

**AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY**  
**2010 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)**

**Question 3**

**Assess the ways in which women participated in and influenced TWO of the following: the Renaissance; the Reformation; the French Revolution.**

**9–8 Points**

- The essay provides a sophisticated thesis that addresses TWO historical periods and addresses either participation OR influence.
- The organization is clear.
- The essay is well balanced and deals with TWO historical periods and TWO ways women either participated in OR influenced each period. This might be a combination of ONE way they participated in and ONE way they influenced the period, for a total of TWO.
- All major assertions are supported by MULTIPLE pieces of relevant evidence.
- The essay may contain minor errors.

**7–6 Points**

- The essay provides a good thesis that addresses TWO historical periods and addresses either participation OR influences.
- The organization is clear.
- The essay is well balanced and deals with TWO historical periods and ONE way women either participated in OR influenced each period.
- Assertions are supported by at least TWO pieces of evidence.
- The essay may contain minor errors.

**5–4 Points**

- The essay provides an adequate thesis that is clearly stated but uneven OR the thesis restates the question.
- The organization is unbalanced and not necessarily effective. The essay tends to focus just on the Reformation OR just on the Renaissance OR just on the French Revolution.
- Major assertions are supported by at least ONE piece of evidence.
- The essay tends to read as factual narrative with little analysis.
- The essay may contain minor errors.

**3–2 Points**

- The essay provides no thesis or just restates the question.
- The organization is unclear and ineffective.
- The essay shows serious imbalance.
- Statements are superficial, vague and general.
- There is little historical proof or evidence.
- The essay may contain several errors that detract from the argument.

**1–0 Points**

- The essay provides no thesis.
- The organization is poor.
- The essay is off task and irrelevant.
- There is little or no supporting evidence.
- The essay contains major errors.

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**Question 3 — Historical Background Notes**

This question is enormously challenging. Because of the topic, students will react to the prompt more in general themes than with specific pieces of evidence. Although all the major texts discuss women in these three periods, the context tends to be more comparative, addressing the change of relative themes over time. Students must deal with TWO periods in a balanced fashion.

**General theme for the Renaissance:**

Though hardly the majority of the female population, well-to-do girls in the cities of the Renaissance Italy received an education similar to boys. Renaissance humanism represented a real educational advance for aristocratic women. Young ladies learned their letters and studied the classics. Many read Greek and Latin, knew the poets Ovid and Virgil, and could speak one or two “modern” languages such as French or Spanish. Although Renaissance aristocratic women were better educated than their medieval counterparts, their educations prepared them for the social life at home. A notable feature of smaller Renaissance courts was the important role played by women who often ruled side by side with their husbands. If, however, the Renaissance is often said to have discovered mankind in general, this meant for the most part, men. The Church still considered women to be sinful daughters of Eve. Because of strict gender divisions within the Church and within Renaissance society, women could not aspire to holiness and sainthood. The Renaissance did not bring about any significant loosening in the restrictions placed on women. For this reason, women’s contributions during the Renaissance tended to be the exception rather than the rule. A tiny minority of women among humanists acquired great learning and fame. For example, in the later 16th century at least 25 women published books in Italy.

- Christine de Pisan (1363–1434) — a highly educated woman who wrote prolifically in French, her native language. Her patron was the queen of France. Christine wrote *The Book of the City of Ladies*, which focuses not on the behavior of all French women, but just on women of the Court.
- Sofonisba Anguissola (1530–1625) and Artemisia Gentileschi (1593–1653) — achieved international renown for their oil paintings.
- Isabella Andreini (1562–1604) — enjoyed the reputation as the most famous actress of her day.
- Laura Creta (1469–1499) — a famous Italian humanist educated by her father. She was known for her scathing letters addressing the status of women in her own society. She argued that women’s inferiority was derived not from God but from women themselves. Creta’s provocative thesis earned her the wrath of men and women alike. Her most famous work was *Defense of the Liberal Instruction of Women*, widely attacked by the Italian clergy.

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**Question 3 — Historical Background Notes (continued)**

- Isabella d'Estes (1474–1539) — famous for her passionate quest to assemble the best artists of Italy, including painters, poets and musicians. She was called the “first lady of the world.” D'Estes pursued both Bellini and Leonardo da Vinci. Her numerous letters to friends, family, princes and artists all over Europe reveal her political savvy as well as her good sense of humor. Both before and after the death of her husband, she effectively ruled Mantua and won a reputation as a clever negotiator.
- Battista Sforza (1442–1482) — second wife of the famous *condottiere* Federigo da Montefeltro, the duke of Urbino. Because her husband was frequently absent waging wars, Sforza often ruled Urbino “with firmness and good sense.”

**General theme for the Reformation:**

Overall the Protestant Reformation did not noticeably transform women's subordinate place in society. Because Protestantism had eliminated any idea of special holiness for celibacy, abolishing both monasticism and a celibate clergy, the family was placed at the center of human life, and a new stress on “mutual love between man and wife” was extolled. Luther's argument that all vocations had equal merit in the sight of God gave dignity to the women of the home who performed ordinary, routine and domestic tasks. The Christian home, in contrast to the place of business, became the place of the gentler virtues: love, tenderness, reconciliation, the carrying of one another's burdens. The Protestant abolition of private confession to a priest freed women from possibly embarrassing explorations of their sexual lives. Protestants established schools where girls as well as boys became literate in the catechism and the Bible. Luther was confident that God took delight in the sexual act and denied that original sin affected the goodness of creation. That being said, however, he believed that marriage was a woman's career. In their effort to create order and discipline, Protestant reformers denounced sexual immorality and glorified the family. Calvin's earliest significant converts were women, whose patronage helped his faith take root at the highest levels of society. More women than men converted to Calvinism in France, perhaps because their legal position was deteriorating — for example, with regard to their dowries and possessions. On a darker note, women became unwilling participants in the great witch hunts during the Reformation. Most women who were accused of being witches were rural, poor, and single; many had just inherited property. They often confronted the hostility of other villagers, particularly local officials and wealthy peasants. Women were also targets of repression during the Reformation because they were transmitters of the collective memory of popular culture. For centuries the Catholic hierarchy had regarded women as the source of sin, a notion that remained popular even as the great reformers were changing European faith.

- Catherine of Aragon (1529) — instrumental in sparking the beginning of the English Reformation, generating the debate for papal dispensation from the biblical law that prohibited a union between a man and his brother's widow.
- Elizabeth Dirks (1549) — interrogated in the Netherlands for her role in advocating gender equality, especially in the realm of church roles and the interpretation of Holy Scripture.
- Katharina Zell (1534) — wife of the Strasbourg reformer Matthew Zell who defended her gender equality by citing a Bible verse to attack a critic who demanded that women remain silent in church.
- Katharina von Bora (1525) — wife of Martin Luther who gave her husband complete devotion and support during his crusade to reform the Church. Von Bora was Luther's model for the perfect wife “managing the house and home.”

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**Question 3 — Historical Background Notes (continued)**

**General theme for the French Revolution:**

A perplexing question arose from the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen* of September 1789: Whom did the Declaration mean by “man and citizen”? The laws that excluded women from voting and holding office did not pass unnoticed. In 1791 Olympe de Gouges, a butcher’s daughter from Montauban in northwest France who became a major revolutionary radical in Paris, composed a *Declaration of the Rights of Women*, which she ironically addressed to Queen Marie-Antoinette. Much of the document reprinted the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*, adding the word “woman” to the various original clauses. De Gouges’ declaration illustrated how the simple listing of rights in the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen* created a structure of universal civic expectations even for those it did not cover. In unprecedented numbers, women took up the pen to publish pamphlets and journals. Their physical presence in public spaces was even more dramatic. Despite the importance of women to the revolutionary cause, male revolutionaries, especially the Jacobin radicals, reacted disdainfully to female participation in political activity. This was especially true during the radical phase of the revolution with the destruction of the Girondin moderates after 1793. With the onset of the Terror in 1793–1794, the Convention and later the Committee for Public Safety turned on the women of Paris. Women demanding radical change were labeled as public enemies and counterrevolutionary. The lofty ideals of de Gouges were simply too radical for the Jacobin ruling elite, committed to security and the maintenance of political power.

- Marianne — female icon who became the symbol of the Revolution and the Republic. Since *la liberté* is a feminine term in French, liberty and the ideals associated with the revolution were often associated with female virtues.
- Marie-Antoinette (1753–1793) — the public disdain for Louis XVI’s unpopular wife galvanized public opinion against the Bourbon monarchy. She was guillotined in 1793 as an unwilling participant in the French Revolution.
- October 1789 — Women’s March to Versailles demanding a lowering of bread prices. The female mob returned to Paris with the king and the royal family.
- Olympe de Gouges (1789–1793) — wrote *The Declaration of the Rights of Women* in 1791; guillotined in 1793 by the radical Jacobins intent on maintaining social control.
- Charlotte Corday (July 1793) — Girondin moderate who assassinated Marat and was guillotined by the Jacobins in July 1793.
- Pauline Léon and Claire Lacombe — founded the Society of Revolutionary Republican Women in May, 1793. The society became ultraradical, demanding the lowering of food prices and hunger relief for the poor of Paris. It was shut down by the Jacobins in October 1793, resulting in the arrest and imprisonment of both of its founders. Both remained in Jacobin jails throughout 1794, and both survived their ordeals.

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3-A'

There has been much discontent throughout the study of history about the diminished role of women as portrayed in accounts of "His-story." However the final depictions were, the role that women actually played in society were very significant at many periods, especially in times of social change. In the periods of the Renaissance and the French Revolution, women actively participated — though sometimes meeting ~~male and~~ opposition and discouragement from traditional sectors — and shaped the movements and shifts of thought in their time.

In the Renaissance, women had a much larger role as well as more opportunities to participate in society. Renaissance society, being more secular and more humanist than the oppressive religion-dominated ~~Medieval Age~~ times before, was more open to women in active social roles. ~~Women became~~ Though fewer in number, women could become artists and achieve painterly fame — for example, one of the most famous renditions of the Biblical story of Judith was painted by a female painter. Others became famous as learned and cultured intellectuals and patrons of the arts, or even players in the political power game, such as the infamous Lucrezia Borgia. Though of course these luxuries of opportunity were granted only to a fortunate and wealthy nobility, the education and influence women enjoyed ~~was~~ a ~~great~~ during the Renaissance was greatly improved than ~~at~~ the ~~the~~ Middle Ages that had preceded it.

Women were also active 300 years later, in the French Revolution. In fact, history tells that women were instrumental in inciting the people to find justice by overthrowing the ~~overthrowing~~ nobles and the monarchy. The "sans-culottes" were well-known as female participants in the revolutionary movement — a character in Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities* is even portrayed as a female revolutionary; even ~~those~~ those who were held responsible for revolutionary-era crimes equally included women. Women such as Olympe de Gouges actively petitioned for female ~~and~~ enfranchisement and emancipation, even despite repression from later revolutionary regimes such as under Robespierre.

In conclusion, women were actively contributing to movements of great social change, participating and influencing society in general throughout both the Renaissance and the French Revolution. Though social tradition could not help but undermine the degree of female influence, women in those times left an indelible mark ~~both~~ on society both ~~at~~ during their lives and ~~or~~ thereafter.

Throughout modern history the female figure has had a crucial goal in influencing major movements such as: The Renaissance, the Reformation and the French Revolution. The figure of women has changed throughout the period of time. In some countries such as Great Britain women have played a major role in society.

The period known as "The Renaissance" or rebirth, in northern Italy and Europe, has been closely influenced by the female figure. Many painters <sup>and sculptors</sup> such as Botticelli or Michelangelo have inserted major figures of women in their pieces of art. ~~Botticelli's~~ depiction of Venus and female beauty have been an important symbol of Italian Renaissance. Also the famous sculpture and painter Michelangelo Buonarroti depicted the figure of the Virgin Mary in his art. In the "Pieta", a sculpture that depicts Mary holding Jesus's corpse after he has been crucified, Michelangelo describes the female figure as a mother which is also an important aspect of the female role in society.

During the Protestant Reformation, women also played a major role. In England after the death of Mary Tudor also known as "Bloody Mary" for her large killings of protestants, her half sister Elizabeth I became queen. She played a major role in the modernization of England, in it becoming one of the stronger nations in Europe. She made protestantism the official religion in England, and also tolerated other minor religions. The puritans didn't successfully join the other minor religious groups within the country. One of her main accomplishments was the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

Also during the French Revolution women played a major role. Marie Antoinette, queen of France sparked the revolution, also because of her greediness and selfishness. During the march to the Queen's palace of Versailles, the revolutionaries had fish-market women known as the "pissadas" march with them to protest against the queen.



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3 - B3

In all three movements women played a major role. The Renaissance sparked the interest in mankind and also in the female figure after the Dark Ages. During the Reformation women played a major social and political role, and during the French Revolution women assisted in the opposition towards the monarchy.

Women have always played a significant role in history whether ~~history~~ ~~sometimes~~ some historians like to neglect it. There are many historical figures throughout history that are female. For example, Joan of Arc who courageously supported the French through their war with England during the 100 years war. Common women of less epic engagements still influence history as do noble women. In discovering these hidden influence, prime examples in history to assess women's role is during the Renaissance & the French Revolution.

The Renaissance was a rebirth to the world after the long centuries of the dark Middle Ages. Women of the lower caste structure stimulated the era by making their way through trade and industry from cottage industry to working in the shops or banks with their husbands. In the area of art, lower caste women even affected art by being the models & assistants in the paintings. But art was also affected by Noble women because it was their eyes that would sometimes attract the attention to the piece of art or would be a portrait with something symbolic or new. Women would also find influence in the market of fabric & clothing where new dyes & styles stimulated the economy & had designers constantly creating new

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3 - C<sup>2</sup>

ideas.

Women in the French Revolution however, seem to have taken a more brutish role in influencing the era. Women took firm stands right along men in riots & protests. There are many paintings where French women are storming buildings right along side men. A prime example of women taking an active role was when the women from Paris marched to the Palace of Versailles to protest the shortages of bread. This is the moment where some people ~~believe~~ believe Marie Antoinette said, "let them eat cake" which is taken out of context. Women on a more academic note, took part heavily in the enlightenment thinking if they could afford it by performing there own experiments & try to study along side men. It was in fact the women who hosted the Salons where many enlightened thinkers voiced their theories.

**AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY**  
**2010 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)**

**Question 3**

**Sample: 3A**

**Score: 7**

This essay provides a strong thesis. It deals with both the Renaissance and the Reformation. It includes multiple Renaissance examples and describes one way in which women participated in and influenced the French Revolution. The examples provided for the French Revolution are good. The essay did not earn a higher score because the question asked for two examples of women's influence and participation in both of the periods. It earned a score of 7, however, because essays that earned 6 points usually included only one example of influence and participation, while this essay has two for the Renaissance and one for the French Revolution.

**Sample: 3B**

**Score: 5**

The thesis finally appears in the conclusion of this essay. The essay deals with both the Renaissance and the Reformation. It never articulates ways in which women participated in and influenced the Renaissance, although it does provide good examples for the Renaissance. The essay does not follow the question directions in the discussion of the French Revolution. The essay earned a score of 5 because it does not discuss the influence or participation of women in both periods. However, it alludes to the influence and participation of women in both periods and includes solid examples.

**Sample: 3C**

**Score: 3**

The thesis of this essay does not address the question. It does deal with both the Renaissance and the French Revolution. However, there are major interpretive problems in the Renaissance discussion. The essay never states the influence and participation or both of women in either period. It does include one solid example of women's role during the French Revolution. The point about Marie-Antoinette, however, is not clear. The Enlightenment discussion is irrelevant and off task. There are too many major mistakes and the writing is too simplistic to merit a score of 4.