

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY

2013 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 6

Analyze the factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state in Western Europe in the mid-20th century.

9-8 Points

- Thesis identifies at least TWO factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state in Western Europe in the mid-20th century (1930s–1970s).
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
- Essay is balanced in its analysis of factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state in the mid-20th century.
- Major assertions in the essay are supported by multiple pieces of evidence.
- May contain errors that do not detract from the argument.

7-6 Points

- Thesis identifies at least TWO factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state in Western Europe in the mid-20th century (1930s–1970s), but the essay may not develop these fully.
- Organization is clear, effective in support of the argument, but not consistently followed.
- Essay provides analysis of factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state in the mid-20th century but may do so in an unbalanced way, placing greater focus on one factor.
- Major assertions in the essay are supported by relevant evidence.
- May contain an error that detracts from the argument.

5-4 Points

- Thesis may identify ONE or more factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state in Western Europe in the mid-20th twentieth century (1930s–1970s), but it may develop only ONE factor effectively.
- Organization is clear, effective in support of the argument, but not consistently followed.
- Essay may attempt analysis of factor or factors but be unsuccessful in its efforts; essay may be primarily descriptive with little or no analysis of factor or factors.
- Some major assertions in the essay are supported by relevant evidence.
- May contain a few errors that detract from the argument.

3-2 Points

- Thesis may be explicit but fails to address the prompt; factors may be identified but developed inadequately in the body of the essay.
- Organization is ineffective.
- Essay may fail to address the time period OR may focus on other developments of the time period (Cold War, decolonization, European integration) OR earlier efforts at social reform (Bismarck, the British Liberal Party) without linking such developments to the expansion of the welfare state in Western Europe in the mid-20th century.
- Essay may provide limited relevant evidence.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

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Question 6 (continued)

1-0 Points

- Thesis may be erroneous OR irrelevant OR absent.
- No discernible organization.
- Essay may fail to address the topic.
- Essay may contain little OR no relevant supporting evidence.

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Question 6 (continued)

Key terms

- Analyze. The charge is defined in the course guide in the following manner: “to determine the component parts; examine their nature and relationship.”
- Factors. “One that actively contributes to the production of a result.”
- Expansion. The process of increase of the “extent, number, volume, or scope of.”
- Welfare State. “The tendency of post-World War II states to establish safety nets for citizens in areas of birth, sickness, old age, and unemployment.”

“A system (developed on both sides during the Cold War) comprising state sponsored social programs to provide health care, family allowances, disability insurance, and pensions for veterans and retired workers.”

Historical Background

1. Factors identified by textbooks as causes for the creation of the welfare state
 - A. Response to economic hardship caused by the Great Depression and the two world wars.
 - B. Cold War – concerns over the strength of Communist parties in Western Europe (France, Italy) are usually mentioned.
 - C. Need for the reintegration of soldiers into civilian life.
 - D. Anxiety over declining birth rates.
 - E. Concern over wartime suffering (World War II).
 - F. Socialist demands for social justice and liberty.
 - G. Reduction of class tensions.
 - H. Economic security designed to create citizens who could enjoy a more comfortable life.
2. Context
 - A. By the early 20th century, a number of Western European governments had adopted measures that foreshadowed the welfare state of the mid-20th century.
 - B. Bismarck’s Germany pioneered social welfare legislation in the 1880s (sickness and accident insurance, old-age pensions) as a way of weakening the Social Democratic Party. Despite Bismarck’s efforts, the Social Democratic Party retained the support of Germany’s workers and was the largest political party in the Reichstag by 1914.
 - C. The British Liberal Party abandoned some of its commitment to laissez-faire in the years 1906–1916 when it enacted a host of social measures. One textbook describes the legislation as the “first hesitant steps toward the future British welfare state.” The reforms, according to some authors, were designed to halt the growth of the Labor Party. These reforms included insurance for sickness, accidents, old age, and (to a limited degree) unemployment. Some textbooks identify one piece of legislation by name (**National Insurance Act of 1911**).

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Question 6 (continued)

3. The Great Depression (1930s). In the long run, the effects of the economic collapse (the rise of Nazism, the appeal of Communism) persuaded many in Western Europe of the need to provide citizens with some degree of economic security.
 - A. Some textbooks note the fact that Great Britain cut benefits for the unemployed and the elderly in the early 1930s.
 - B. In the 1930s, the British economist John Maynard Keynes called for increased state spending (“priming the pump”) when the private sector is unable or unwilling to maintain adequate levels of investment; deficit spending (“Keynesian economics”) will be accepted as orthodox economic policy by most Western states until the 1970s.
 - C. France and the Popular Front – Leon Blum and the Socialist Party came to power in 1936 and introduced a series of reforms designed to meet the grievances of workers: the 40-hour work week, collective bargaining, and paid vacations.
 - D. Scandinavian countries – Sweden, in particular, accepted a growing role for the state in the area of social welfare. Deficit spending financed old-age pensions, unemployment insurance, subsidized housing, and maternity allowances. One textbook asserts that Scandinavian socialism evolved from a long-standing tradition of cooperation.
 - E. Some textbooks also point out that Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany provided public works programs, leisure time activities, inexpensive vacations, and subsidies for newlywed Aryan families.

4. The Postwar Period (after 1945). A new commitment surfaced to state-financed social programs. All textbooks focus on the example of Great Britain under the Labor government of Clement Attlee (1945–1951), and some mention specific legislation by name. Other Western European states receive less detailed treatment. Aims and motives are defined in a variety of ways.
 - A. The Beveridge Report of 1942, which laid out the rationale for the British welfare state, is not explicitly mentioned by all authors. The report recommended the creation of a “cradle to the grave” welfare system involving unemployment and old-age insurance, as well as national health services. Conservatives in Great Britain modified the program in the 1950s and 1960s but did not challenge the idea of the welfare state until the 1970s.
 - B. The Labour government (1945–1951) came to power pledging to implement a program of social welfare. Parliament passed legislation that established a comprehensive program of nationalized health insurance and service and comprehensive social security and unemployment insurance. The observation that such laws represented a broadening or extension of existing welfare legislation is made by some authors. Conservative governments in the 1950s supported efforts to improve housing.
 - C. Other Western European states enacted social welfare legislation as well. Textbooks treat such programs in a more generalized way, citing prenatal policies designed to raise birthrates, subsidized housing, and free or inexpensive higher education as significant elements of the postwar welfare state. Some authors emphasize that in its initial stages, the welfare state often discouraged women’s participation in the workplace (in Great Britain and West Germany). Health care was widely adopted, although no uniform system existed. In some cases medical care was free, while in other countries citizens contributed a portion of the cost. Free tuition or low fees for university education was intended to reduce class tension. The welfare state resulted in a dramatic increase in state spending on welfare programs, usually paid for by higher taxes.
 - D. Some textbooks also place the development of the welfare state in Western Europe within a broader context, pointing out that the Cold War created competition between two different systems of economic and social development.

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6A1

The mid twentieth century was a time of drastic change for Western Europe. Emerging from a period of laissez faire economies and the cold stance of Social Darwinism, ~~stability~~ European society in the mid twentieth century was pressured into a major expansion of the welfare state ~~state~~ as a means of ensuring stability and maintaining regional influence. ~~Desperately~~ ^{and Fascist} Desperately working to outmatch the Soviet ~~Threats~~ ~~of the~~ ~~opposite~~ ~~side~~ ~~of the~~ ~~continent~~, Western Europe adopted a more extensive welfare system, seeking to ~~add~~ add an element of stability and make capitalism ^{and western society} more attractive.

The establishment of the mid-twentieth century welfare state can be partly traced back to Leon Blum in pre-war France. Leading the Popular Front, a broad coalition of leftist groups, Blum's government sought to stabilize the French economic situation hounded by the great depression. ~~Establishing~~ ~~the~~ The popular front pushed through several important social welfare bills, including those establishing

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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.

paid vacation and limiting work hours. This legislation had the intent of stabilizing French society, creating guarantees and improving conditions to reduce the appeal of ~~the left~~ radical and reactionary action.

After the war, Blum's methods came back to the West, ^{memory} separated by a the Iron Curtain from the aggressive east. Seeking to recover from the devastation of the war, the West needed to offer citizens a better alternative to the state controlled system promulgated by the Soviet East. Reports from the Eastern Bloc of guaranteed jobs, equality, and stable economic situations were attractive to many in the then-west capitalist sphere. Thus, led by the efforts of politicians such as Britain's David Lloyd George, Western Europe began instituting social welfare legislation. This ~~was~~ transformation was ~~the~~ most prominent in Britain, where the Labour Government established the National Healthcare Service. The Labour Government also introduced reforms that provided the poor with food, housing, and other essential components of life. Thus, the forces of market socialism used the model originally

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2

tested by Leon Blum, to improve life conditions and thus increase national stability.

The development of the Western European welfare state, as exemplified by England under the Labour party and prewar France under Leon Blum, ~~was~~ was a method of preserving long term European stability. Food programs avoided starving masses, and National Health Care services prevented panic at disease or the financial constraints of poverty. In effect, welfare legislation in Western Europe made capitalism bearable for all classes and ensured that the west maintained social stability, so dearly claimed by the Eastern communist nations. Welfare made Europe steady and thus made it strong enough to resist and ~~emerge~~ emerge victorious in the battles against ~~to~~ fascism and communism.

Question 6

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

6 B 1

The welfare state expanded immensely in Western Europe in the mid-twentieth century. A welfare state is a nation that is concerned with the well-being of its members. Well-being includes health, and productivity. A welfare state wants to ensure the health of its people so that it can make sure it will succeed.

A state becomes a welfare state when it needs to make sure it will have a population of people that can work for it. There are multiple ~~reason~~ factors that led to the expansion of the welfare state, including both World Wars, ~~and~~ and the consequences that accompanied those.

Each of the World Wars had terrible costs in terms of loss of life for almost every country in Europe, especially Western Europe. All of the casualties led to a large decrease in the population of these Western European nations. In order to stimulate the regrowth of population, nations began giving benefits to families that had children. They began increasing the importance of health, by focusing on maternal health during pregnancy, for example. Giving families with children benefits and increasing the availability of health care and health care institutions, nations became welfare states.

Also in the aftermath of both World Wars many people were left homeless and refugees roamed the land without food or shelter. Nations made places where these people could stay. They made shelters and institutions to care for them. Also, nations increased quality of life of many people

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Question 6 B2

by funding programs such as allowing for new building developments so that families no longer had to live in cramped and crowded houses with three generations. The interest the nation took in the lives of its citizens made it into a welfare state.

Welfare States in Western Europe expanded in the mid-twentieth century. This is due to the fact that two massively destructive World Wars had occurred in the first half of the twentieth century. These wars had enormous death tolls which strained populations. In order to increase their populations, ~~countries~~ ^{welfare} states began to promote the health of their people and provide benefits to families that had children. Homeless people and refugees were also a result of the World Wars One and Two. The welfare state implemented programs to help them. Welfare states emerged to help the citizens of a nation, not just for the sake of helping the citizens, but as a way to help strengthen and ensure once more the success and prosperity of the nation.

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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.

6 C 1

Welfare began to expand in Western Europe in the mid-twentieth century. Welfare ~~didn't~~ expanded because of World War I and the use of the middle way.

World War I caused suffering to a majority of people. The people in power of Western Europe wanted to help their people and ~~The rulers of Western Europe put~~ ^{they used} government assistance to help aid their people. Welfare was also to prevent the people from suffering like the people in Germany; ~~Welfare was used to the government~~ government is trying to avoid having a dictator, like Hitler, from taking over. ~~Allowing this government assistance~~

The middle way, a concept of having both socialism and capitalism being used in the government, was ~~proven~~ ^{used} by Sweden. Sweden provided welfare to its people and Western Europe found this concept useful. Western Europe understood that some socialist ideas could be used to help benefit the people.

Welfare was used as an outlet to help

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the areas affected from wars and to bring stability. ~~The~~ World War I caused destruction in the economy and the government felt that welfare was a positive way to help the

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY

2013 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 6

Overview

The question was intended to assess the students' ability to deal with a number of important themes in AP European History — the rise and functioning of the modern state in its various forms, developments in political thought (isms), private/state roles in economic activity, and the changing distribution of wealth and poverty.

Sample: 6A

Score: 9

The thesis identifies two factors (preservation of stability and enhancement of the appeal of capitalism and Western society). Analysis traces the expansion of the welfare state by linking the efforts of the Popular Front in prewar France to the postwar policies of the Labour government in Britain and places the specific aspects of social welfare legislation in the context of their respective time periods. The essay supports assertions with multiple pieces of evidence (Leon Blum, policies of the Popular Front and the Labour government, market socialism). The obvious factual error (identifying David Lloyd-George as the leader of Britain's postwar government) does not detract from the student's demonstration of mastery of the relevant material. This essay received a score higher than an 8 because the quality of the analysis and the wealth of relevant supporting evidence are outstanding.

Sample: 6B

Score: 7

The thesis identifies two factors (world wars and their consequences — concerns over birth rates, the needs of victims of war) and defines them most clearly in the closing paragraph. The student provides analysis of the two factors, although the first factor (the efforts to increase population via the support of families and the provisions of health care) is treated in a more convincing manner. Major assertions in the essay are supported with relevant evidence (policies of the welfare state, depopulation due to war, housing provisions). This essay was scored lower than 8 because the analysis is less consistently developed than in stronger essays. This essay was scored higher than 6 because the analysis is more balanced and supported with greater evidence.

Sample: 6C

Score: 2

The thesis identifies factors (World War I and the "middle way") but fails to develop them. The essay describes the roles of the two factors without demonstrating much more than a generalized understanding of the idea of the welfare state (prevention of suffering). Limited evidence is provided. This essay was scored lower than 3 because it lacks even minimal analysis and is very thin on evidence. This essay was scored higher than 1 because it demonstrates at least a limited understanding of the concept of the welfare state and remains on task.