

2023



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# AP<sup>®</sup> European History

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

### **Inside:**

#### **Short-Answer Question 3**

- Scoring Guidelines**
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**Question 3: Short Answer, No Stimulus, Concert of Europe****3 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

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**(A)** Describe one cause for the development of the Concert of Europe in the early 1800s. **1 point**

**Examples that earn this point include the following:**

- An alliance of countries that came together to defeat Napoleonic/Revolutionary France.
- The agreements reached at the Congress of Vienna to contain France and prevent Napoleon's return.
- The desire to forestall revolutionary sentiment and maintain the conservative political order.
- Fears of the political effects of the spread of nationalism during and after the French Revolutionary wars/Wars of Napoleon.

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**(B)** Explain one way in which the Concert of Europe affected Europe in the first half of the 1800s. **1 point**

**Examples that earn this point include the following:**

- Conservative monarchies intervened to suppress revolutions and liberal movements.
- Nationalist movements for independence/unification were suppressed.
- Resentment toward conservative institutions grew across Europe, helping lead to the Revolutions of 1848.
- France sought to divide the Concert of Europe and create a new diplomatic order. Balance of power was maintained in Europe after the Napoleonic Wars.

**(C)** Explain one reason why the Concert of Europe broke down in the mid-1800s. **1 point**

**Examples that earn this point include the following:**

- The Revolutions of 1848 challenged conservative governments and pushed Metternich, the architect of the Concert of Europe, out of office.
- Nationalist movements grew in strength, eventually forcing some constitutional reforms and/or revolutionary change.
- European countries were increasingly concerned with Russian expansionism, leading to open conflict between members of the Concert of Europe in the Crimean War.
- Great Britain's parliament was increasingly liberal and highly skeptical of the commitment to intervene in internal European affairs on behalf of conservative monarchies.

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**Total for question 3 3 points**

- a. One cause for the Concert of Europe in the early 1800s was Napoleon's death and the Congress of Vienna. During 1815, Napoleon was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo and exiled to Elba where he died. The leaders of Europe met to have the Congress of Vienna so they could try return Europe to what it was before the French Revolution. Metternich led the Congress and believed that conservatism should be upheld and that The Concert of Europe should be an alliance of the states so they could prevent revolutions and suppress liberal ideals.
- b. One way the Concert of Europe affected Europe was the Italian Revolution during the Revolutions of 1848. The Italian Revolution was led by Mazzini and he created Little Italy which combined Italian city-states into a nation around northern Italy. The Revolution eventually failed due to Austria taking military action so they could stop the spread of the revolution and to preserve the balance of power.
- c. One reason the Concert of Europe broke down in the mid 1800s was the Crimean War. The Crimean War was between Russia and the Ottoman Empire over the Danube River and the Orthodox Christians living around the area. The British and French joined the war on the side of the Ottoman Empire to prevent Russia from disrupting the balance of power and defeated Russia to prevent Russia from gaining influence in Eastern Europe. Thus, the Concert of Europe broke down due to the end of alliances among the European states that were a part of the Congress of Vienna.

- a) One cause for the development of the Concert of Europe in the early 1800s was the French Revolution. The French Revolution proved a time period of radicalism as well as revolutionary ideas against the growing absolutism throughout the 18th century. The Reign of Terror was an example of the radicalism through killing those against revolutionary acts and eventually these ideas spread throughout Continental Europe. This is significant because the radicalism formed during the French Revolution made absolute monarchists afraid of the revolutionary acts occurring in their nations as well and resorted to conservatism.
- b) One way the Concert of Europe affected Europe during the first half of the 1800s was the prevention of revolutionary movements and radical ideas. During 1848, there were many revolutionary acts that broke out in continental Europe in nations such as Italy and Belgium which promoted the strive for a constitutional government. However, many of these revolutions proved to be unsuccessful with the use of the Concert of Europe with Austrian troops to prevent acts of revolution. This is significant because it displays that the conservatism forced by the Concert of Europe prevented many European nations from striving to a democratic government and absolutism remained.
- c) One reason the Concert of Europe broke down in the mid-1800s was the growth of new forms of government. For example, the Communist Manifesto was written by Marx and Engels throughout the mid-1800s and ideas of communism and Marxism began to spread throughout Europe. After the Crimean War, there was a destruction of the Concert of Europe. This is significant because the radicalism and totalitarian practices from communism replaced the conservatism that was promoted.

a) One cause for the development of the concert of Europe in the early 1800s was the Napoleonic wars. Napoleon took over most of Europe and was always looking for more. After he fell, the leaders of the big powers in Europe decided to agree on equal power so this wouldn't happen again.

b) One way in which the concert of Europe affected Europe during the first half of the 1800s was that there generally wasn't too much going on in terms of war. Nations weren't trying to take over land that wasn't theirs and just more calm than before.

c) One reason the concert of Europe broke down in the mid-1800s was the tensions that were building in Europe. Many nations were eager to grow and disregarded the concert of Europe which in turn, eventually caused it to fall apart.

### Short Answer Question 3

**Note:** Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

#### Overview

a) Describe one cause for the development of the Concert of Europe in the early 1800s.

Responses to this part of the prompt were expected to offer an accurate description of a cause for the development of the Concert of Europe in the early 1800s. The most likely routes to earning this point included descriptions of the impact of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars on Europe and the desire to restore order in Europe and forestall revolutionary sentiment. Description of the fears held by the conservative leadership of Europe to another revolution was another route to answering this part of the prompt. These topics are addressed in Unit 5 (Conflict, Crisis, and Reaction in the 18th Century), including topics 5.7 and 5.9.

b) Explain one way in which the Concert of Europe affected Europe in the first half of the 1800s.

Responses to this part of the prompt were expected to offer an accurate explanation of a way in which the Concert of Europe affected Europe in the first half of the 1800s. The most likely routes to earning this point included discussing how conservative monarchies intervened to suppress revolutions after 1815 through 1848 and the ways in which nationalist movements were suppressed. Another, less common, route was to explain how resentment of conservative policies and institutions grew across Europe, leading to the Revolutions of 1848. With sound explanation and examples, students could also explain how the balance of power was maintained in Europe after the Napoleonic Wars. These topics address Unit 6 (Industrialization and its Effects), including topics 6.5, 6.6, and 6.7.

c) Explain one reason why the Concert of Europe broke down in the mid-1800s.

Responses to this part of the prompt were expected to offer an accurate explanation of a reason why the Concert of Europe broke down in the mid-1800s. The most likely routes to earning this point included explaining how the Revolutions of 1848 challenged conservative governments and how nationalist movements grew in strength. Other acceptable responses explained that, though the revolutions were unsuccessful on a large scale, they were able to force some constitutional reforms and change. Another popular and direct route to earn the point for this prompt was to explain the results of the Crimean War as it related to the Concert of Europe. Here the discussion of the breakdown of the Concert of Europe could be explained as a result of the growth of open conflict between the members of the Concert of Europe. These topics also address Unit 6 (Industrialization and Its Effects), including topics 6.6, 6.7, and 6.9. These topics also address Unit 7 (19th Century Perspectives and Political Developments), including topics 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3.

### Short Answer Question 3 (continued)

**Sample: 3A**

**Score: 3**

The response earned the point for part (a) by describing how the Concert of Europe was caused by the goals of the Congress of Vienna to “return Europe to what it was before the French Revolution” and “prevent revolutions and suppress liberal ideas.”

The response earned the point for part (b) by explaining how the Concert of Europe affected Europe when the Italian Revolution of 1848 “failed due to Austria taking military action so they could stop the spread of the revolution and to preserve the balance of power.”

The response earned the point for part (c) by explaining how the Concert of Europe broke down due to the Crimean War. The response explains that the conflict led to the “end of alliances among the European states that were a part of the Congress of Vienna.”

**Sample: 3B**

**Score: 2**

The response earned the point for part (a) by describing how the Concert of Europe was developed due to rulers being “afraid of the revolutionary acts occurring in their nations,” as had happened during the French Revolution.

The response earned the point for part (b) by explaining how the Concert of Europe prevented “revolutionary movements and radical ideas.” The response uses examples to explain how force was used to continue conservative rule and prevent revolution.

The response did not earn the point for part (c), as the discussion of the “growth of new forms of government” does not provide a reason why the Concert of Europe broke down in the mid-1800s. Though the Crimean War is mentioned, the response does not explain how the war was a reason for the breakdown of the Concert of Europe.

**Sample: 3C**

**Score: 1**

The response earns the point for part (a) by describing how the Concert of Europe was caused by the Napoleonic Wars.

The response did not earn the point for part (b), as there is no explanation of a specific way in which the Concert of Europe affected Europe in the first half of the 1800s.

The response did not earn the point for part (c), as the discussion of “tensions that were building in Europe” is not developed as an explanation for the breakdown of the Concert of Europe in the mid-1800s.