

# AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY

## 2008 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 7

**Analyze the ways in which the events of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic period (1789–1815) led people to challenge Enlightenment views of society, politics, and human nature.**

#### 9–8 Points

- Thesis is explicit and fully responsive to the question (clearly provides brief introduction of Enlightenment thought and how events challenged the three Enlightenment views).
- Organization is clear with consistent and effective analysis in support of the argument (may analyze each event and how they challenged Enlightenment views or may address in separate paragraphs).
- Essay provides a balance between BOTH analyzing the major events of the French Revolution and Napoleonic period that challenged the three Enlightenment views proposed before 1789 AND the response to those events at some length (response may also include the post-1815 period).
- Analysis of how previous Enlightenment views were challenged by events that occurred between 1789 and 1815 are supported by multiple pieces of relevant evidence.
- May contain errors that do not detract from the argument; even a “9” need not be flawless.

#### 7–6 Points

- Thesis is explicit and responsive to the question (provides brief introduction of Enlightenment thought and how events challenged the three Enlightenment views).
- Organization is clear with effective support of the argument but is not consistently followed.
- Essay provides a balance between BOTH analyzing the major events of the French Revolution and Napoleonic period that challenged the three Enlightenment views proposed before 1789 AND the response to those events at least briefly (response may also include the post-1815 period).
- Analysis of how previous Enlightenment views were challenged by events that occurred between 1789–1815 are supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence.
- Categories (Enlightenment views) may be conflated even at this level.
- May contain an error that detracts from the argument.

#### 5–4 Points

- Thesis is explicit but not fully responsive to the question (may put more emphasis on Enlightenment thought or how events challenged Enlightenment views).
- Organization is apparent and effective in support of the argument but not consistently followed.
- Essay shows some imbalance; mentions BOTH the events of the French Revolution and Napoleonic period that led to challenges to Enlightenment views proposed before 1789 AND the response to those events, but may discuss only one (may address only two of the Enlightenment views).
- Most of the discussion of how previous Enlightenment views were challenged by events that occurred between 1789–1815 is supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence.
- May contain a few errors that detract from the argument.

#### 3–2 Points

- No explicit thesis or a thesis that merely repeats/paraphrases the prompt.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective.
- Essay shows serious imbalance and may completely ignore one of the question’s tasks (analyzing the ways the events challenged Enlightenment views OR the response).
- Only one or two major assertions are supported by relevant evidence.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

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2008 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 7 (continued)**

**1–0 Points**

- No discernable attempt at a thesis.
- No discernable organization; may attempt to answer the question but fails to do so.
- One or none of the major topics suggested by the prompt is mentioned (may suggest a challenge to Enlightenment thought but supports it with evidence that is out of the time period).
- Little or no supporting evidence used.
- May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.

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

C7A-1

The 17<sup>th</sup> century Enlightenment brought a wave of new ideas to Europe, representing a deviation from the narrow-minded philosophies of the Middle Ages. However, the tumultuous events occurring in France with the revolution and reign of Napoleon led many people to reconsider those supposedly "enlightened" ideas. Although the enlightenment inspired new ideas throughout Europe, the events of the French Revolution and the reign of Napoleon forced people to reconsider the effects that the enlightenment ~~and~~ ideals may have on society, politics, and human nature.

The enlightenment brought a wave of new ideas to Europe which profoundly impacted society. One idea, the idea that man enters into a ~~social~~ contract with the state in which he may rebel if the state were to challenge his rights, resurfaced after the French Revolution and Napoleon. The 3<sup>rd</sup> estate in France felt that the monarchy was depriving them of proper representation in the Estates General, ~~and~~ formed their own assembly, and sparked a nationwide revolution resulting in great turmoil and conflict. The notion that man ought to have such a right to rise up

7A-2

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

against authority did not seem so legitimate now. People began to ~~start to~~ put more trust in rulers and parliamentary bodies, for they feared ~~the~~ dire consequences if a similar revolution were to ensue. Furthermore, the Enlightenment brought several ideas regarding religion, ~~namely~~ that of ~~Voltaire~~ <sup>Voltaire</sup> who seemed to hate ~~the~~ the ~~old~~ oppressiveness of religious tradition and advocated tolerance and the search within oneself for solace. After the radical events of the revolution in France and the tyrannical reign of Napoleon, however, people began to turn to conservatism of religion in hopes of avoiding such a revolution or despotism. People thought that if they had a strong religious foundation to unify them, there would be no cause to mimic the revolution or rule of Napoleon, both ~~of~~ having been devoid of strong religious ties.

In addition, the events in France made people reconsider Enlightenment politics, particularly those of Thomas Hobbes. Hobbes, the author of the Leviathan, advocated the need for an ~~authoritative~~ authoritative, supreme, absolute ruler to govern the people. However, after Napoleon assumed power, deemed himself emperor, and tried ~~to~~ to conquer the

world (so it seemed), people began to fear putting too much power in the hands of a single man. Furthermore, the despotic rule of Cromwell in the last phase of the French Revolution in which he deemed himself "consul for life" exacerbated those fears as well. The congress of Vienna was, in effect, dedicated to making sure no power could try and assert such power as France had under Napoleon.

Lastly, the tumultuous 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in France changed the way people perceived human nature in the enlightenment. Enlightenment ideas regarding human nature include the belief that humans are inherently good along with some beliefs that humans are inherently violent beings.

John Locke advocated the notion that humans are a blank slate at birth, to be filled with experience, a notion known as "tabula rasa." ~~There~~ The

~~notion~~ multitude of false perceptions and accusations ~~over~~ prevalent in the French Revolution, such as the "Great Fear", led people to question this notion of tabula rasa, believing more in the notion that people have inherent violence in them. Notions such as utilitarianism (the greatest good for the greatest number) also was questioned because the 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate believed their views represented the greatest good for most of France. People essentially began to lose faith in human nature.

7A-4

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

The ~~am~~ French Revolution and rule of Napoleon demonstrated to people the need to be open to changing ones mind based on circumstances. People cannot become too comfortable and reliant on one point of view because the world ~~was not~~ is ~~not~~ ~~inhabited~~ inhabited by billions of points of view.

Q 7B-1

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

Although every war and revolution brings conflicting views of society into perspective the French Revolution and Napoleonic Era definitely left a distasteful feeling for Enlightenment ideas. It did this mainly by using Enlightenment views such as: Liberalism, progress and a hope for an enlightened absolutist and pointing them out with blood as this was one of the bloodiest and most disturbing times in European history.

The Enlightenment ideal of Liberalism in politics was the basis of the American Revolution, and the French took greatly from the Americans. Liberalism stresses the right to pursuit of ~~happiness~~ life, liberty and ~~the~~ ~~right~~ of happiness. In ~~the~~ the monarchical world this was an extremely radical form of politics. This was precisely the weapon that the French used for storming the Bastille on July 14 and inciting the French Revolution. The Revolution basically started because the French were taxed beyond belief. Many Americans and likewise all of Europe felt that the bloody revolution of France did not embody the times. In fact France ended up declaring war on almost all of Europe after ~~the~~ 1791 in order to spread their new form of government. From that point on all of Europe was determined to stop the radical nature of the French.

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

Q7B-2

Some other Enlightenment views at the time ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> Voltaire's statement that the best a country ~~could~~ <sup>could</sup> hope for was an enlightened absolutist and that progress was possible. Both of these views backfired when Napoleon came to power in 1799. Although he was technically a dictator, the absolutist views of the Enlightenment did not apply to him and he set up a hereditary monarchy as an enlightened absolutist. He immediately began making domestic reform and assuring the people that progress was indeed possible. In this regard the societal views of the Enlightenment led to the ~~birth~~ <sup>birth</sup> of socialism through Robespierre ~~which led to~~ <sup>which</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> which advocated progress by total war basically.

By 1810 Napoleon's empire was at its peak and the world left stunned. ~~How could the~~ <sup>Apparently</sup> Enlightenment ~~views~~ <sup>views</sup> were not the best thing for a peaceful world.

This also leads to a debunking of tabula rasa and general will by Locke and Rousseau. After all of the evil that Napoleon's empire brought on the world it was hard to see human nature as born neutral. Maybe it would seem that people are inherently disposed to do evil. Similarly what is best for the people at the time probably should not be decided by



Q7B-3

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

an enlightened absolutist such as Napoleon.  
Theater general will and tabula rasa do not seem  
appealing views on human nature.

Thus the French Revolution and Napoleonic Era  
led people to challenge a series of events that were  
in fact based on assumptions from the Enlightenment.  
Liberalism ~~could~~ and progress could in fact  
be detrimental to society and human nature  
did not appear as it was seen there was a challenge  
to accepting Enlightenment views.

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

7C-1

Part C: (7)

Before the French Revolution and the Napoleonic era many French and other citizens were in full support of enlightenment ideas. But as the citizens witnessed the atrocities of the supposed enlightened leaders of the revolution and the madness of Napoleon they began to question the validity of these beliefs.

During the French Revolution many horrible crimes were committed by the revolutionaries, and their leaders. They claimed that they were enlightened and the government must be reformed. But in doing so they killed thousands of people even suspected of being against them. This was called the Reign of Terror led by Maximilian Robespierre, the leader of the revolution. This caused many French citizens to live in fear of these people who supposedly implemented enlightened beliefs.

During the Napoleonic era Emperor Napoleon the first ruled over France. Napoleon implemented enlightened views of education and religious tolerance but he was also a power hungry. He eventually gained control over most of Europe and committed horrible actions

Part C (7)

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

7C-2

against the Spanish citizens. He then also had a very unsuccessful campaign against Russia in which he failed miserably. Eventually he was taken out of power leaving a bitter bequest on Enlightenment ideas.

Due to the horrible crimes committed by these enlightened movements people began to question if these ideas of enlightened politics and the goodness of human nature were true. They felt that Enlightenment ideas led to more troubles. Many monarchs around France then began to tighten their grip and disallow many enlightened principals because they did not wish for their countries to go into total caos like France did.

# AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY 2008 SCORING COMMENTARY

## Question 7

### Overview

The intent of the question was to analyze how Enlightenment views concerning society, politics, and human nature were challenged both during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic periods and after 1815. The prompt implicitly required students to have an understanding of prerevolutionary Enlightenment thought on the subjects of society, politics, and human nature, and of the period from 1789 to 1815; they were expected to analyze the challenges to these Enlightenment views presented by the events of the period, both in the specific time frame of 1789–1815 and afterwards. However, most students read the question as intending to cover only the period 1789–1815, and this was considered a reasonable reading. Hence, it was possible to score in the top category without referring to the post-1815 period, though many stronger essays did discuss events after Napoleon’s fall.

### Sample: 7A

**Score: 8**

This essay has an explicit thesis. Its organization is clear, with consistent and effective analysis. The student’s arguments on society and politics are both persuasive and specific in terms of Enlightenment views, the French Revolution, and the Napoleonic period. The discussion of Enlightenment views is especially solid. No errors detract from the essay. More substantial evidence on human nature would have raised the score to 9.

### Sample: 7B

**Score: 6**

The thesis of this essay is specific. The student refers to three Enlightenment views and makes connections, however superficially, to both the French Revolution and the Napoleonic period. The argument about human nature—that “people are inherently disposed to do evil”—is minimal.

### Sample: 7C

**Score: 4**

This essay’s thesis is clear. The student attempts to relate Enlightenment views of society and politics to the events of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic period but in the end discusses only society. The analysis of Enlightenment views remains underdeveloped, and most of the references to the Napoleonic period lack historical context.