

2025



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# AP<sup>®</sup> European History

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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#### **Short-Answer Question 2**

- Scoring Guidelines**
- Student Samples**
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**Question 2: Short Answer Primary Source****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timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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 a likely purpose of the cartoon. **1 point**

**Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:**

- To show how Protestants were being persecuted by the Catholic government in France.
- To argue that forced conversion of Protestants to Catholicism was wrong.
- To attack Louis XIV's religious policies that persecuted Protestants.
- To warn French Protestants about the actions of Louis XIV.
- To show religious intolerance and/or inequality in France.

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**B** Describe a relevant religious context for the cartoon. **1 point**

**Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:**

- Hostilities between Catholics and Protestants continued even after the end of the Wars of Religion in France.
- France had a large Protestant minority as a result of the Edict of Nantes.
- France was a majority Catholic country with a Catholic monarchy.
- Most European monarchs considered it their right to promote an official national church.
- Consequences of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes on France.

- C** Explain one way that the development of the French monarchy in the 1600s led to the type of actions depicted in the cartoon. **1 point**

**Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:**

- Louis XIV sought to strengthen and centralize the French monarchy and saw Protestants as a threat to his absolute rule over France.
  - The theory of absolutism and divine right of kings, which flourished under Louis XIV, held that the king had the right to govern his subjects' religious affairs.
  - Louis XIV was engaged in a series of wars with Protestant powers [e.g., England, the Netherlands] and saw French Protestants as potentially disloyal, and this led him to oppress the Huguenots through forced conversion or exile.
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**Sample 2A:**

A) The likely purpose of this cartoon is to spread propoganda against Louis XIV and the catholic church. The Catholic soldier is perceived negitively, shooting a gun at a protestant who is seen as reasonable. This shows a clear protestant bias and makes fun of the protestants who convert through force; saying that their reason is overpowered by force.

B) During the late 1600s, French Huegenots were targeted by King Louis XIV to unite France under one religion. King Louis revoked the Edict of Nantes-- removing the freedom of religion for french protestants--to establish an absoloute monarchy and make the people easier to rule. This provides context to the religious violece portrayed in the cartoon.

C) In the 1600s, French monarchy underwent the shift to absolutism, where the king held sole power to the nation. King Louis XIV reduced the influence of the pope, clergy, and noblemen on France by distracting them with luxuriant parties and giving them tasks that shifted their focous away from their power and influence on the kingdom. To reduce the power of the church, King Louis XIV elected his own bishops to the church so he could control religion in france. To acheive absoloute power King Louis enacted the forceful conversion of people who refused catholic teachings and of protestants. This shows in the cartoon where the order of the absolute king leads to a protestant is forced to become catholic by a soldier.

**Sample 2B:**

A. The likely purpose of this cartoon is to depict the unequaility faced by Protestants from Catholic rulers such as Louis XIV and bring awareness to the prejudice monarchs uphold. Louis XIV was notably a Catholic monarch who hoped to maintain his power, and in this his goal was to establish France as solely a Catholic country, and through this, he pressured any protestant to join Catholic teachings. Overall, as this is a Protestant Cartoon, the prejudice from Louis XIV was likely highlighted as a way to show the unfair standard of living that protestants faced.

B. Relevant religious context of the Cartoon is Louis XIV revoking the Edict Of Nantes and abolishing ideologies of religious tolerance. With the rise of central power within monarchies, Louis believed that a true monarch must maintain power and if his citizens were of varying religions, it would pose a challenge. In order to solve this, he delcared anyone who disagreed with Catholicism a heretic as a way to ensure his authority. Revoking the Edict of Nantes further did this and showed his disapproval of any other religiouns showing the religious context of this cartoon.

C. The French Monarchy had many inconsistent views regarding religion within their country. Throughout religious reformations, they often sided with Catholic ideologies, but also had Huguenot influences that were once marked to be tolerated. Eventually, religious tolerance was granted to many, with protestanism still being looked down upon. The inconsistency and dislike of protestanism is what ultimately led to the type of actions that are being depicted in the cartoon.

**Sample 2C:**

The purpose of this cartoon is to display how religious intolerance was used to force conversion. Religious intolerance is the belief that your religion is the one and only acceptable religion. This cartoon shows religious intolerance because it is a soldier threatening a heretic to convert to Christianity.

One religious idea that applies to this was the encouragement of conversion. Christian faith encourages conversion which is the act of convincing one to join their faith. This is an act of conversion because the heretic is forced to sign his conversion.

The development of the French monarchy led to an increase of religious intolerance because after the printing press was invented, the Bible was more widely accessible and translated into multiple vernaculars. The printing press was a way to quickly print books and papers easily which led to the translation of many classical literatures out of Latin and into the widely spoken languages. This led to conversion because the Bible was learned and read by many more people.

## Short Answer Question 2

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

### Overview

**NEW for 2025:** The question overviews can be found in the *Chief Reader Report on Student Responses on AP Central*.

### Sample: 2A

**SAQ Part A Score: 1**

**SAQ Part B Score: 1**

**SAQ Part C Score: 1**

**Score: 3**

The response earned 1 point for Part A for describing how the purpose of the cartoon was to frighten Protestants and spread propaganda against Louis XIV.

The response earned 1 point for Part B for accurately describing the revocation of the Edict of Nantes as a relevant religious context of the cartoon.

The response earned 1 point for Part C by explaining how the shift to absolutism was a development in the French monarchy that allowed Louis XIV the power over the church displayed in the cartoon.

### Sample: 2B

**SAQ Part A Score: 1**

**SAQ Part B Score: 1**

**SAQ Part C Score: 0**

**Score: 2**

The response earned 1 point for Part A for describing the purpose of the cartoon as the depiction the inequality faced by Protestants through Catholic rulers such as Louis XIV and bringing awareness to the monarchs' prejudice.

The response earned 1 point for Part B for accurately describing the revocation of the Edict of Nantes as a relevant religious context of the cartoon.

The response did not earn the point for Part C because the discussion of religion in France does not show how the development of the French monarchy led to the actions of the cartoon.

## Short Answer Question 2 (continued)

**Sample: 2C**

**SAQ Part A Score: 1**

**SAQ Part B Score: 0**

**SAQ Part C Score: 0**

**Score: 1**

The response earned 1 point for Part A for describing the purpose of the cartoon was to show religious intolerance led to forced conversions in France.

The response did not earn the point for Part B as it did not adequately describe a specific religious context for the cartoon.

The response did not earn the point for Part C as the response does not explain a development related to the development of the French monarchy.