

# Advanced Placement (AP) European History Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

- 1. In Isotta's view, why should Eve be seen as sinning less than Adam?**
  - A. She had less intellect and dedication**
  - B. She was not explicitly commanded by God**
  - C. She was born from Adam, who was created first**
  - D. She acted out of ignorance of God's will**
- 2. Which connection is emphasized in the passage regarding trade routes?**
  - A. Lisbon was a primary stop for all European goods**
  - B. The slave trade only connected Europe and Africa**
  - C. Spice, sugar, and slave trades created global connections**
  - D. Trade was confined within European states with minimal international ties**
- 3. What role did print media play in the spread of Enlightenment ideas?**
  - A. It created new religions**
  - B. It limited the dissemination of knowledge**
  - C. It popularized and disseminated Enlightenment thought to a wider audience**
  - D. It was primarily used for artistic expression**
- 4. The consumer revolution of the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries impacted which cultural movement?**
  - A. The Enlightenment**
  - B. The Renaissance**
  - C. The Counter-Reformation**
  - D. The Scientific Revolution**
- 5. What was the outcome of the Congress of Vienna in relation to the Holy Roman Empire?**
  - A. Restoration of the Holy Roman Empire**
  - B. Creation of a new federation for Germany**
  - C. Dissolution of the Napoleonic Confederation of the Rhine**
  - D. Establishment of democratic governance**

- 6. What political system's early development is reflected in Bodin's discussion of monarchical power?**
- A. Democratic government**
  - B. Absolutist systems of government**
  - C. Feudal systems**
  - D. Republican governance**
- 7. Which of the following contributed most strongly to the outbreak of the French Revolution?**
- A. The rise of monarchistic power**
  - B. Social stability and economic prosperity**
  - C. The Enlightenment**
  - D. Colonial expansion and imperialism**
- 8. Which of the following pieces of evidence most directly challenges the claim that the Scientific Revolution was characterized by a universal change in outlook?**
- A. Newton's investigations into alchemy**
  - B. The invention of the telescope**
  - C. The emergence of the scientific method**
  - D. Galileo's support of heliocentrism**
- 9. Which of the following best describes the impact of the wars of the French Revolution and of Napoleon on Europe?**
- A. The wars created a period of lasting peace in Europe**
  - B. The wars led to the spread of nationalist and liberal thought across Europe**
  - C. They solidified absolute monarchies throughout the continent**
  - D. The conflicts resulted in economic depression across Europe**
- 10. What was the intention behind the artist's portrayal of Empress Maria Theresa?**
- A. To depict her as a benevolent ruler**
  - B. To highlight her as an absolutist ruler of her diverse empire**
  - C. To show her as a maternal figure**
  - D. To emphasize her military leadership**



## **Answers**

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1. A
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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**1. In Isotta's view, why should Eve be seen as sinning less than Adam?**

- A. She had less intellect and dedication**
- B. She was not explicitly commanded by God**
- C. She was born from Adam, who was created first**
- D. She acted out of ignorance of God's will**

In the context of Isotta's argument regarding Eve and Adam, the reasoning behind the idea that Eve should be seen as sinning less focuses primarily on her lack of direct knowledge and command from God. The belief that Eve was not explicitly commanded by God supports the notion that her transgression was less severe because she did not fully understand the implications of her actions — she was not given the same level of instruction that Adam received. This perspective highlights that without a direct command, Eve's choice to eat from the Tree of Knowledge might be framed as less a product of disobedience and more a result of being misled or uninformed. She did not have the same responsibilities or understanding as Adam since she was created after him, and thus her ignorance could contribute to a lesser degree of culpability for the sin. This emphasizes the argument about the differences in knowledge and responsibility that existed between the two figures. The other options do not align with Isotta's argument in a significant way. The assertion that Eve had less intellect (the first option) reduces the complexity of her actions to a simple measure of intelligence, which does not capture the context of divine command and moral responsibility central to the argument. The third option, regarding Eve being created from Adam

**2. Which connection is emphasized in the passage regarding trade routes?**

- A. Lisbon was a primary stop for all European goods**
- B. The slave trade only connected Europe and Africa**
- C. Spice, sugar, and slave trades created global connections**
- D. Trade was confined within European states with minimal international ties**

The emphasis in the passage regarding trade routes highlights how the spice, sugar, and slave trades facilitated the development of global connections. These specific trades played a significant role in linking various regions and cultures, shaping economic and social dynamics across continents. The spice trade connected Europe to Asia, while sugar plantations in the Americas relied heavily on enslaved labor from Africa, creating a complex network of interdependence among Europe, Africa, and the Americas. This global interconnectedness transformed local economies into a larger, international framework, reflecting the rise of mercantilism and colonialism during this period. Thus, the correct choice illustrates the broader implications of these trade routes, demonstrating how they transcended mere local exchanges and contributed to a more integrated world.

### 3. What role did print media play in the spread of Enlightenment ideas?

- A. It created new religions
- B. It limited the dissemination of knowledge
- C. It popularized and disseminated Enlightenment thought to a wider audience**
- D. It was primarily used for artistic expression

The role of print media in the spread of Enlightenment ideas was crucial, as it significantly popularized and disseminated these thoughts to a much wider audience than previously possible. The invention of the printing press in the 15th century enabled the mass production of books, pamphlets, and newspapers, making it easier to circulate Enlightenment literature, which included works by philosophers like Locke, Rousseau, and Voltaire. These writings challenged traditional authority, emphasized reason and scientific thought, and advocated for individual rights and freedoms. As a result, print media helped to foster public discourse and debate among a burgeoning literate middle class. The ability to share ideas quickly across geographic boundaries allowed Enlightenment ideals to spread rapidly throughout Europe, influencing social, political, and cultural developments. In contrast, other options like the creation of new religions or limitations on the dissemination of knowledge do not accurately reflect the transformative impact of print media during this era. Additionally, while print media certainly encompassed artistic expression, its primary role during the Enlightenment was to convey and promote ideas, making its influence pivotal in shaping modern Western thought.

### 4. The consumer revolution of the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries impacted which cultural movement?

- A. The Enlightenment
- B. The Renaissance**
- C. The Counter-Reformation
- D. The Scientific Revolution

The consumer revolution of the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries played a significant role in shaping the cultural and intellectual climate of the Renaissance. This period was marked by an increase in the availability of goods, driven by expanding trade and improved production methods. As wealth grew, both in urban centers and among the emerging middle class, there was a newfound demand for luxury items, art, and literature. This consumer culture fostered an environment that celebrated humanism, individualism, and secularism—key themes of the Renaissance. The increased purchasing power allowed patrons to sponsor artists, leading to a flourishing of art and intellectual advancement. Artists like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo were able to produce celebrated works because wealthy patrons invested in their talents, which paralleled the consumer desire for art that reflected personal status and sophistication. In this context, the Renaissance can be seen not only as a rebirth of classical ideas but also as a response to the changing economic landscape that included a burgeoning consumer culture. This interaction between economic growth and cultural development was pivotal in shaping the Renaissance, illustrating how the increased demand for commodities influenced the values and artistic endeavors of the time.

5. What was the outcome of the Congress of Vienna in relation to the Holy Roman Empire?
- A. Restoration of the Holy Roman Empire
  - B. Creation of a new federation for Germany
  - C. Dissolution of the Napoleonic Confederation of the Rhine**
  - D. Establishment of democratic governance

The outcome of the Congress of Vienna regarding the Holy Roman Empire primarily involved the dissolution of the Napoleonic Confederation of the Rhine. This confederation was a group of German states allied with France during Napoleon's rule, which significantly altered the political landscape of Europe. After Napoleon's defeat, the Congress aimed to restore stability in Europe by reorganizing territories and balancing power. One of the key decisions made was the dissolution of the Confederation, which had undermined the traditional structure of the Holy Roman Empire and had been a significant instrument of Napoleon's influence over German states. The Congress of Vienna sought to reestablish a balance of power, leading to the eventual creation of the German Confederation, but the Holy Roman Empire itself did not resume its previous form. Instead, it eventually came to an end in 1806, which highlights the significance of the Congress' actions in reshaping the political landscape in Europe. Other options, such as the restoration of the Holy Roman Empire and the establishment of democratic governance, do not accurately reflect the major outcomes from the Congress of Vienna. The focus was more on establishing stability and preventing future conflicts than on returning to former imperial structures or introducing democracy. Similarly, while a new federation for Germany eventually arose,

6. What political system's early development is reflected in Bodin's discussion of monarchical power?
- A. Democratic government
  - B. Absolutist systems of government**
  - C. Feudal systems
  - D. Republican governance

Bodin's discussion of monarchical power is primarily reflective of the early development of absolutist systems of government. In his work, he emphasized the necessity of a strong, centralized authority to maintain order and stability within a state. This idea aligns with the principles of absolutism, which advocates for the primacy of the monarch's power and sovereignty—essentially arguing that the king's authority should be absolute and unchallenged by other political entities, such as nobility or church. During the late 16th century, when Bodin was writing, Europe was experiencing significant political change, moving away from feudalism and towards centralized state power. Absolutism became a prominent political theory as monarchs sought to consolidate power to effectively govern larger nations and respond to challenges such as civil unrest and external threats. Bodin's writing laid theoretical foundations for later absolute monarchs, who would embody this concentration of power, exemplified by figures such as Louis XIV of France. The other options do not align with Bodin's focus. Democratic government implies a power structure that emphasizes popular sovereignty and participation, which contrasts sharply with the notion of absolute monarchy. Feudal systems were characterized by localized power and obligations among lords and vassals, lacking the central authority

**7. Which of the following contributed most strongly to the outbreak of the French Revolution?**

- A. The rise of monarchistic power**
- B. Social stability and economic prosperity**
- C. The Enlightenment**
- D. Colonial expansion and imperialism**

The Enlightenment played a pivotal role in the outbreak of the French Revolution by profoundly influencing the political and social thought of the time. Enlightenment philosophers like Voltaire, Rousseau, and Montesquieu challenged traditional authority and emphasized reason, individual rights, and the social contract. They advocated for ideals such as liberty, equality, and fraternity, which resonated with the growing discontent among the French populace, especially the Third Estate (commoners). As citizens became more aware of these philosophical ideas and questioned the absolute monarchy and the privileges of the nobility and clergy, they were inspired to seek change. The clash between Enlightenment ideals and the existing social and political structures led to increased demands for reform and ultimately contributed to the revolutionary atmosphere in France. The other options, while relevant, did not have the same direct impact. The rise of monarchistic power and social stability with economic prosperity created a complex societal backdrop but did not inspire the same revolutionary fervor. Colonial expansion and imperialism may have influenced economic conditions but were not central to the ideological and philosophical foundation that drove the revolution. Thus, the Enlightenment emerges as the most significant contributor to the awakening of revolutionary sentiment in France.

**8. Which of the following pieces of evidence most directly challenges the claim that the Scientific Revolution was characterized by a universal change in outlook?**

- A. Newton's investigations into alchemy**
- B. The invention of the telescope**
- C. The emergence of the scientific method**
- D. Galileo's support of heliocentrism**

The choice that most directly challenges the idea of a universal change in outlook during the Scientific Revolution is rooted in Newton's investigations into alchemy. While the Scientific Revolution is often seen as a time of rational inquiry and the rise of empirical sciences, Newton's deep interest in alchemy highlights the coexistence of mystical and non-empirical pursuits alongside the new scientific methodologies. This suggests that not all scientists fully embraced the rational, evidence-based approach that characterized the new scientific methods. Instead, many were still engaged in traditional forms of thought, including alchemical practices, which sought to transform base metals into gold and uncover the philosopher's stone. Such interests imply a lingering adherence to older, more esoteric frameworks of knowledge, thus challenging the notion of a uniform transition toward a strictly empirical scientific approach. The other elements, such as the invention of the telescope and the emergence of the scientific method, underscore the advancements and shifts in thought processes during this period, while Galileo's support of heliocentrism illustrates a growing acceptance of new ideas in astronomy. However, these pieces of evidence portray a more unified shift towards scientific reasoning, leaving Newton's alchemical pursuits as a notable exception that complicates the narrative of a singular change in outlook.

9. Which of the following best describes the impact of the wars of the French Revolution and of Napoleon on Europe?

- A. The wars created a period of lasting peace in Europe
- B. The wars led to the spread of nationalist and liberal thought across Europe**
- C. They solidified absolute monarchies throughout the continent
- D. The conflicts resulted in economic depression across Europe

The wars of the French Revolution and of Napoleon significantly shaped European politics, society, and ideology in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The correct answer highlights how these conflicts facilitated the widespread dissemination of nationalist and liberal ideas across the continent. During this tumultuous period, the concepts of popular sovereignty, individual rights, and national identity gained traction, challenging established monarchies and feudal structures. The French Revolution itself was driven by the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity, which inspired various revolutionary movements throughout Europe. As Napoleon expanded his empire, he carried these ideologies into the territories he conquered and influenced, often dismantling feudal systems in favor of more modern state structures rooted in nationalism. In contrast to the correct answer, the notion of establishing lasting peace (as suggested by one of the alternatives) is less accurate, as the wars actually set off a series of conflicts that would continue well into the 19th century. The idea that the wars solidified absolute monarchies is also misleading since they sparked movements aimed at democratization and the rise of national consciousness, which weakened traditional absolute power. Additionally, while there were economic repercussions due to the wars, characterizing the entire period as one of economic depression overlooks the varying degrees

10. What was the intention behind the artist's portrayal of Empress Maria Theresa?

- A. To depict her as a benevolent ruler
- B. To highlight her as an absolutist ruler of her diverse empire**
- C. To show her as a maternal figure
- D. To emphasize her military leadership

The portrayal of Empress Maria Theresa likely aimed to highlight her role as an absolutist ruler of her diverse empire. Maria Theresa ruled during a time when her authority and governance were critical in consolidating power across various territories, including Austria, Hungary, and other regions. Artists often aimed to convey the strength and unity of the ruler, especially in the context of an empire with a multitude of ethnicities and cultures. By emphasizing her as an absolutist leader, the artist would reflect her authority and the centralization of power that characterized her reign, which was significant in maintaining control over her diverse realm and addressing the challenges posed by rivals and internal conflicts. Additionally, while aspects such as benevolence, maternal qualities, or military leadership may be present in interpretations of her image, the focus on absolutism speaks more directly to how she navigated and managed the complexities of her rule, reinforcing her position of power and the stability she aimed to provide within her empire. This portrayal would resonate with the political climate of the time, where strong, centralized leaders were viewed as necessary for maintaining the integrity and strength of their states.



## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://ap-europeanhistory.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**