

LONG ESSAY QUESTION #3

Scoring Guide

The long essay question requires students to do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a **historically defensible thesis** or claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
- Describe a **broader historical context** relevant to the prompt.
- **Support** an argument in response to the prompt using **specific and relevant** examples of evidence.
- Demonstrate a **complex understanding** of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question.
- Students must select one of the three long essay questions. Each question focuses on the same reasoning process, but historical developments and processes in different time periods. The first option focuses primarily on historical developments or processes between 1450 and 1700, the second primarily on historical developments or processes between 1648 and 1914, and the third primarily on historical developments or processes between 1815 and 2001.

Evaluate the most significant effect of the revolutions of the nineteenth century on European politics.

Structuring your essay:

It is recommended that you spend 40 minutes planning and writing your essay. In this essay, you will want to create a strong thesis statement that makes a clear statement about the MOST significant effect of the revolutions of the 19th century. In essence, you will want to rank the effects from most important to lesser importance. In general, you should try for three historical examples that you can base the body of the essay on, each example will be approximately a paragraph in length.

You can choose to begin the essay with a description of the broader historical context. Very simply: Ask yourself, what events led to the revolutions you decide to discuss? If you can, in a paragraph, discuss the factors that led to the revolutions and then connect it to your thesis. You can also begin your essay with the thesis and then discuss the events leading to the revolutions, but both of these requirements should be in the beginning of the essay.

Once you have completed the **Thesis** and **Contextualization**, begin the “body” of your essay using the three examples you stated in your thesis. Using your knowledge of the period, and **specific facts** that you can recall, explain **WHY and HOW** these examples are significant. It is not enough to describe them, you must explain the **WHY and HOW**.

The last paragraph of your essay you should try to demonstrate complex understanding. Complex Understanding refers to a modification or qualification of your argument. It may be as simple as saying “On the other hand some argue the most significant effect is...” or it could include a compare and contrast paragraph to another revolution like the French Revolution of 1789 or the Bolshevik

Revolution of 1917. Another option is to discuss aspects that DID NOT change, for example the fact that the revolutions of 1848 led to the reestablishment of monarchies, in France and Austria.

Thesis Examples that would earn a point:

*The various revolutions in Europe in the 19th century led to many significant changes including the development of mass political parties, the expansion of central government authority, but **most significantly**, the rise of political ideologies such as socialism and marxism, that would have huge impacts on Europe.*

The most significant effect of the revolutions of the 19th century was the expansion of liberal ideals of the rights of the individual such as property ownership and voting rights.

Thesis examples that would NOT earn a point:

The most significant effect of the revolutions of the 19th century was that there was a new way to look at politics in Europe.

The most significant effect of the French Revolution was the beheading of Louis XVI and the emergence of Napoleon.

Contextualization:

Description of events or factors that led to the revolutionary period in the 19th Century.

- After Napoleon's defeat, the Congress of Vienna was convened to reestablish the traditional order of Europe based on monarchies, religion and social order. These forces of conservatism restored "legitimate" monarchs, the rights of aristocrats and placed an emphasis on organized religion.
- At the same time, ideologies were being articulated that came into conflict with conservatism, first was the ideology of liberalism which grew from the ideals of the Enlightenment, which emphasized natural rights and limiting the power of the state. These ideals were expanded into economics by Adam Smith, Thomas Malthus and David Ricardo.
- The ideology that most conservatives feared at the time was nationalism. A mass movement that is based on the idea that people have a connection with their nation rather than a locality or a specific lord or prince. Nationhood was based on language, social and cultural traditions and often ethnicity.
- In essence, the revolutions of the 19th century are a reaction not only to the conservative order created by Congress of Vienna, but the problems associated with the industrial revolution. Including the plight of the worker, problems associated with the growing cities, lack of political representation.
- The ideology of socialism emerged with the general belief that along with political equality for all, there should be economic equality based on common or governmental ownership of property. Socialists such as Charles Fourier and Robert Owen called for the restructuring of society where people lived and worked in cooperation. Those who believed in these ideas were called Utopian Socialists. Socialist teachings played a role in the French revolution of 1848 with the short term implementation of Louis Blanc's idea of national workshops for the unemployed.

The essay MAY include explanation and analysis of some of the following:

Evidence:

- In the context of this question, it is very important that you do not try to do too much in your response. The general expectation of the question is to respond to the revolutions of 1848, BUT you could write a very effective essay regarding the the French Revolutions of the 1830 and 1832, Spain in 1820, The Decembrist uprising in Russia, the actions following the Peterloo Massacre and Chartist movement, and the Paris Commune. Write what you feel you know best.

- **Effects:**
 - Although forcing some change in France and Austria the revolutionaries were ultimately defeated by conservative forces with the support of the army and divisions with the various revolutions themselves. Emperor Franz Josef re-established control of his multi ethnic empire by relying on Russian forces to put down Hungarian nationalists. Prussia regained control after the granting of some liberal reforms, and King Frederick Wilhelm rejected the offer of the liberal Frankfurt Parliament to unify Germany, saying he did not want a “crown picked up from the gutter.” France, which chose Louis Napoleon as President using universal manhood suffrage, but a few years after his election was able to declare himself Emperor Napoleon III. Despite these setbacks for the cause of popular governance, some measure of reform was introduced to the European community. Including increased voting rights, the end of serfdom and implementation of limited democratic institutions.
 - After the failed attempts at unifying Germany and Italy on a liberal popular basis during the events of 1848, the defeat of Russia in the Crimean War, allowed Germany and Italy to unify under the leadership Otto von Bismarck and Camilio Cavour, respectively.
 - The adoption of some socialist concepts was critical in the unification of Germany under Bismarck. Using Realpolitik, Bismarck attempted to subvert influence from the Social Democrats by instituting aspects of the socialist agenda. For example, the implementation of an old- age pension and accident insurance.
 - Although some socialist ideals were being implemented, marxist ideology was still being debated and discussed throughout Europe. After the fall of Napoleon III, the Paris COMMUNE implemented marxist ideas for a brief time before being brutally defeated by government forces during “Bloody Week’ in May 1871. In some ways however, the Paris Commune was seen as the first communist revolution.
 - In Austria the revolution had the effect of moving to the concept of the Dual Monarchy also known as the Ausgleich. Franz Josef was now Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary. Hungarians were given expanded measures of independence and rights under the leadership of Franz Josef.

Analysis and Reasoning:

To earn this point you will need to demonstrate a complex understanding of the historical development in the prompt, using evidence to corroborate (confirm or support), qualify or modify an argument. (Examples)

Example of Nuance:

“Great Britain, which did not experience the revolutions as the countries on the continent did, engaged in limited reforms put in place in stages. The basis for this series of reforms was the People’s Charter otherwise known as the Chartist Movement. Although the People’s Charter was never passed in one act, Parliament passed the Great Reform Bill of 1832, and the Second Reform Bill granting increased suffrage to men. The vote for women would come again in stages, in the 20th Century. One of the key aspects of the British experience is the willingness to enact limited reform. “Reform that you may preserve.” Britain also saw the development of mass political parties, such as the Labour Party. These political parties represented a broad segment of society and in the case of the Labour Party, specifically the interests of the working class.”

Effects on Different countries:

“Although not affected by the revolutions of 1848, except in the fact that the Russian military helped put down the revolt in the Austrian Empire, Russia faced similar problems. As a result of their defeat in the Crimean War the new Czar Alexander II decided to emancipate the serfs, with the intention of avoiding a people’s revolution in Russia. He told the nobles it was better to emancipate from above rather than the peasants emancipating themselves. Although some serfs flourished in this new system, many now having to pay the nobles for their small plot of land, went into deep debt. Russia’s economy remained backward and a radical movement began to grow eventually leading to the assassination of Alexander.”

Connections:

“Because of the potato famine in Ireland, approximately one million people died of starvation and another one million left the country. Great Britain which controlled Ireland at the time, did make attempts at feeding the hungry but for a variety of reasons that effort fell short. As a result of this apparent inaction there was a rising feeling of hatred towards the British and the beginnings of the independence movement of the early 20th century. This mass migration also had a big effect on the working poor of Britain and the United States, leading to a lot of anti-irish discrimination in both Britain and America.”

“Due to the failure of the revolutionary movements in the German states as well as the rejection of the crown by Prussian King Frederick Wilhem, many disaffected revolutionaries left Germany for the United States. These nationalists who wanted a unified Germany with a liberal constitutional monarchy were disheartened by Frederick Wilhem’s statement that he would not take a crown from the gutter, and left Germany to immigrate along with hundreds of thousands of Irish to the United States.”

Connections:

“Karl Marx and Frederich Engles published the Communist Manifesto in 1848, just a few months before the uprisings in Paris. Their book played no role in the events of 1848, but the effect their writings had on future revolutionary movements was huge. It wasn’t until after the events of the Paris Commune and the outlawing of the Social Democratic Party in Germany that their works became widely known and published. The book along with Marx’s other work, Das Kapital, had tremendous influence on Lenin and the Russian Revolution. The establishment of a socialist state founded on Marx’s ideology would begin one of the major political conflicts of the 20th century.”

