

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY

2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4

Analyze the extent to which Frederick the Great of Prussia and Joseph II of Austria advanced and did not advance Enlightenment ideals during their reigns.

9–8 Points

- Thesis is explicit and responds to the question by considering the advancement AND lack of advancement of Enlightenment ideals by Frederick the Great and Joseph II.
- Organization clearly and consistently supports the argument.
 - Specifically mentioned Enlightenment ideals are clearly linked to the advancements AND lack of advancements of each ruler.
- Essay is balanced; all tasks are developed effectively.
- Assertions relating to each monarch must be supported with relevant evidence, with more than one piece of relevant evidence either for advancements or lack of advancements.
- Errors do not detract from the thesis.

7–6 Points

- Thesis is explicit and responds to the question with less depth, but it does refer both to the advancement AND lack of advancement of Enlightenment ideals of Frederick and Joseph II.
- Organization clearly supports the argument, with some inconsistency.
- Continues to link Enlightenment ideals to monarchs' actions, though one monarch's actions may be less developed than the other.
- Essay is balanced; all tasks are addressed at least briefly.
- Each assertion relating to each monarch must be supported with at least one piece of relevant evidence for both advancements and lack of advancements.
- May contain an error that detracts from the argument.

5–4 Points

- Thesis is weaker, but may not be fully responsive to all parts of the question.
- Organization is clear but not as complete; links between Enlightenment ideals and advancements or lack of advancements may be merely inferred.
- Essay shows imbalance; one major task may be omitted.
- Most assertions are 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 one that merely repeats/paraphrases the question.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective, usually following a weak thesis.
- Essay shows serious imbalance; most major tasks treated only superficially.
- Few assertions are supported by relevant evidence.
- May contain significant errors that detract from the argument.

1–0 Points

- No discernable attempt at a correct thesis.
- No discernable organization.
- Only one or none of the major tasks suggested by the prompt is mentioned.
- Little or no supporting relevant evidence is given.
- Contains numerous major errors.

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Question 4 Historical Background

Discussion from John McKay, *A History of Western Society*

How did the Enlightenment influence political developments? There is no easy answer. Thinkers outside of England and the Netherlands believed that political change could best come from above, rather than from below, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. It was necessary to educate and “enlighten” the monarch, who could then make good laws and promote human happiness.

Influenced by philosophical authors and government officials, some absolutist rulers of the later eighteenth century tried to govern in an “enlightened” manner. Yet the actual programs and accomplishments of these rulers varied greatly. It is necessary to examine the evolution of monarchical absolutism before trying to judge the Enlightenment’s effect and the meaning of what historians have often called the **enlightened absolutism** of the later eighteenth century.

Discussion from Jackson Spielvogel, *Western Civilization Since 1300*

There is no doubt that Enlightenment thought had some impact on the political development of European states in the eighteenth century. The philosophes believed in a variety of natural rights

Most philosophes believed that people needed to be ruled by enlightened rulers. But what made them enlightened? They must allow religious toleration, freedom of speech and press, and the rights of private property. They must foster the arts, sciences, and education. Above all, they must obey the law and enforce it fairly for all subjects. Only strong monarchs such as Frederick II of Prussia, Catherine the Great, and Joseph II of Austria supposedly followed the advice of the philosophes and ruled by enlightened principles.

Discussion from John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe*

It is to the Enlightenment that we trace the origins of many of our most strongly held political beliefs: the idea that people should be ruled by law, not rulers; the belief that a separation of powers ought to exist within government; the concept of popular sovereignty (authority should be wholly or at least partly based in the people, reflecting their interests, if not their consent); and the assumption that it is the responsibility of rulers to look after the welfare of the people.

Limitations on Enlightened Absolutism

Discussion from John McKay, *A History of Western Society*

Necessities of state and maintenance often took precedence over reform. Indeed, many historians maintain that Frederick and Joseph were primarily guided by a concern for the power and well-being of their states. In the final analysis, heightened state power was used to create armies and wage wars to gain more power.

It would be foolish, however, to overlook the fact that the ability of enlightened rulers to make reforms was also limited by political and social realities. Everywhere in Europe, the hereditary aristocracy was still the most powerful class in society. As the chief beneficiaries of a system based on traditional rights and privileges for their class, they were not willing to support a political ideology that trumpeted the principle of equal rights for all. The first serious challenge to their supremacy would come with the French Revolution.

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

Following the spread of the ideas of the Enlightenment across Europe, several monarchs took ^{some of} these ideas and applied them to their states. Included in this group were Frederick the Great of Prussia and Joseph II of Austria. Both of ~~which~~ them advanced the ideas of the Enlightenment to certain degrees, ~~both of them~~ but not entirely. Both Frederick and Joseph implemented religious toleration and legal reform, but only Joseph really attempted to create a more egalitarian society, and neither of them applied Enlightenment ideas to the issues of the army and diplomacy.

Firstly both Joseph II and Frederick II implemented religious toleration and legal reform. For example, Frederick outlawed the use of torture in many criminal cases, excluding serious ones such as treason cases. Also, because Frederick agreed with Voltaire on several ~~key~~ religious issues, he permitted full religious freedom within the

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Prussian state - no challenge for him really because he had no strong religious convictions. Joseph II implemented similar reforms through many of his edicts. In regards to religion, he even tried to weaken the Catholic Church in Austria which he viewed as ^{an} ~~a~~ opposite to his Enlightened society.

Secondly, Frederick the Great was a social conservative and ~~did~~ drew the line at seriously curtailing the influence of ~~the~~ Junkers whereas Joseph II ~~was~~ took a number of steps toward ~~the~~ attempting to end the domination of the nobility over society. Frederick's primary reasons for not touching the power of the nobles lay in maintaining his own. His father had made the Prussian monarchy strong by allowing the Junkers special privileges and control over their serfs. While Frederick William I had allowed some prosperous middle-class men to advance in the officer corps and in society, Frederick II was even more conservative and allowed for the

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officer corps to be limited ^{only} to the aristocracy. Frederick probably believed in philanthropy and social betterment because he did take steps toward ~~that~~ improving the welfare of his own serfs but was not willing to ^{forcefully} implement it broadly. Joseph II was quite the opposite. He issued a vast number of edicts and laws that freed serfs, limited the power of the nobility, and sought to make Austrian society more equal. Unfortunately for him, most of these schemes backfired: the nobility loathed him for cutting back on their power, needless to say. Ironically the ~~serfs~~ recently-freed serfs also did not care for him that much because they were encouraged not to by their superiors and were not well-enough educated to know that the reforms were meant to aid them.

Finally, in matters of diplomacy and statecraft, neither ruler really did anything to change what they did or how they accomplished it. Frederick the Great may have been an

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Enlightened despot but he did not buy into the argument of the philosophes against war, epitomized by the seizure of Silesia in the War of Austrian Succession. Nor did he alter the main source of Prussia's power: the Army, which was the fourth largest in Europe. Joseph II was very similar in this regard as well.

In Summary, both Frederick the Great and Joseph II advanced Enlightenment ideals to certain extents, Joseph II probably more than Frederick.

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

Both Frederick the Great of Prussia and Joseph II of Austria took their formerly backwards nations and, through progressive policies, managed to significantly change the course of their countries' economic and political ~~and~~ development. ~~These~~ These monarchs are often viewed as "Enlightened" rulers, because they ~~were~~ furthered Enlightenment ideals of individual significance, as well as political philosophies, like those of John Locke and Thomas Hobbes.

Frederick the Great of Prussia ~~effectively~~ maintained a mutually beneficial relationship between himself and the Junkers, or Prussian Nobility. He gave them leeway, and in turn, they supported him financially, which allowed him to provide the country with strong institutions. He granted limited religious toleration to his people. Frederick the Great understood the importance of social and Economic progress, and so he ~~encouraged~~ used his financial support to encourage progressive studies. He especially tried to foster a strong scientific community, which allowed Prussia to remain effective through the ~~scientific~~ industrial revolution.

Joseph II of Austria took steps to reduce serfdom within his country. ~~He~~ He also instituted policies intended to strengthen Austria's infrastructure. He pushed for significant social change, encouraging less wealth-stratification between the peasantry and the nobility.

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~~The~~ Despite their many reforms, Frederick and Joseph ~~were not entirely~~ ~~not~~ ~~meant to completely~~ didn't exemplify Enlightenment ideals all of the time. Frederick's relationship with the Junkers meant that he often favored their concerns over those of the peasantry, ~~which meant~~ Joseph II failed to extend religious toleration to his nation. ~~By~~

~~The~~ Frederick the Great and Joseph II both pushed ~~for~~ their countries towards greater equality and ~~for~~ more effective ~~for~~ industrial policies. Though they ~~were not completely~~ didn't follow Enlightenment ideals ~~so~~ exactly, both moved their nations towards the future.

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The ideas of the Enlightenment spread rapidly through like rapid-fire through Europe. In some cases, like the case of Frederick the Great of Prussia, the flame was extinguished. In others, like Joseph II of Austria, the flame was ~~not~~ nursed and allowed to burn.

Joseph II of Austria was definitely seen ~~to~~ as ~~not~~ not only an ~~Engl~~ Enlightened thinker, but an Enlightened ruler. He advocated for the greater learning for his people, opening up ~~the~~ schools and programs for the children to be taught. He also believed that women should also be educated, though he did not believe they should enter the workforce. Joseph also worked to lessen the burden on serfs. These practices advanced the Enlightenment.

~~Frederick~~ ~~Though~~ ~~Frederick~~ ~~Frederick~~ ~~the~~ ~~Great~~ ~~of~~ ~~Prussia~~ ~~did~~ ~~create~~ ~~reforms~~ ~~in~~ ~~Prussia~~, he should not be seen as an ~~Enlightened~~ ruler. He did not work to ~~advance~~ ~~ideals~~ ~~obvious~~. The Enlightenment held education to a high standard. To be educated was to be powerful and this was seen as a virtue that all should have. The reforms

C-2

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made by Joseph of Austria also reflect these ideals.

Frederick the Great of Prussia also valued education, but not to the extent of being an Enlightened ruler. Many of the working-class people were oppressed and denied an education. The Enlightened ideals were not enforced during his reign. Prussia was in a constant state of turmoil. Many still looked to the Bible as sole source of information, and many could not even read Latin & were forced to listen to it being read. This led to misunderstanding and dependancy, traits ~~desire~~ that the Enlightenment worked to reject.

~~The~~ Joseph^{II} of Austria ~~possessed~~ ~~ability~~ was able to advance the ideals of the Enlightenment through his focus on education & equality, while Frederick the Great only retracted them.

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY 2009 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 4

Overview

This question enabled students to show their knowledge regarding very traditional and mainstream topics in the study of European history: the Enlightenment, Enlightened Despots, and the application or nonapplication of Enlightened ideals by those monarchs. Like other free-response questions on the exam, this question also addressed Eastern European history but without specific stress on Russia and/or twentieth-century communism.

Sample: 4A

Score: 9

The thesis constitutes the entire first paragraph and incorporates important Enlightenment ideals. This essay is organized topically. The student often conflates advancements and nonadvancements within the same topical paragraph, but there is constant linkage provided to specific Enlightenment ideals or to those ideals mentioned in the introductory paragraph.

Sample: 4B

Score: 4

This essay contains an acceptable thesis and introduction that refers to Enlightenment ideals. Frederick the Great's advancements are linked to the Enlightenment concept of a strong central government. The discussion emphasizes the inequality of the power of the Junkers in Prussian society rather than Frederick's lack of advancements. Joseph II's advancements include his freeing of the serfs, but discussion of his "wealth-stratification" is vague and unsupported. Joseph II's lack of advancements include one comment (about intolerance), which is erroneous, thus leaving one task incomplete and placing the essay in the 4–5 score category.

Sample: 4C

Score: 2

The introductory thesis is weak. Joseph II's improvements in education are clearly linked to Enlightenment ideals, but there is no information given for his lack of advancements. Information for Frederick the Great is incorrect, so two major tasks (nonadvancements for both rulers) are omitted from this response.