

2024



AP[®] European History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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Question 3: Short Answer No Stimulus**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timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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 one major Protestant belief in the period 1517 to 1650. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Protestants generally believed the Catholic Church was corrupt.
- Some Protestants saw wealth and prosperity as signs of God’s favor.
- Protestants believed the pope could not claim spiritual authority.
- Protestants believed that the Bible was the sole source of true Christian doctrine.
- Protestants believed that faith alone was necessary for salvation and denied the need to do “good works.”
- Protestants believed in the “priesthood of all believers” and gave less authority to clergy.
- Protestants questioned some Catholic sacraments or practices and re-interpreted others.
- Some Protestants believed in the predestination of individuals to salvation or damnation, others believed in adult baptism
- Protestants generally resisted the centralizing power of the Catholic Church.

[b] Explain one way in which the Protestant Reformation affected European politics in the period 1517 to 1650. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The Protestant and Catholic Reformations caused divisions in the religious and political order of Europe, eventually ending the ideal of universal Christendom.
- Conflicts between Protestants and Catholics led to religious wars in Europe.
- In some areas, monarchs gained the right to determine the official religion of their domain [*cuius regio est religio*].
- Conflicts between Protestants and Catholics led to internal conflicts in England, France, and the Holy Roman Empire.

- Conflicts sometimes led to official toleration of minority religions [e.g., the Edict of Nantes in France]
- Various reform groups, such as Anabaptists, challenged the monarch’s control of religious institutions.
- Issues of religious reform worsened the conflicts between the monarchy and the nobility in some states.
- Calvinists in Geneva attempted to unify religious and secular authority and create a theocratic state.

[c] Explain one way in which the Enlightenment further changed religious practices in Europe in the period 1650 to 1815. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The rational approach to religious practices led to societal demand, often fulfilled by enlightened despots, for religious toleration.
- Enlightenment concepts, such as human reason and rationalism, challenged the established ideas on the role of faith.
- Enlightenment thinkers, such as John Locke and Voltaire, advocated for the principles of equality and individual rights, which contributed to religious toleration.
- Enlightenment (distrust of religious “fanaticism) concepts, such as secularism and empiricism, encouraged people to regard religion more as a private matter than a public practice.
- Following Enlightenment principles, liberal revolutionaries in France sought to bring religion under state control and to end the privileged position of the Catholic Church.
- Radical revolutionaries in France sought to replace Christianity with a religion [the Cult of the Supreme Being] that they claimed was based on Enlightenment principles.
- Deism stressed natural law and rejected divine revelation, resulting in a change in religious practices.

Total for question 3 3 points

Sample A

Sample 3A:

- a. One major protestant belief in the period 1517 to 1650 was the emphasis on scripture. For example, Martin Luther criticized church through his 95 Theses on the church door. This called for an emphasis on reading the Bible in the vernacular and own interpretations rather than listening to the pope and church readings.
- b. One way with the Protestant Reformation affects European politics in 1517-1650s was top-down religious reform. Monarchs often used the religious upheaval and the weakening of catholicism to strengthen the state control over religion. For instance, Henry the VIII was unhappy with the church not allowing his marriage, so he formed the Anglican church. Henry VIII emphasized the Anglican faith on his people through the Act of Supremacy that established himself as the head of church, not pope.
- c. One way the Enlightenment further changed religious practices was the development of more private religions and questioning the authority of church. The Enlightenment brought an era of reason and thinking. As a result, skepticism emerged, which brought questioning of anything not experienced by oneself, including questioning of the pope's authority.

Sample B

Sample 3B:

a)The protestant reformation, created by Martin Luther believed that the pope should not have so much authority (like a God) and the good works did not lead to the salvation. As Martin Luther said, "Sola Fide" and "Sola Scriptura" (only faith and only bible) can lead to the salvation of the soul. This also meant that people couldn't buy their salvation that were sold by the Catholic Church (indulgences).

b)The Protestan Reformation divided the European Countries with the religious wars. The most important religious wars were the 30 years War(1618-1648) that started in Bohemia between the protestant officials and the Catholic ruler, Ferdinand. The thristy year war, later, spread in Europe (region of Bohemia, Dutch, Sweden (lead by Gustavus Adophus) and France (there it involved in a more political than religious struggle) and is divided in 4 major phases.

c)The Enlighment later solved the problem of religion by just dividing the state from the Church so that the religion would not affect the state and would not cause as many wars as before.

Sample C

Sample 3C:

One major protestant belief in the period 1517 to 1650 was the selling of indulgences was outright wrong and did not pay for your sins. Martin Luther's main problem with the Catholic Churches corruption was their selling of indulgences only to increase their funds. An example of this is Martin Luther's 95 theses, Martin Luther published this and wrote out every single ounce of corruption with the Catholic Church, but he mainly highlighted how wrong it is to sell indulgences.

The Protestant reformation affected European politics from 1517 to 1650 because it decreased the power of the Catholic church as a whole. Before the reformation, it was a norm for the Catholic Church to have a say in state and political affairs. After the reformation, people started breaking away from the Catholic church and converting to new forms of belief like Protestantism and Calvinism. The Protestant Reformation affected politics in the 16th and 17th centuries because countries began to run secular rather than aligning with views of religion.

The Enlightenment further changed religious practices in the period 1650 to 1815 by changing the way people interpreted communion. For example, a common controversy between communion for Calvinist and Protestants was whether or not the wine and bread literally became Christ's blood and flesh or it only served as symbolism to remember Christ's sacrifice. This shows how the Enlightenment changed religious practices because it allowed people to start interpreting things by themselves and to think for themselves. The enlightenment allowed for many new ideas like Individualism to be brought about and this changed many religious practices because it altered the way people think.

Short Answer Question 3

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

Overview

Responses to part (a) of the prompt were expected to offer an accurate description of one major Protestant belief in the period 1517 to 1650. Acceptable responses were expected to have a historically defensible description of how this major belief was different to, or critical of, the beliefs or practices of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

Responses to part (b) were expected to offer an accurate explanation of a reasonable effect of the Protestant Reformation on European politics in the period 1517 to 1650. Acceptable responses were expected to have a historically defensible explanation of how European, or a European region or state's, politics were directly affected by the Protestant Reformation.

Responses to part (c) of the prompt were expected to offer an accurate description of an Enlightenment concept and explain how it changed religious practices in Europe in the period 1650 to 1815. Acceptable responses were expected to reference both an Enlightenment concept and a religious practice and use specific language to convey a historically defensible change.

Sample: 3A

Score: 3

The response earned the point for part (a) by identifying the Protestant emphasis on scripture as a source of religious doctrine.

The response earned the point for part (b) by indicating Henry VIII's use of religious upheaval and the weakening of Catholicism to strengthen the English state.

The response earned the point for part (c) by linking the Enlightenment's focus on reason to changes in the practice of religion, both on a personal and an institutional level.

Sample: 3B

Score: 2

The response earned the point for part (a) by identifying multiple examples of Protestant theology.

The response earned the point for part (b) by noting that the Protestant Reformation divided European countries resulting in conflicts that ultimately caused France to join the Thirty Years' War for political reasons.

The response did not earn the point for part (c) because it did not link an acceptable Enlightenment concept to a change in religious practice.

Short Answer Question 3 (continued)

Sample: 3C

Score: 1

The response earned the point for part (a) with a description of the corruption in the Catholic Church during that period.

The response did not earn the point for part (b), because the explanation of the Protestant Reformation's effect on European politics e.g., "countries began to run secular" is too vague.

The response did not earn the point for part (c) as the evidence in the explanation is not within the timeframe of the prompt or correctly linked to Enlightenment thought.