

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2009 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 4

Analyze the impact of the major developments of the Commercial Revolution on Europe's economy and society in the period 1650 to 1789.

9–8 Points

- Thesis is explicit and fully responsive to the question.
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
 - Analyzes the impact of major developments on both economy and society.
 - Essay may place greater emphasis on either the economic or social impact but must deal with both effectively.
 - Response is in the proper chronological context.
- Essay is well balanced; all major topics suggested by the prompt are covered at some length.
 - The impacts of at least several developments are fully analyzed.
 - Essays in this category must analyze at least one impact on Europe's economy and one on European society (with a third coming from either category).
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by at least one piece of specific evidence.
- May contain errors that do not detract from the argument.

7–6 Points

- Thesis is explicit and responsive to the question.
 - May contain some unevenness but should address all elements of the question.
- Organization is clear and effective in support of the argument but not consistently followed.
 - Analyzes the impact of relevant developments on both economy and society.
 - Essay may place greater emphasis on either the economic or social impact but must deal with both; one may be underdeveloped.
 - Response is mostly in the proper chronological context.
- Essay is balanced; all major topics suggested by the prompt are covered at least briefly.
 - At least a few developments are analyzed.
 - Essays in this category must analyze at least one impact on Europe's economy and one on European society.
- Most major assertions in the essay are supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence.
- May contain one major error or several minor errors that detract from the argument.

5–4 Points

- Thesis may be underdeveloped or not fully responsive to the question.
- Organization may be unclear but is still effective.
 - Addresses the impact of relevant developments on both economy and society.
 - Essays in this category may place nearly exclusive emphasis on either the economic or social impact but should mention both.
 - Response may contain material outside the proper chronological context.
- Essay shows some imbalance.
 - At least one major development is addressed and analyzed.
 - Essays in this category may show how a single development impacted both Europe's economy and society.
- A major assertion in the essay is supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence.
- May contain a few errors that detract from the argument.

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2009 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 4 (continued)

3–2 Points

- May contain a weak thesis or a thesis that merely repeats/paraphrases the prompt.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective.
 - Addresses the impact of the Commercial Revolution, often in general terms, on Europe's economy and society.
- Essay shows serious imbalance and/or simply lists developments.
 - Essays in this category may be largely about events that predate or follow the time period of the prompt.
 - Essays in this category discuss exclusively either the European economy or European society in this period.
- Essay contains little evidence.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

1–0 Points

- May contain an exceptionally banal thesis, or there is no discernable attempt at a relevant thesis.
- Little discernable organization.
- One or none of the major developments suggested by the prompt is mentioned.
 - Essays in this category may contain information that is simply common knowledge or be completely off topic (Columbian exchange, etc.).
 - Essays in this category may confuse the terms “economic” and “social.”
- Little or no supporting evidence is used.
- May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.

A-1

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

4A

The 17th and 18th century witnessed a far more dynamic trade among nations. Whereas the previous era was characterized by subsistence farming and activities of guilds, the new era opened the door to trade of surplus goods and activities of entrepreneurs and companies. The period also saw a great transformation of the society as a consequence to change in the economy.

A major feature of the economy of Europe in the period of the Commercial Revolution is that it became highly capitalistic. For instance, Netherlands and Britain, two countries which dominated the sea in the era and thus prospered in trade, saw a great increase in the number of joint-stock companies and entrepreneurs. Their sole purpose of trade was to gain the maximum profit out of trade. India, in particular, became the major target of European countries. The countries exported a number of products to the residents of India, while importing precious spices or raw materials to re-sell them in their homeland, thereby

A-2 4A2

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

earning a great amount of money.

The more significant aspect of the Commercial Revolution, however, is not the mere fact that it transformed the economy to become more capitalistic. The social systems and beliefs of the European countries were hugely transformed, many of the countries adopting absolutism and imperialism as major systems. As mentioned beforehand, the single purpose of the trade was to gain profit. Hence, a number of monarchs employed mercantilism to achieve the maximum profit out of trade and greatly supported commercial activities. Louis XIV, for example, succeeded in enhancing his treasury with the ~~aid~~ aid of Jean Baptiste Colbert by employing the system of mercantilism (although the wealth would be dissipated as a result of constant warfare.) Moreover, many kingdoms sought for the markets to sell their products and places with abundant raw materials in order to boost the profit. This invoked imperialism (although it would be further widespread ~~in~~ century later), and one example of ~~the~~ imperialism is shown in Seven Years War, or French and Indian War fought in America between ~~the~~ Britain and France. Both endeavored to expand the

A-3

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

4A3

territories, which they saw as a potential wealth.

The impact of the commercial activities in the 14th and 15th centuries was indeed huge, earning it the name of 'Commercial Revolution.' Its influence would persist to later centuries and would be even broadened.

B-1

4B1

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

Since the European discovery of New World and overseas colonies, European powers tried to maintain a favorable balance of trade with their colonies in order to benefit their economies. This mercantilist policy involved nations using the raw materials gained overseas and exporting the country's produce. Thus, reserves of gold and hard currency was a measure of a country's economic performance.

In this Commercial Revolution of 1650 to 1759, the volume of trade, trade routes, types of products for trade and transportation were markedly improved. England, with its control of colonies in America, was able to sell export products into these markets at often high prices. The Navigation Acts and various taxes in the Stamp / Sugar Acts, Coercion Act maintained English monopoly of ships, taxes and trade routes across the Atlantic.

Domestically, the volume of trade and the need for governments to organize their finances led to national banks in France, England and the Netherland States. In fact, in the 17th and 18th centuries, Amsterdam was a commercial center of Europe.

B-2

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

4B2

Society,

Trade brought more variety of goods to Europe, as exemplified by British and Dutch trade routes that passed over the southern tip of Africa to India in order to break the Mediterranean monopoly of Indian herbs and spices. A merchant class was also emerging in this period (to 1759) in areas such as British Isles, Amsterdam, Savoy, Venice, Flanders that were near the coast or had access to coal and resource deposits. Hence, improvement upon European's was quite limited until the Industrial Revolution.

The Commercial Revolution was also fostered by improvements in technology: the steamboat, navigation compass, before inoculation against African/American-based illnesses, stock-holding companies that funded the investments of companies contributed to the Commercial Rev.

Ideas on mercantilism were reviewed when in 1776, Adam Smith argued that government intervention (mercantilism) was damaging to the potential of free trade and competition. With the self-interests coinciding with basic rules of supply and demand, the economy would be more efficient. His *Laissez faire* appeared, described *intellec[t] of Nations* (1776) did not take great influence, however until the Industrial Revolution of the 15th and 17th centuries. In 1650 - 1759, mercantilist economics guided Europe.

401

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

~~401~~ PART B

The Commercial Revolution owes its due to a ~~small~~ number of major developments in trade that would go on to change Europe forever. It would lead to Europe instilling influence in foreign lands, and investing power in domestic lands.

Imperialism bases its ideology on foreign trade, which was prevalent among major European powers in the 17th + 18th centuries. Spain, ~~and~~ England, and France became major trading nations in Europe that developed out-ports in foreign countries to function as trade stops and outlets for the foreign people. This is how nations such as England at the time developed power and influence in India; by developing trade routes there, and in turn creating a growing influence there. Money made was sent back home to invest in more goods and in turn making more money for the nation, which is how the fiscal practice of mercantilism developed.

Suddenly, it became apparent that to become a major power in Europe,

402

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

The nation had to export as much as possible to foreign outlets for the highest gain possible. The Dutch made a great deal of money by transferring other nation's goods for them, but this practice soon became outdated when it became apparent that it was more profitable to ship one's own goods.

Competing countries such as Britain and France developed trade flows that linked directly to their rivalry, ~~and~~ which just furthered their rivalry. ~~France~~

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2009 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)

Question 4

Sample: 4A

Score: 8

This essay contains a good thesis that differentiates the period 1650–1789 from what preceded it. The essay focuses on a discussion of surplus goods and the rise of companies. The section on social impact is slightly less well developed but still very effective. The essay does a nice job in assessing colonial trade, the rise of mercantilism, and the growth of joint-stock companies. The discussion of entrepreneurship and capitalism notes their impact on society.

Sample: 4B

Score: 5

The thesis in this essay is not well developed. While the essay addresses the ways in which certain aspects of the Commercial Revolution affected the economies of Europe, it pays little or no attention to the social impact. The economic evidence in this essay is quite good, focusing on colonialism, the Navigation Acts, urbanization, trade, and so on. Despite these strengths, the response to the social component of the question is inadequate.

Sample: 4C

Score: 3

This essay contains a weak thesis that focuses on the flow of capital from foreign trade into domestic markets. Most of the evidence in the essay lacks specificity. The essay also focuses exclusively on the economic impact of the Commercial Revolution, without noting the social consequences.