

# AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY

## 2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 4

**Analyze the various effects of the expansion of the Atlantic trade on the economy of Western Europe in the period circa 1450–1700.**

#### 9–8 Points

- The thesis is explicit and addresses both the Atlantic trade and the economy of Western Europe.
- The organization is clear, consistent and effective in support of the argument. Examples: by country, commodity, time period or topic.
- Facets of the Atlantic trade and impacts on the economy are clearly linked.
- Examples of both trade and impact on the economy come from more than one Western European economy and from throughout the period (including the 1600s).
- The essay provides specific evidence for at least two facets of the Atlantic trade in some detail.
- The essay provides specific evidence for at least two impacts on the economy in some detail.
- The essay may contain minor errors that do not detract from the argument.

#### 7–6 Points

- The thesis is explicit and addresses both the Atlantic trade and the economy of Western Europe.
- The organization is clear, effective in support of the argument, but perhaps not consistently followed.
- The essay is balanced overall; it covers both the expansion of the Atlantic trade and the effects of that expansion on the economy of more than one country, but it may discuss one topic (either trade or impacts) in more detail, or it may offer a more superficial treatment of one part of the period.
- Examples of trade and its impact on the economy may not be consistently linked.
- The essay provides evidence for both the Atlantic trade and the impact on the economy, but it may be somewhat less specific or detailed.
- The essay may contain a major error or several minor errors that detract from the argument.

#### 5–4 Points

- The thesis is explicit but may be partial (it may discuss either the Atlantic trade or the effects of the trade on the Western European economy).
- Organization is attempted but may not be consistently followed.
- The essay is imbalanced; it may emphasize either the Atlantic trade or its effects, or it may discuss only part of the period 1450–1700, or the economy of only one country or of Western Europe generally.
- There is minimal or missing linkage between trade and the economy.
- Supporting examples are present but may be less detailed.
- The essay may contain a few errors that detract from the argument.

#### 3–2 Points

- The thesis is confused, implicit or vague or merely repeats or paraphrases the prompt.
- The organization may be unclear and ineffective.
- The essay shows serious imbalance; it discusses only trade or the impact on the economy.
- The evidence may be listed rather than discussed.
- A linkage between trade and the economy may be absent.
- The essay may contain several errors that detract from the argument.

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**Question 4 (continued)**

**1–0 Points**

- There is no discernible attempt at a thesis.
- There is no discernible organization.
- One or none of the major topics suggested by the prompt is mentioned.
- Little or no supporting evidence is used.
- The essay may contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.

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### Question 4 — Historical Background Notes

This question asks students to perform two tasks: describe at least some components of the Atlantic trade and analyze the impact of that trade on the economy of Western Europe circa 1450–1700. These topics are covered in most (but not all) textbooks. However, the topics are sometimes scattered throughout one or more chapters, and some textbooks emphasize causes other than the Atlantic trade for the Commercial Revolution.

Students could discuss the development of the Atlantic trade before 1492; for example, they could mention the establishment of colonies in the Canary Islands and trading posts along the Atlantic coast of Africa. However, most essays will focus on the Americas and the Caribbean.

#### Facets of the Atlantic trade

- Food to the Americas — fruits, vegetables, wheat, beef.
- Food from the Americas — potatoes, sugar, coffee, corn (maize), squash, green beans, tomatoes.
- Other commodities to the Americas — slaves, horses, alcohol. Few manufactured goods were shipped before the 1700s; cotton was not a major agricultural export from the New World until the mid-18th century.
- Other commodities from the Americas — tobacco, silver, gold, rum, furs, salted cod.

#### Relevant colonies

- Spain — much of South America, Central America; Caribbean colonies included Cuba, Hispaniola, Trinidad.
- Portugal — Brazil.
- Holland — Caracas, Curaçao, Guiana; eastern seaboard of North America (in parts of what is now New York, most famously, Manhattan; New Jersey; Connecticut; Delaware) and the Caribbean (including St. Maarten, Aruba, Curacao).
- England/Great Britain (after 1707 — eastern seaboard of North America, Caribbean colonies (Barbados, St. Kitts, Antigua, Nevis, Montserrat and Jamaica were all, by 1660, sugar-producing English colonies).
- France — like England, had domestic problems during the early period of colonization and was more involved in the trade through privateering. France had some small (in both size and number) settlements in Canada before 1700. By the latter part of the 17th century, Colbert utilized mercantilist theory to expand overseas territories and trade.
- Sweden and Denmark had small settlements on the eastern seaboard, but these did not significantly impact the economies of either country.

#### Impact on the economy of Western Europe

- Spain became the most powerful nation in Europe, but the Spanish monarchs spent much of their wealth on fighting wars in the 16th and 17th centuries. The Spanish Crown had to declare bankruptcy several times over the course of the 16th and 17th centuries. Also, much of the wealth went east, to buy luxury goods from Asia.
- The development of Holland as a banking center will appear with some regularity.
- The English and French economies were not significantly affected by Atlantic trade until the end of the 17th century. Both England and France had domestic problems during the period in which Spain, Portugal and Holland were establishing colonies and trade routes.
- The mercantilist theory was developed — mercantilism aimed to allow governments to control their economies so they could profit from the global trade.

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### Question 4 —Historical Background Notes (continued)

- The African slave trade generated major profits for Europeans. By 1700 slave ships delivered about 30,000 slaves to the Americas every year. (In 1494 Columbus proposed setting up a slave trade from the New World to Spain. Some enslaved Native Americans were brought to Spain and sold in Seville. This fact will occasionally be mentioned.)
- Europe joined a worldwide market as Europeans sought slaves from Africa and luxury goods and spices from Asia.
- The standard of living increased, and there was a growth in demand for luxury goods.
- The population grew, leading to more producers and consumers, as well as greater price pressure.
- The flood of Spanish coins and the new demand for luxury goods (as well as demand outpacing supply for agricultural products and the rising standard of living) led to inflation. In the 16th century the price of cereal rose five times and the price of manufactured goods rose three times.
- Related to inflation was the Commercial Revolution, as merchants and entrepreneurs sought to make and handle wealth. The Dutch were the leaders here — they built huge warehouses, where they stockpiled goods to control supplies and keep prices high.
- Joint-stock companies were formed, which allowed ordinary people to participate in overseas ventures.
- Piracy and privateering developed circa 1550–1700. This was another aspect of the worldwide economy. Privateers were licensed by their governments to raid the ships of other countries.
- Warfare was generated by economic competition, including the Anglo–Dutch wars and the Dutch–French wars.
- Off task: industrialization; England as a major power in the 18th century; Asian trade (unless the essay discusses the purchase of luxury goods); war (unless it is tied to the economy).

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

With the sack of Constantinople in 1452 by the Muslim Turks, all trade between Western Europe and Asia via the Mediterranean was cut off. Consequently, naval power and trade in the Mediterranean declined rapidly as Europeans began to look towards the Atlantic for

~~an alternate route to the Indies to gain wealth and trade. The Portuguese first rounded the Cape of Good Hope in the 1490s to gain a seaward route to India around Africa, and the Spanish discovered the Americas in 1492 under Columbus.~~

an alternate route to the Indies to gain wealth and trade. The Portuguese first rounded the Cape of Good Hope in the 1490s to gain a seaward route to India around Africa, and the Spanish discovered the Americas in 1492 under Columbus. Thereafter, Atlantic trade continued to expand as colonies developed and trading posts were established across the globe. This expansion of Atlantic trade had a profound effect on the economy of Western Europe from 1450 to 1700 due to the influx of gold and silver, the development of mercantilism, and the growth of the slave trade.

As trade expanded across the Atlantic to the New World and colonies were established, the value of gold and silver increased rapidly and a great emphasis was placed on abstracting it. The Spanish were the first to establish gold mines in the New World as they colonized most of South and Central America and the West Indies. As the influx of gold and silver increased, the Spanish economy became increasingly dependent on it and became bullionist in that gold and silver were the only valuable measures of wealth. This rapid increase of precious metals, hence, led to the Price Revolution of the 1500s in which rapid inflation occurred due to

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the overwhelming amount of gold and silver being ~~to~~ imported. Despite this inflation, Spain and other countries such as the Netherlands continued to be dependent on gold, ~~and silver~~ which would ultimately lead to Spain's decline in power in the 16<sup>th</sup> century due to the exhaustion of mines and inadequate funding for military commitments.

The expansion of the Atlantic trade also brought with the use of mercantilism as a method of economic development by most Western European countries. Mercantilism, a commercial economic system, ~~was~~ was based on the premise that a mother country ~~should~~ create colonies and trade posts and export more than they import. There were strict regulations on prices and wages ~~and~~ as the government had direct control of the economy. Great Britain exemplified this with the Navigation Acts which ~~set~~ set governmental restrictions on trade and the tariffs that Britain placed on the North American colonies such as the Tea and Sugar Acts. These ~~mercantilist systems~~ mercantilist ~~systems~~ systems would dominate the economies of Western Europe from 1450 to 1700.

The expansion of Atlantic trade also caused the expansion of the slave trade. The vast amount of plantations and mines that countries developed in their ~~own~~ colonies created a demand for labor, and this demand was largely appeased with slavery. Spain and Portugal began this process in the Columbian Trade, a ~~3~~ 3 way transfer of ~~goods~~ goods and slaves between the American colonies and Africa. The Southern

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

English colonies in North America demanded labor, as well, and therefore served as another market for the slave trade. The slave trade greatly benefitted the Western European economy from 1450 to 1700 despite the moral and religious controversy that it caused.

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

~~The Atlantic trade had a massive effect on the world and Europe especially. Atlantic trade started out through colonies and affected Europe both positively and negatively.~~

Atlantic trade changed Europe in many ways and one of them was economically.

Atlantic trade helped better and worsen economies, starting from Spain and spreading to all the major powers.

When Columbus sailed to the Americas he did not expect to discover what he did. He was endorsed by Fernando and Isabella only for scientific reasons. When the news came back to Spain everyone rushed over for new opportunities. One big economic effect was the find of gold. Conquistadors, like Cortes, conquered massive parts of lands and people. The gold and silver acquired was sent back to Spain to be handled. In ~~1492~~ 1492 an anti-semitic movement started against the Jews causing many to flee the country. This caused many bankers to leave the country and when the gold and silver was sent back to Spain



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it was poorly handled, This caused a massive inflation and an increase in prices of ordinary items.

All the products sent to Europe from the Americas were priced highly and found in wealthy homes only but as time went by they became less expensive and by 1600 were found in ordinary life.

Other countries followed Spain and settled in different parts of the Americas. The French focussed on Canada and the Caribbean bringing back sugar and fur. The Dutch focussed more on the area of Canada. Situations like these created competition which slowly battered the European economy as a whole.

Around the 1700s Britain also took part in Atlantic trade and sent settlers to modern-day USA eastcoast. The settlers were sent through jointstock companies and helped the British economy flourish until the Revolution in 1776.

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The ~~African~~ Atlantic Trade greatly influenced the economies of Western Europe depending upon who held the most control of it at any given time. The control of <sup>the</sup> Atlantic Trade therefore depended greatly on colonies, or at least trading posts. The earlier part of the Atlantic trade was dominated by Portugal, who later lost this domination to Spain. Later Spain was pushed out by the French and British, and eventually Britain was the main stronghold in the Atlantic Trade.

The Portuguese were the first to explore the world, starting with Henry the Navigator. They had been searching for the East Indies, hoping to find a shorter route there that would benefit their trading. Well, their ~~economy~~ economy did well as a result of their new finds, even though they were unable to find a shorter route to Asia.

The Spanish eventually got in to the game with ~~the~~ Ferdinand and Isabella's sponsorship of Christopher Columbus, a Portuguese sailor. Because he was from Portugal he knew of and had access to many of the new technological advancements of the time that aided in exploration and sailing. Hernando Cortes and Francisco Pizarro conquered the Aztecs, Mayans, and Incas, allowing them to have civilizations and power in the New World. They traded their trinkets for gold with these people and it was these colonies which

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allowed them to oust the Portuguese. The Spanish economy skyrocketed, though unfortunately this money was used to pay for foreign wars and not to help internal affairs at home.

The French and British were eventually able to push the Spaniards out (though not completely), but because ~~they focused~~ of their greater number of colonies, they were able to gain the upperhand in the Atlantic trade, and therefore better economies back home. The British and French were now ~~just~~ both pushing to be the main powers of the Atlantic Trade. This triggered many wars, including the 7 years war which was fought both in the New World and in Europe. The British were eventually able to take over because they focused more on their colonies and bringing people over to have permanent residence in the New World. The French, however, mainly focused on developing trading posts.

The economic superpowers between 1450 and 1700 fluctuated and changed based on how much power these countries had in the Atlantic Trade. The Atlantic trade was ~~also~~ spurred on by successful colonies, and so it went that the passing of the torch continued as more and more colonies were developed. Having a base for power in the New World proved to be the

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

most effective strategy for controlling the Atlantic Trade, and therefore having the dominant economy in Western Europe. As more countries fought for control of it, the ~~more~~ larger it became, and the more <sup>economic</sup> power it wielded, making it that much more desirable.

# AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY 2010 SCORING COMMENTARY

## Question 4

### Overview

This question asked students to perform two tasks: describe at least some components of the Atlantic trade in the period circa 1450–1700, and analyze the impact of that trade on the economy of Western Europe during that period.

### Sample: 4A

**Score: 8**

This essay has a thesis and is organized. It discusses two examples of the Atlantic trade (gold and silver, and the slave trade) and two examples of the impact of the Atlantic trade (the Spanish economy and mercantilism). The mentions of the Tea and Sugar Acts are beyond the period and thus irrelevant (rather than erroneous). Dating the decline of Spain to the 16th century is a minor error, as the decline began then and continued into the 17th century. The essay has fewer details than is typical of essays that earned a higher score, and it does not have a conclusion. However, compared with most essays that earned a score of 7, it provides more detail about the impact on the Spanish economy and the development of mercantilism. Also, trade and impact are clearly linked.

### Sample: 4B

**Score: 6**

The thesis of this essay is acceptable, and the essay is organized. It discusses the impact of gold and silver on Spain. The rising standard of living is referred to but not named, and there is a vague reference to increased economic competition. The penultimate paragraph accurately describes French colonization and trade. The misunderstanding of the goal of Columbus's voyage, the misstatement of the location of the Dutch colonies, and the delayed start to English colonization are minor errors. The level of detail is not sufficient for the essay to have earned a score of 7, but, compared with the typical essay that earned a score of 5, it is better organized and has a clearer thesis.

### Sample: 4C

**Score: 2**

This essay has a vague thesis in the first paragraph and a stronger one in the final paragraph. However, it is mostly a narrative of exploration and expansion. There is little evidence about either trade or the impact on the economy. The information about Britain and France is mostly beyond the time period. Compared with essays that earned a lower score, the essay provides at least a bit more evidence about trade and the impact on the Spanish economy. However, the evidence is insufficient to have merited a higher score.