

2025



AP[®] European History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

Inside:

Short-Answer Question 2

- Scoring Guidelines**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

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timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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.

A Describe a likely intended purpose of the engraving. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- The engraving is intended to build support for the Spanish resistance to Napoleon’s invasion.
- The engraving is celebrating the heroic actions of a woman defending her city against the French invasion.
- The engraving is intended to commemorate a victory over the French during the Napoleonic wars.

B Describe a broader historical context for the events depicted in the engraving. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Men and women across Spain and Portugal joined in a popular uprising against the Napoleonic army’s invasion and occupation of the Iberian Peninsula.
 - Napoleon attempted to conquer the whole continent claiming to defend the ideals of the French Revolution.
 - The French Revolution and Napoleonic wars led to the rise of nationalism across Europe, especially in countries under French occupation.
 - Discussion about the role of women in society was prompted by the Enlightenment and its ideas of civic rights.
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- C** Explain one way that events such as those referenced in the engraving affected European politics in the period after 1815. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Women’s participation in the French Revolution and Napoleonic wars gave rise to a growing feminist movement that asserted women’s right to vote and participate in politics in the 1800s.
 - Patriotism and mass politics, inspired by the French Revolution and its ideals, became a defining feature of European political culture in the 1800s and beyond.
 - Rising nationalism in Europe, which developed as a response to Napoleon’s conquests, prompted a conservative reaction during the first half of the 1800s.
 - Conservative leaders sought to suppress popular uprisings which they feared could lead to broader revolutions similar to the French Revolution.
 - The Concert of Europe sought to establish a balance of power to maintain peace in Europe and make sure no European country could dominate the continent.
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Sample 2A 1 of 1

A. The intended purpose of the engraving was to project Spanish nationalism and pride during a time of foreign conquest. In the engraving, a woman demonstrates immense bravery, as she successfully defends against a mob of Napoleon's armies invading the Spanish city, Zaragoza. Given that the engraving was painted by Spanish artists, it highlights a desire to display Spanish strength and glory despite foreign enemies attempting to take the state over.

B. The broader historical context for the events depicted in the engraving was the Napoleonic Wars that terrorized Europe following the French Revolution. After Napoleon successfully seizes the French throne and establishes the first empire, he held great aspirations to expand his empire across Europe. Consequently, he initiated several Napoleonic wars to spread his liberalist ideals, including one in Spain. Despite his conquests, many states such as Spain feverishly fought back as shown in the engraving with a Spanish woman defending Zaragoza against Napoleon's armies.

C. One way the Napoleonic wars affected European politics after 1815 was the establishment of the Concert of Europe and the spread of conservatism. Horrified by the Napoleonic Wars, Austrian leader, Klemens von Metternich met with other European leaders to form the concert system. The concert system mandated the great powers to promote political conservatism and fight back against nationalistic and liberal movements. The conservative movement demonstrated a change from pre-1815 European politics where the continent began witnessing a wave of liberalism and nationalism.

Sample 2B 1 of 1

A likely intended purpose of the engraving is to demonstrate the power and resilience of citizens of Zaragoza, even in the form of women. The image displays a woman taking over for a man who appears to be dead in battle. The painting's demonstration of women stepping up when the city was in danger shows resilience especially as the Spanish city would be successful in their defense of the city.

Napoleon came into power as a result of the relatively unsuccessful French Revolution and with his newly gained power, he aimed to siege control over new land in hopes of enlarging France's empire. The painting depicts a specific moment in which Napoleon's army attempted to take over the Spanish city of Zaragoza. The painting is a smaller scale event of Napoleon's large dynasty and his lack of success in this siege is the beginning of his downfall as the leader of France.

The unsuccessful attempt at sieging Zaragoza in the painting as well as Napoleon's later fall at Waterloo would greatly affect the political standing of France. After the fall of Napoleon, he would be exiled to Elba and Helena while the rest of Europe recovered from his mass destruction. These events would inspire the Congress of Vienna which would result in the returning of Europe to the way it was previous to Napoleon's rule.

Sample 2C 1 of 1

A. one intended purpose of the engraving was to support spanish nationalism. The illustrations were commisioned by the spanish commander who won the battle. This proves that the engraving was made to support spanish nationalism because the general wants support and strong soanish nationalism in the fight against Napoleon because he is a general fighting for the spanish.

B. Historical context for this event was The rise of Napoleon and The Napoleonic wars. Napoleon invaded Spain during the Napoleonic wars. This proves that the context behind the battle and hence the engravement was Napoleons invasion and The Napoleonic wars.

C.The events showed int his image lead to The vienna conference and establishing a balance of power. This battle and many others lead to the downfall of Napoleon. This inturn caused the conference of Vienna between the winning powers of the Napoleonic wars who established a balance of power.

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 the point for Part A by describing the purpose as projecting “nationalism and pride during a time of foreign conquest” as this woman demonstrates immense bravery defending her city.

The response earned the point for Part B by describing how Napoleon initiated his wars to expand his empire and spread liberal ideas.

The response earned the point for Part C by fully explaining how the concert system promoted political conservatism to fight back against nationalist and liberal movements after 1815.

Sample: 2B

SAQ Part A Score: 1

SAQ Part B Score: 1

SAQ Part C Score: 0

Score: 2

The response earned the point for Part A because it describes how women stepped up to help in the successful defense of the city.

The response earned the point for Part B because it describes the context of Napoleon’s attempt to build an empire.

The response did not earn the point for Part C because it does not adequately explain how the “returning of Europe to the way it was previous to Napoleon’s rule” affected European politics.

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 the point for Part A by describing how the purpose of the engraving was to use Spanish nationalism to support the fight against Napoleon.

The response did not earn the point for Part B because it does not describe a broader historical context and only repeats information provided in the prompt.

The response did not earn the point for Part C because it does not fully explain what the concept of balance of power is and how it would affect European politics after 1815.