

**AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY**  
**2011 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)**

**Question 3**

**Describe and analyze the impact of the rise of Russia on international relations in Europe in the period from 1685 to 1815.**

**9–8 points**

- Thesis is strong and addresses both the rise of Russia and its impact on Europe.
- Organization is clear and effective.
- Essay is well balanced and discusses both the rise of Russia and its impact on Europe.
- Essay addresses all three components of the question: religion, government and daily life.
- All major assertions are supported by multiple pieces of relevant evidence.
- Essay demonstrates how the rise of Russia is linked to Russia's impact on the rest of Europe.
- Essay contains some insightful analysis.
- Essay may contain some errors that do not detract from the argument.

**7–6 points**

- Thesis addresses both the rise of Russia and its impact on Europe.
- Organization is clear and effective.
- Essay treats both the rise of Russia and its impact on Europe but might show some imbalance.
- Essay contains some analysis, though it tends to read more as historical narrative.
- Essay may contain minor errors.

**5–4 points**

- Thesis is clearly stated but uneven (e.g., addresses Russia's rise but not its impact).
- Organization may be unbalanced and ineffective.
- Discussion tends to focus on either the rise of Russia or the impact of Russia.
- Major assertions are supported by at least one piece of evidence.
- Essay may contain minor errors.

**3–2 points**

- Thesis is missing or just restates the prompt.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective.
- Essay shows serious imbalance.
- Discussion contains at least one piece of historical evidence.
- Essay may contain several errors that detract from the argument.

**1–0 points**

- Thesis is missing.
- Essay is poorly organized.
- Essay is off task or not responsive to the prompt.
- There is little or no supporting evidence.
- Essay contains major errors.

3A-1

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

In 1685 Russia was a troubled state on the fringe of Europe with the daunting challenge of controlling a huge area and diverse population. By 1815 Russia was a powerful and absolutist empire, the stronghold of conservatism and cause for the destruction of Napoleon's dominance.

By 1685 Russia had undergone a few decades of trouble in which the Tsars were unable to gain absolute control over the new kingdom and ~~longer~~ the aristocracy fought amongst itself for control of the kingdom. Peter the Great changed all this, however, by reigning in the power of the nobility and modernizing Russia, making it a power that could keep pace with the west. Peter's creation of St. Petersburg as a useful connection to the West through sea trade across the Baltic and establishment of modern city planning demonstrated his determination to modernize Russia, but the slave labor of ~~his~~ Russia's Serfs and their deaths that went into the city also mark ~~Peter's~~ Russia's continued conservative methods that led them to be one of the only powers who continued serfdom in the 19th century. Peter ~~longer~~ paid Western artists and architects a lot of money to come and westernize his nation by the arrival of Western culture. His command that nobles shave their beards demonstrates the lengths that Peter went to, but also his control over the nobility who were forced to obey. Peter also continued the territorial expansion of Russia. In his reign significant victories in the war with Sweden marked Russia's increased ~~the~~ power as their importance superseded that of the leading power in Scandinavia.

Reform and modernization brought problems however. Catherine the Great in the later 18th century also tried to increase Russia's power and competed with the Ottoman Turks and winning territories from them, making Russia a leading power in the ~~Balkans~~ Balkans. Eastern Europe was, during her reign, dominated by Prussia, Austria and Europe, making Russia one of the ~~most~~ five most powerful nations in Europe. The division of Poland between the three eastern powers cemented Russia's arrival as a significant ~~player~~ player in the balance of power politics of the time. Catherine, however glorious she made Russia internationally, suppressed liberalism in her country and removed the reforms she had made towards improved living conditions and ~~peasant~~ peasant's freedom after a rebellion by the Cossacks in the second half of her reign.

Despite these underlying repressions that stifled economic growth and ~~the~~ political progress Russia continued to expand and become more respected by the international community. During the reign of Alexander I, when Napoleon began to dominate the ~~continent~~ continent Russia became a key empire to the defeat of the French empire. At first sympathetic to Napoleon Russia did not openly resist him, but with the fall of Austria and ~~the~~ Prussia as satellite states obedient to the French Emperor, Russia and Britain became the only independent ~~power~~ powers of the major powers in a French dominated continent. Threatened by the French, Russia ended their support and sided with the British leading to the French invasion of Russia. The fact that the Russian people continued to fight when

The French marched into a deserted Moscow shows that the people were not desperate enough for reform to side with the French and the nation came together in what is one of the biggest victories of European History. The ~~French~~ Napoleon was utterly defeated by a combination of Russian skirmishers who continuously attacked the French and withdrew the size of Russia so French supplies were stretched and the Russian winter. Russia defeated a combined invasion of soldiers from much of the rest of the continent.

In the next 100 years Russia would also become the leader of conservatism as the refusal of the Tsars to grant reform led to Russia being the most repressive government. As Spain became less powerful in the ~~seventeenth~~ 17th century, Russia took their place in the balance of power politics, but Russia was a new creation, with almost unlimited resources and a vast population that the ~~Tsars~~ Peter the Great and Catherine the ~~2nd~~ Great channelled towards the glorification of their country. After Napoleon's defeat it was clear that any power wanting to dominate Europe would be confronted with conquering ~~the~~ the vast and powerful Russia. Russia therefore contributed to the trend of <sup>a few</sup> large and powerful imperialistic nations who dominated the continent, ~~and~~ which in turn suppressed liberalism, <sup>democracy</sup> and free markets that would become the trend in the 20th century.

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

3B-1

in International relations

The rise of Russia between the periods of 1685-1815 can clearly be credited to the reigns of Peter the Great and Catherine the Great.

Peter the Great can be largely credited for modernizing ~~France~~ Russia. His policies of modernizing and "westernizing" Russia allowed it to gain the respect of European nations. To begin with, Peter the Great modernized the Russian Army. Because he modernized the army he was able to defeat other nations and was finally able to obtain a sea port, which allowed for trade with other nations. Because Russia was able to gain a port, other nations began to respect the power of the Russian Empire and compared it to ~~the~~ France and England. Peter the Great further westernized Russia by getting rid of traditional Russian traditions. For instance, he forced Boyars to cut the beards to appear more western. Because of the Boyars new looks, ~~the~~ nations in Europe began to see Russia as a western nation, not one that was "barbaric".

Like Peter the Great, Catherine the Great's leadership led to the rise of Russia as an international power.

~~As an absolutist ruler~~ As an "enlightened" absolutist ruler,

3B-2

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

Catherine the Great implemented many reforms. As an "Enlightened" absolutist, Catherine invited philosophers such as Rousseau to visit France. She also funded ~~the creation of~~ Diderot in his creation of the first encyclopedia. Because she invested in such ideals, Russia was seen as an Empire with enlightened ideas which were seen nations such as France and England. Like Peter the Great, Catherine also had a large and professional army. Her armies were able to defeat numerous opponents and also partitioned parts of Poland. Catherine's armies ability to partition Poland, was a big deal in international relations because during the French revolution, the Austrians could have restored Louis the 16th power by defeating the French government if it weren't for the Russian army gaining more lands which caused Austria to fear the fact that if Poland was taken over by Russia, the Russians would be able to invade Austria. The modernized armies of Russia would go on to also defeat Napoleon during the Napoleonic wars. Russia's victory over Napoleon during the Napoleonic wars can be seen as a turning point for Napoleon as he lost many soldiers to the Russian army and Russian winter. Catherine the Great ~~also invested in colonial~~ The Russians also invested in colonization between 1685 to 1815 by colonizing lands to its east and also by colonizing Alaska. Russia's ~~particip~~ participation in colonization allowed it to

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

3B-3

be viewed as a super power power by other nations because ~~a~~ many other nations such as France, England and Holland were ~~for~~ practicing colonization,

From 1685 - 1815, As Russia rose relations in Europe suffered.

Because Russia was getting more industrial and powerful, countries were threatened. After Peter the Great did so much to reform Russia and build up the industry and military, European nations had to be cautious of Russia. Russia was threatening the balance of power, so when there was a war countries would back Russians opponent to ensure that Russia wouldn't win. This was to maintain their balance of power. This put ~~strain~~<sup>strain</sup> on the relations of other countries because new alliances had to be made in order to keep Russia in check. When Russia ~~started~~<sup>started</sup> to turn more communist, this also hurt ~~the~~ relations because countries had to try and stop communism from spreading, which divided them.

Throughout the growth of Russia, as they got stronger other countries in Europe had to be ~~a~~ mindful of them to make sure they didn't become too



3C-2

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

powerful. This hurt some relations and hurt others, as countries had to choose whether to support Russia or not, but for the most part countries sided to keep the balance of power in place.

**AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY**  
**2011 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)**

**Question 3**

**Sample: 3A**

**Score: 9**

The essay has a strong thesis that addresses both the rise of Russia and its impact on the rest of Europe. It demonstrates a solid grasp of the chronology of Russia's consolidation and expansion. All major assertions are supported by multiple pieces of relevant evidence. The essay features numerous instances of insightful analysis, and the writing is clear and sophisticated throughout. The wealth of supporting evidence, the clear command of the chronology, and the insightful analysis earned this essay the maximum score of 9.

**Sample: 3B**

**Score: 5**

The essay presents an acceptable thesis that is more than a mere restatement of the question. There is adequate discussion of the accomplishments of Peter the Great and Catherine the Great in modernizing Russia, but the essay is rather vague on the effect their policies had on European international relations and balance of power. There are mentions of Peter being "able to defeat other nations" and "obtain a sea port," as well as of Catherine's armies being "able to defeat numerous opponents" and partition "parts of Poland," but these references are not convincingly linked to changing patterns in international relations in Europe. The claim that Austrian concerns over a Russian takeover of all of Poland prevented Austria from defeating the French revolutionary armies early on is erroneous, although the subsequent discussion of Russia's role in defeating Napoleon is acceptable. The essay did not earn a score of 6 because of its limited analysis of Russia's impact on patterns of international diplomacy; on the other hand, it earned a score higher than 4 because of the relatively high level of detail in the discussion of the rise of Russia under Peter and Catherine.

**Sample: 3A**

**Score: 1**

The essay opens with a factually incorrect attempt at a thesis. The overall organization is poor, and much of the discussion is off task. There are numerous factual errors, unsubstantiated general claims and irrelevant information. The mention of communism in Russia indicates a very poor grasp of the chronology. The essay earned a score of 1 on the strength of the single correct piece of evidence presented (concerning Peter the Great and his modernization of Russia).