

AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY
2010 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 2

Compare and contrast the economic and social development of Russia with that of the Netherlands in the period 1600–1725.

9–8 Points

- The thesis is clearly stated and compares and contrasts Russia with the Netherlands.
- The organization is clear.
- The essay is well balanced and deals with EITHER economic OR social development in BOTH Russia and the Netherlands.
- Assertions in the essay are supported by at least TWO pieces of relevant evidence and historical specificity.
- The essay makes connections between economic factors and social factors.
- The essay may contain some errors.

7–6 Points

- The thesis is clearly stated and compares and contrasts Russia with the Netherlands.
- The essay is well balanced and deals with EITHER economic OR social development in BOTH Russia and the Netherlands.
- Assertions in the essay are supported by at least ONE piece of relevant evidence or historical specificity.
- The essay makes connections between economic factors and social factors.
- The essay may contain some errors.

5–4 Points

- The thesis is clearly stated but uneven OR just restates the question. It tends to focus too much on similarities OR too much on differences OR too much on Russia OR too much on the Netherlands.
- The organization is unbalanced and not necessarily very effective.
- Assertions tend to be general statements supported by only ONE piece of evidence.
- The historical narrative is mostly factual with little analysis.
- The essay may contain minor errors that do not get in the way of the argument.

3–2 Points

- There is no thesis or the thesis just restates the question.
- The organization is unclear and ineffective.
- The essay shows serious and major imbalance.
- Statements are superficial and general without any factual support.
- There is little historical specificity for analysis.
- There is little or no analysis.
- The essay contains major errors that detract from the argument.

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Question 2 (continued)

1–0 Points

- There is no thesis.
- The essay is poorly organized.
- The essay is off task and nonresponsive to the question.
- The discussion is irrelevant.
- The argument is general, superficial, vague and simplistic.
- There is little or no supporting evidence.
- There is no analysis or historical connections.
- Major errors get in the way of the argument

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Question 2 — Historical Background Notes

The purpose of this question is to investigate the similarities and differences in Dutch and Russian socioeconomic development from 1600 to 1725. Though the time parameter begins in 1600, the majority of the essays will focus primarily on the periods after 1648 in the Netherlands and after 1689 in Russia. The year 1725 saw the death of Peter the Great, so this is a clue as to the focus of many of the essays. There are obviously more profound differences than there are similarities between the Dutch Republic and Russia. For this reason the essays will appear somewhat unbalanced, focusing more on contrasting than on comparing. In the spirit of the prompt, however, essays that receive scores in the higher ranges must both compare and contrast.

In the 17th century four common themes characterized both the Dutch Republic and Russia:

- Both were faced with the challenge of restive nobility.
- Both were struggling to finance massive military expenditures.
- Both were trying to make their economies modern to compete with powerful neighbors.
- Both were experimenting with ways to increase government revenues.

Because of the common fiscal issues similar to both countries, discussion of similarities will focus much more on economic issues than on social issues.

On closer examination, the Dutch Republic and Russia were far more different than they were similar:

- Russia had a relatively large noble class — 7 percent of the population; the nobility in Holland was restricted primarily to two thousand families out of a population of roughly two million.
- Russia was desperately trying to domesticate a large and dangerous boyar class; the primary challenge to the Dutch government from the nobility was found in the States General.
- Peter the Great was trying to transform the Russian service nobility from a social class based on blood to an aristocracy based on merit; the nobility of the Netherlands was defined by commercial excellence.
- Russia was clamping down on its serfs after numerous Cossack and agrarian revolts; serfdom in the Netherlands had disappeared almost two centuries earlier.
- Russia was a rigidly stratified society divided between noble and serf; the Dutch Republic was socially much more fluid and dynamic.
- Women in Russia were a major source of labor; women in the Dutch Republic were beginning to emerge as a truly modern class of leisure.
- There was no commercial class in Russia; the middle class in the Netherlands was what virtually defined the country.
- Russia was primarily agricultural; the Netherlands was the world's leader in commerce and mercantilist policies.
- Russia was frozen in a backwater of medieval agricultural practices; the Netherlands was the world's economic leader.
- Russia was trying to secularize the Church and rein in the Old Believers; the Dutch Reformed Church had been an institution of religious toleration for over a century.

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

2

A1

Between 1600-1725 ~~was~~ the Netherlands was primarily dominated by its Golden Age. Before 1600 the Netherlands were under the thumb of the Catholic Hapsburgs and controlled ~~as~~ from a distant place. After Calvinist revolts took place and with aid from England's virgin queen Elizabeth, the Netherlands became an independent state. They were a state that prospered from 1600-1725 mostly in a time of great prosperity and toleration, however ~~in~~ nearing the middle of 17th century and until 1725 ~~the~~ the Netherlands slowly digressed in terms of European power. Russia similarly to the Netherlands also overcame the tyrannical rule of the ~~monarch's~~ prior to 1600. The 1600s in Russia were a time of political instability and it showed economically and socially on the people in their state. However they ~~are~~ differ from ^{the Netherlands} ~~Russia~~ in that as the Netherlands ~~slowly~~ slowly spiraled out of top tier European power ranks, the Russians, under Peter the Great became more economically and socially similar to the West. ~~So was~~

The years ~~are~~ in the early half of 17th century ~~of~~ ~~thought~~ are thought of as a time of prosperity and wealth for the Netherlands. Due to ~~that~~ sea trade in the Baltic, overseas

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colonial exploits in East Asia, and companies such as the Dutch East India Company the Netherlands were extremely wealthy. They also enjoyed Europe's best banking which combined with their enormous marine trade force brought to the Netherlands the highest standard of living in Europe. However as the century progressed their trade faltered and other nations, particularly England and France sought to sabotage their success by force. One such act of malevolence came from ~~Oliver Cromwell~~ and the Protectorate act of malevolence came from Charles II of England and Louis XIV in France. Louis XIV, the most infamous absolut monarch wanted more territory in the Netherlands and sought to take it from them with the help of Charles II. As Dutch trade ships were destroyed and the Dutch economy was effected and slowly they lost control of their great income.

Russia as well was an extremely backward state at the beginning of the 17th century. Although they had a vast amount of land and resources the Russians were plagued by tyrants such as Ivan the terrible and political debates such as

assassinations. As a result Russia was behind the times and in the early 17th century looked more like a nation in the Middle Ages than one in the Early modern period. However this changed with the coming of Tsar Peter the Great. Peter the Great's main goals were to westernize Russia and pull it from the dark ages and backwardness it had known. One way he did this was reforming the Russian nobility and creating rules to westernize them such as limiting traditional dress and making them shave. He also established a fantastic army and made noble conscription as officers nearly for life. This army even defeated Charles X of Sweden in the Battle of Poltava and gained Peter respectable territory to add to his state. Most importantly he built his "Window to the West" which was St. Petersburg. As a part of his new capital city he organized St. Petersburg all along western lines and tens of thousands of Russians died building his westernized city. His plan worked and Russia came to the forefront of Europe's most powerful nations.

Where the Dutch started off strong in the early 17th century the Russian were a backward and non-existent European power.

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

2- AA

As time went on nations carved away at the rest of the Netherlands through war and trade intervention and made the Netherlands significantly less powerful by 1725. Russia however grew in power mostly thanks to Peter the Great's exploits and goals of becoming a more west western state.

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

2-R1

In the early 1600s, while the Dutch were fighting a series of wars with England over trade routes (the Anglo-Dutch wars), the Russian Muscovites were fighting a different kind of war - a war with the boyars, the Russian nobility. Following the pattern of development in western versus eastern Europe, while the Netherlands was forming a strong, liberal republic, Russia was consolidating authoritarian power under a single ruler. The reasons for the differences in development of the Netherlands and Russia were largely economic; whereas the Dutch had a thriving international economy, the Russians had been ruled for 200 years by the Mongols, and were socially and economically backward. Thus, from 1600-1725, the Netherlands became increasingly liberal and prosperous (until about 1700), while Russia became more oppressive and autocratic.

The thriving economy of the Netherlands allowed it to devolve power, eventually eliminating the need for a monarch at all and forming the Dutch Republic. By 1600, the Dutch had established a vast trade empire in the Indies; advanced naval tactics, such as mounting cannons on the fast caravels, had allowed joint-stock companies such as the Dutch East India Trading Company to set up outposts across ~~modern-day~~ India the Indian Ocean. The vast wealth accumulated by

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

2

B²

popular luxury goods - especially spices - went straight into the purse of the Dutch middle class. Thus, the thriving economy built by a prosperous international empire facilitated the growth of the middle class. This prosperity was further augmented by natural geographical advantages - the Netherlands were the logical crossroads between Western Europe and the resource-rich Baltic states, and Dutch fishermen were highly successful. A large middle class paved the way for republican rule, as the ~~grows~~ increasingly large number of educated men became aware of the ideas of men like Thomas More and John Locke. It has been seen throughout history that the more educated the population is, the less likely it is to put up with authoritarian rule.

This was not the case in Russia. In Russia in 1600, the vast majority of people were poor, ~~used~~ illiterate peasants. Only the "Great Princes" of Moscow had any great claims to power, as they had built up wealth as servants of the Mongol Khan. In the early 1600s, Ivan III of Moscow felt strong enough to stop ~~later~~ paying tribute to the ~~then~~ Khan. His son, Ivan IV - known as "Ivan the Terrible" - assumed the throne and became the first tsar. He quickly began to consolidate power, taking it from the noble through coercion and terror. The tsar's power was augmented by

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

2- B3

state control of the Russian Orthodox Church. As a loyal supporter of the tsar, the Orthodox Church was one of the few ways ~~the~~ Tsar could reach and influence the serfs. Desperately poor and almost completely uneducated, the Russian serfs swapped hands from one ruler to another when the Muscovite Princes took power. In return for greater political support, the tsar had agreed to give the boyars greater and greater control over the serfs, until Russian peasants were little better than slaves chained to the land.

By 1650, both the Netherlands and Russia had taken a turn for the worse. The Dutch Republic, so dependent on its wealth for its support, was fighting a series of wars with the Protectorate (England under Oliver Cromwell). Previously unrivaled, the Dutch merchant marine was under threat from the powerful English navy. Economic rivalry, in addition to the costs of involvement in the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), promised to cause trouble for the Republic. However, the Glorious Revolution of 1689 placed the Dutch prince, William of Orange, on the English throne. Naturally, disputes between England and the Netherlands ended, and the Netherlands returned to its previous stability (though its economy was harmed). Russia, on the other hand, went through a period of anarchy between roughly 1654-1700 called the "Time of Troubles;" a

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

2

B4

Ivan IV's son had died childless. However, the restoration of the tsar under the Romanov family restored order, as Peter I, or Peter the Great once again consolidated power. Support for the regime was greatly strengthened when Russia won the Great Northern War with Sweden, and western technology was adopted as Peter worked to modernize the army. The construction of the city of St. Petersburg is a testimony to tsarist power at the time, and the tsar was the undisputed ruler.

For economic reasons, the Netherlands / or the Dutch Republic, was a highly successful republic. For many years, the standard of living in the Netherlands was the highest in Europe. While the Anglo-Dutch wars and the Thirty Years' War threatened republicanism, the ascension of William of Orange to the throne of England seemed to reverse this bad fortune, and order was restored once more. In Russia, on the other hand, the 1600s witnessed the birth of a powerful tsarist regime, ~~changes~~ made possible by the removal of rights from nobles and serfs alike.

Russia and Netherlands, ~~however~~ were not, however, all the same in ~~the~~ other aspect of policies. ~~Peter the Great~~ Peter the Great of ~~the~~ Russia, in first-half of his reign, had many wars to expand and to gain territories. It was only last-half of his reign when he had liberated policies. Catherine the Great, ~~she~~ furthermore, paralleled enlightened policy with expansionist policy. She acquired Poland through war during her reign.

On the other hand, Netherland, so called United Provinces of Dutch Republic, was as ~~open~~ inaggressive as unrestrictive. Its laissez-faire based policy made merchants to rule the country, unlike Russia where strong despots ruled the country.

Hence, Russia and Netherlands are similar in their developments in ~~the~~ religious tolerance, and liberated policies. However, Russia was based on dull and strong power of military, ~~whereas~~ whereas Netherlands had mild power of mercantilism.

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2010 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)

Question 2

Sample: 2A
Score: 7

This essay provides a good thesis. It considers both Russia and the Dutch Republic, treating both the similarities and the differences between them well. It demonstrates extensive knowledge of economics in the Dutch Republic and also shows a good general understanding of Russia. It did not earn a higher score because there are too many chronological errors concerning Russia. It shows a more sophisticated understanding of Russian and Dutch Republic history and includes a more extensive discussion of economic and social differences between the two than essays that earned lower scores.

Sample: 2B
Score: 5

This essay provides a good thesis and a solid discussion of economic differences between Russia and the Dutch Republic. However, it only considers economic differences between the two. It did not merit a higher score because it did not consider similarities. The essay is better than a typical essay that earned a lower score because of the quality of the thesis and the amount of detail included.

Sample: 2C
Score: 1

The thesis of this essay is not acceptable. Neither the discussion of religious toleration nor the discussion of enlightened despotism is acceptable. The only redeeming feature of the essay is the brief second paragraph that includes a factual statement about the Netherlands. It did not earn a higher score because too much of it is off task, irrelevant and factually wrong.