

AP[®] WORLD HISTORY

2016 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

BASIC CORE (competence) **0-7 Points**

1. Has acceptable thesis **1 Point**

- The thesis must include **BOTH** a similarity **AND** a difference between the CAUSES of any two of the specified revolutions.
- The thesis must be explicitly stated in the introduction or the specified conclusion of the essay.
- The thesis may appear as one sentence or as multiple sentences.
- A thesis that is split among multiple paragraphs or merely restates the prompt is unacceptable.
- The thesis **CANNOT** count for any other point.

2. Addresses all parts of the question, though not necessarily evenly or thoroughly **1-2 Points**

For 2 points:

- Identifies at least one similarity **AND** one difference in the CAUSES of two identified revolutions.

For 1 point:

- Identifies one similarity **OR** one difference in the CAUSES of two identified revolutions.

3. Substantiates thesis with appropriate historical evidence **1-2 Points**

For 2 points:

- Must provide at least **six** pieces of relevant and accurate evidence related to TWO specified revolutions.

For 1 point:

- Must provide at least **four** pieces of relevant and accurate evidence related to ONE or TWO specified revolutions.

4. Makes at least one direct, relevant comparison between the revolutions **1 Point**

- Provides an additional difference OR similarity in the CAUSES of the identified revolutions beyond that stated for Core Point 2

5. Analyzes at least one reason for a similarity or a difference identified in a direct comparison **1 Point**

Subtotal **7 Points**

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Question 3 (continued)

EXPANDED CORE (excellence)

0 - 2 Points

Expands beyond the basic core of 1–7 points. A student **must** earn **7 points** in the basic core area before earning points in the expanded core area.

Examples:

- Has a clear, analytical, and comprehensive thesis.
- Addresses all parts of the question thoroughly (as relevant): comparisons, chronology, causation, connections, themes, interactions, and content.
- Provides ample historical evidence to substantiate thesis.
- Relates comparisons to larger global context.
- Makes several direct, relevant comparisons between or among revolution causes.
- Consistently analyzes relevant similarities and differences in causes of revolutions.
- Applies relevant knowledge of other regions or world historical processes.
- Recognizes nuances within revolution causes.

Subtotal

2 Points

TOTAL

9 Points

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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.

Thesis: Both the American and French Revolutions in the late 18th century were spurred by Enlightenment ideals and economic troubles, but while the American was a colonial revolution based in liberty, the French Revolution was a home revolution based more on equality.

First, the causes of the French and American Revolutions were quite similar in some ways. First, both revolutions were spurred by Enlightenment philosophies of natural rights and democracy spread by the printing press and thinkers such as Voltaire and John Locke.

John Locke's three inalienable rights are actually altered into the Declaration of Independence except instead of property Jefferson put "pursuit of happiness." A specific idea that came out of the Enlightenment that influenced both of these revolutions is the social contract which endorses revolutions against unjust governments. Secondly, both revolutions had the similar cause of under-representation.

In America's case it was the lack of colonial American representatives in Parliament even though Parliament passed laws for the American colonies that led to the phrase, "no taxation without representation." In France, the Estates General had three levels, and the third that represented the ordinary people was weakest and had less voting power than the first two estates. Besides

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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.

that, the French were also ruled by the absolute Bourbon kings that were not accountable and never called on the Estates General anyway. Lastly, both revolutions had the similar cause of economic troubles. In America, after the British victory in the Seven Years' War the government needed tax revenues to pay off its war debts. This led to unpopular taxes and restrictive mercantilist policies such as the Stamp Act, the Tea Act, and the Townshend Acts. In France, economic causes for revolution included the reckless spending of the king and the aristocracy, massive war debts after the Seven Years' War and the French aid in the American Revolution, and the famine that devastated France while King Louis XVI refused to put money into the economy to help.

Both the American and French Revolutions had two key differences that distinguished each other in the realm of revolutionary movements. First, the American Revolution was a colonial revolution against a colonizing mother country's government, while the French Revolution was in France, led by French, and sought to overthrow the French king. This difference led to different attitudes, since the Americans no longer considered themselves English colonists and wanted independence and self-determination from a foreign power, similarly to the Latin American Revolutions.

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The French revolutionaries did consider themselves French, and instead of looking for independence, they were looking for reform and an overthrow of the monarchy. Also, another major difference in the revolution's causes is the revolutionaries' goals and participants. In America, since the colonies were suffering from under-representation and mercantilist policies all social classes supported the revolution, and the division between revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries was established more on birth in the colonies and religious purposes. In France, the revolution mainly involved the middle and lower classes rebelling against the king and the landed aristocracy. This greater focus on class warfare in France led to violence against the aristocrats, violence against the church, and the goal of equality rather than the American ideal of liberty championed due to their lack of self-determination and their want of it.

Thesis: Thus, while the causes of the American and French revolutions both had similar underlying themes, they also had some distinguishing differences.

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

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The American and French Revolutions in the late 18th century were uprisings of the people to overthrow their monarchical governments. The two revolutions were similar in that they established democracy and a constitution yet different in that the Americans were seeking independence from their mother country (Britain) while France was seeking to overthrow its own government.

The American and French Revolutions were very similar. In both, people were angry at their monarchical governments for not giving them rights, imposing high/unfair taxes, etc. In both revolutions, the revolutionaries had to band together to form armies to fight their rulers. The people fought for rights such as religious freedom, and the right to play a role in the government. The revolutions inspired nationalism and together, both revolutions overthrew their governments. After the monarchies were overthrown, the revolutionaries put in place democracy and a constitution that protected their rights, a written social contract.

While the American and French Revolution were very similar, they also had a few differences. First, their geographic locations. America, a British colony, was in North America and was fighting for freedom from its

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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.

mother country Great Britain. France, on the other hand, was in Europe and was fighting for freedom from its own government. Another big difference was the time in which they happened. France's revolution occurred 8 years after the American Revolution. This was because France was inspired by America's fight for freedom. America, supportive of revolutions to overthrow monarchical governments and establish democracy, supported France's revolution financially and militarily.

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The similarities between the American and French Revolution is both began because the want of independence from regions. Not only that but the economic instability due to the debt they've accumulated. They also both began based off enlightenment ideas. Both fought a good fight and had an impact on the regions around them. They also played a major role in the revolution of other places. The major difference though, is that America didn't end in a Reign like the French. Some may say the french became greedy and started their reign of terror. Either way it played out both became recognized and gained independence after the initial fights.

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Question 3

Overview

This question asked students to analyze similarities and differences in the causes of two (out of a choice of three) Atlantic World eighteenth-century revolutions. This content is part of Key Concept 5.3. of the AP World History Curriculum Framework (Nationalism, Revolution, and Reform). By focusing on the historical thinking skill of Causation, the question required students to take an analytical approach and compare the factors that led to the outbreak of the chosen revolutions, rather than merely describe and juxtapose events and/or individuals that were part of the course of the chosen revolutions. By including the American Revolution as one of the three options, the question gave most students the chance to discuss as part of their answers content with which many felt relatively comfortable. One result of this was that the other two options in the comparison (the Haitian and/or French Revolution) became, in effect the “high bar” and provided opportunities for additional differentiation among student responses.

Sample: 3A

Score: 9

The thesis is in the first paragraph and addresses both a similarity and a difference between the causes of the French and American Revolutions, which earned 1 point for thesis. The essay proceeds to discuss both the similarity (influence of Enlightenment ideas) and the difference (the American Revolution being a colonial revolution to achieve independence from the mother country and the French Revolution being a “home revolution” to create a more representative government) identified in the thesis in two lengthy body paragraphs. This earned 2 points for addressing all parts of the question. The essay substantiates the thesis with well over 20 pieces of appropriate historical evidence, some related to the American Revolution and other evidence related to the French Revolution. This earned the essay 2 points for using evidence. There is an additional direct comparison (other than the one used to earn credit for Core Point 2) toward the middle of page 1, where an additional similarity in the causes of both revolutions —political “under-representation” — is identified and discussed. This earned the essay 1 point for direct comparison. There is persuasive analysis of the reasons for both the similarities and differences identified in the comparison between the two revolutions, which earned the essay 1 point for analysis. Specifically, the analysis point was earned by the essay addressing the concept of the social contract and its revolutionary implications (as an explanation of the similarity of the two revolutions being influenced by Enlightenment ideas on page 1) and by the discussion of the different role of social class (as an explanation of the difference in the type of grievances that led to the two revolutions on page 3). In addition to earning all 7 points in the Basic Core, the essay earned the maximum of 2 points in the Expanded Core for the plentiful evidence used in support of the thesis, the high level of analysis, and the overall depth of argumentation and organization.

Sample: 3B

Score: 4

The attempted thesis in the first paragraph did not earn the thesis point. It discusses a valid difference between the causes of the American and French Revolutions, “the Americans were seeking independence from their mother country (Britain) while France was seeking to overthrow its own government.” However, the similarities it addresses are either related to outcomes rather than causes (both revolutions “established democracy and a constitution”) or are too generic to be creditable, (for example, the statement that both revolutions were “uprisings of the people to overthrow their monarchical governments.”) Because the essay did not earn the thesis point, the valid statement of difference in the introductory paragraph was credited toward the Core Points for addressing all parts of the question. The second paragraph on page 1 identifies a valid similarity between the causes of the two revolutions (popular anger at existing governments for

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Question 3 (continued)

imposing high taxes), which, together with the discussion of a difference in the introductory paragraph, earned the essay 2 points for addressing all parts of the question. The essay uses seven pieces of relevant evidence in support of its argument: prerevolutionary monarchical governments; the revolutions leading to the establishment of constitutions; prerevolutionary governments imposing heavy taxes; the desire to establish a representative government (“the right to play a role in the government”); nationalism as a factor in the genesis of the revolutions; the idea of the social contract; and the role of the American Revolution as an inspiration for the French Revolution. This was sufficient to earn the essay 2 points for evidence support. The essay does not include a direct comparison between the two revolutions other than the discussion of a similarity and a difference used to earn the Core Points for addressing all parts of the question; therefore the essay did not earn the point for direct comparison. The essay did not earn the point for analysis as neither the discussion of a similarity (paragraph 2 on page 1) nor the discussion of a difference (paragraph 3 on pages 1–2) contains analysis of causes.

Sample: 3C

Score: 1

The essay does not have a thesis, and it did not earn the thesis point. It makes several vaguely comparative statements about the French and the American revolutions; however, the only statement that was creditable (as a valid similarity in the causes of the two revolutions) is the claim that both revolutions “began based off [E]nlightenment ideas.” That statement earned the essay 1 point for addressing all parts of the question. The statement that purports to identify a difference — “America didn’t end in a [r]eign like the French” — does not relate to causes and could not be credited for the second Core Point for addressing all parts of the question. The essay did not earn any points for using evidence because there are, at most, three pieces of relevant evidence mentioned: “economic instability due to the debt,” the Enlightenment, and the Reign of Terror in the French Revolution. No points were awarded for a direct comparison or for analysis, as the essay contains no attempts to earn these points.