

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE ESSAY RUBRIC

THE CRITERIA LISTED BELOW ARE THE CRITERIA USED IN SCORING THE FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS ON THE AP EUROPEAN HISTORY EXAMINATION. ESSAYS ARE SCORED ON A SCALE OF 0 – 9.

STRONGER ESSAYS: 9 – 8 – 7 – 6

Essays in this category will demonstrate the following qualities in varying degrees:

- Clearly addresses the terms of the questions: task words (e.g., analyze, “compare/ contrast”), content chronology
- Thesis statement is clear, precise, and concise
- Thesis statement directly responds to the question, without repeating the wording of the question
- Thesis statement outlines an original interpretation
- Introduction clearly identifies the supporting arguments that will be developed in body of essay
- Well-organized – good topic sentences, one supporting argument per paragraph
- Supports the thesis with specific evidence (people, events, ideas, publications, etc.); minimum 2 –3 specific examples or supporting evidence per argument

MIXED ESSAYS: 5 –4

Essays in this category will demonstrate the following qualities in varying degrees:

- Addresses the terms of question, perhaps unevenly; task words, content chronology
- Thesis statement responds to the question, but may not contain an original interpretation
- Uneven supporting evidence (e.g., one argument is more strongly supported than the others; only one example per argument)
- Uneven organization – reader had difficulty following progression of argument
- May contain factual or interpretive errors

WEAKER ESSAYS: 3 – 2 – 1 – 0

Essays in this category will demonstrate the following qualities in varying degrees:

- Misunderstands the question, or does not respond to any or all parts of the question (e.g., task words, content chronology)
- Unclear thesis statement; no original interpretation
- May contain factual or interpretative errors
- Confusing organization
- Little or no accurate supporting information

Grading Scale:

9 = 100
8 = 93
7 = 86
6 = 79
5 = 72
4 = 65
3 = 58
2 = 51
1 = 44

Essay Writing Tips

- Intro paragraph should be 2 – 3 sentences in length
- Your final body paragraph should be your strongest supporting argument
- Always connect your supporting evidence back to your thesis statement
- The conclusion should contain rewording of your thesis and concisely summarize the ideas in your essay
- If time, end with a comment about the significance of the topic in European History

Comments:

Score: ____ / 9