Note: We must remain aware that the question refers to all of Europe and not just Britain.

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Question 3 Historical Background (continued)

Hunt

- Exploration and the Columbian Exchange introduced new foods (specifically the potato and maize) that were quickly adapted to the European diet, were easily grown, and had an impact on the diet and health of the poor.
- Medical care, though still embryonic in growth, led to a decline in the death rate (usually mentioned is Edward Jenner's inoculations against smallpox).
- Better weather (mentioned by several historians) led to more bountiful crops and cheaper food.
- End of the Bubonic Plague as an overall killer.
- Sexual liberation of the new urban dwellers led to more children; illegitimacy increased.

Cannistraro and Reich

• Agricultural workers tended to have higher birth rates with more children surviving as the death rate dropped.

Spielvogel

- Commercial capitalism led to prosperity and the ability to afford more children.
- End of clerical celibacy and the encouragement of marriage (may be a bit of a chronological stretch for this question).
- Legal/moral codes against infanticide.
- Kings encouraged increases in the number of subjects, leading to greater tax base, more soldiers, and stronger economic life.

Lerner and Burns

- Clearing of more lands opened up more fields for cultivation.
- Climate of the 1700s much more favorable to agriculture than that of the 1600s.

Armesto

- Improved hygiene (but unlikely to be overwhelmingly decisive).
- End of the use of swaddling of newborns.
- Growing praise of mothers breast-feeding their infants.
- Scurvy and smallpox contained (although this was replaced with typhus, cholera, typhoid in growing urban areas).

МсКау

- Early public health measures for sewage and burials.
- Drainage of swamps reduced number of dangerous insects.

Merriman

- Use of quinine water for fevers.
- Increased use of cotton cloth led to greater use of and washing of underwear.
- More disciplined armies spared civilians most of the long, bloody battles, and there was less pillaging of civilian property.

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Question 3 Historical Background (continued)

Kagan

- New inventions/methods of agriculture.
 - o Tull: seed drill, iron plows.
 - o "Turnip" Townsend: crop rotation.
 - o Arthur Young: Annals of Agriculture.

Palmer et al.

• Organized sovereign states put an end to civil wars, thereby allowing population to increase.

Additional Notes

- Earlier marriages as serfdom declined.
- Improved transportation of food (canals and roads). <u>NOTE</u>: NO railroads, steamships, etc., for this particular question (out of the time frame).
- Improved sanitation in some places (usually reference to cleaner streets).

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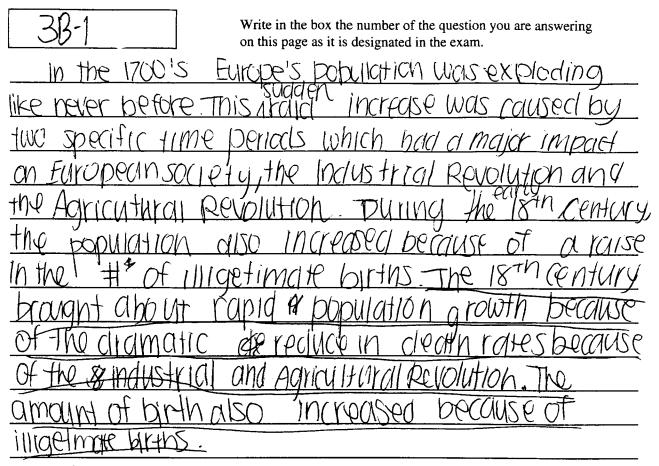
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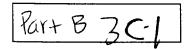
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AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY 2008 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 3

Overview

The question was intended to assess students' knowledge of the causes of a significant social/ demographic trend (rapid population growth) in eighteenth-century Europe that had profound consequences both during that century and afterwards. Students had two tasks: first to identify in detail ("describe") some major causes of population growth, and second to explain how those changes contributed to population growth ("analyze"). The question thus tested students' ability to analyze causal links and multiple contributing causes.

Sample: 3A Score: 9

This essay has a very detailed thesis that delineates four changes leading to population growth. It also provides an example of how two of these developments, which might have been treated together in one paragraph, are instead discussed separately with separate evidence. As would be expected at this level, this essay is rich in evidence, demonstrating both a grasp of the subject and clear organizational skills. Each eighteenth-century change is definitively linked to population growth. Various areas of Europe are used to prove the given points. The weakest use of evidence regards health, but the student also makes a qualifying statement about that topic. The error regarding "sanitary" hospitals is minor when compared with the wealth of accurate information.

Sample: 3B Score: 5

This essay is very typical of the 5–4 range because the thesis refers to three changes that led to population growth, but only two of those changes relate to the eighteenth century. The many details in the paragraph on the Agricultural Revolution clearly explain how the changes led to a drop in the death rate. The reference to food surpluses allowing people to move to cities is a throw-away statement. The paragraph on the Industrial Revolution was intended to deal with new health measures, but the evidence is all from the nineteenth century, negating the usefulness of the paragraph and keeping the essay from achieving a higher score. The reference to the increasing number of illegitimate children adding to the population growth is mentioned by many texts, but it is weakly supported in this essay.

Sample: 3C Score: 2

This essay's introductory paragraph and thesis attempt to identify three changes leading to population growth, but the supporting evidence is mostly incorrect or unacceptable. The introduction also tries to connect population increases to future prosperity. The paragraph on the Industrial Revolution uses two eighteenth-century developments but leads to a questionable effect on population growth (prosperity = increase?). The evidence about scientific advances is all drawn from the nineteenth century and is thus unsatisfactory. The reference to the role of women is not particularly an eighteenth-century development, and the attempt to explain changes in woman's domestic role as contributing to population growth is not convincing.