**AP European History Study Questions**

**Renaissance**

1. If you were exposed to a full “liberal education” during the renaissance, describe what it would have involved? Make a comparison to your modern “liberal education”.

1. What was “Civic Humanism”? Is this something still practiced today? If so, how? If not, why not?

1. Were the humanists disrespectful of God and irreligious?

1. How does Machiavelli’s view of human nature compare with that of other Renaissance humanists? Do you see Machiavelli as moral, immoral, or amoral? Why did he write The Prince?

1. Describe the institution of slavery in Europe during the Renaissance era. Who were they? How were they treated? Why have slaves at all?

1. Why did the French choose to invade Italy in 1494? What did the Italian City-States do in response?

1. When it comes to the Nobility and the Clergy of the period, describe the effects that the Hundred Years War and the Great Schism had in terms of their power within the main nations of Europe. Which “City” benefited the most from these effects, the “City of Man”, or the “City of God”?

1. Why was there “war of the Roses” anyway? Who won? What did they win?

**Reformation**

1. Who stood to gain by the advancement of the Reformation and why?

1. Identify the various underlying causes for the increased criticism of the church?

1. Did local communities always oppose the sale of indulgences? Why or why not?

1. Describe the reform efforts of the church enacted before the reformation in order to end abuses?

1. What is “Justification by Faith Alone”? Why would this concept take issue with acts of Pope Clement VI and Sixtus IV?

1. Did the election of Charles V help the reformation efforts? If so how? If not, why not?

1. Why did the reformation movement begin in Germany? What political factors contributed to the success of the Reformation there as opposed to France & Italy?

1. What pamphlets did Martin Luther publish prior to being excommunicated and what was the main message of each?

1. What happened at the Diet of Worms? Did they really recommend that Luther eat worms to repent?

1. As the Reformation spread, did things get out of control when the peasant’s revolted in 1524-1525? Is Luther guilty of first inciting the revolt, albeit indirectly, and then urging the princes to crush to revolt? Why did he do that?

1. Compare and contract the viewpoints of Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli. How were the differences resolved?

1. Describe the evolution of the Anabaptist movement from a more liberating movement into a more radical stage. Did they succeed? How did the Catholic and Lutheran’s respond?

1. Whereas Luther opposed the use of his reform movement to restructure society, Calvinism embraced this ideal. Describe how Calvinism affected Geneva. Why did this reform movement eventually fail there?

1. How did Henry VIII resolve his marital difficulties and how did this resolution affect his relationship with the Catholic Church? Did Henry VIII fully convert to a protestant position? Give examples.

1. Describe the reforms put in place by the Council of Trent. Could one argue that the protestant movement succeeded based upon the Counter-Reformation reforms? If so, why did the religions remain separated?

1. Consider the following and detail how daily religious life changed where the reformation had succeeded in the late sixteenth century: Local aristocratic authority, use of vernacular, and the new lay authority over the clergy.

1. Scholasticism (the educational philosophy which sought to bridge the gap between “faith” and “reason” or church doctrine and Aristotelian logic) was opposed by Luther and Calvin. What did they replace this style of learning with in the Universities of Western Europe? Was this move seen as positive by Renaissance humanists? Why or why not?

1. While the protestant movement allowed women more liberation in terms of divorcing, education and political freedom, women were still being molded into a domestic lifestyle based on the bible. Therefore, do you believe women social status improved thanks to the reformation? Explain your answer with 2-3 specific pieces of evidence in explaining why or why not?

1. Why was it better to wait a little longer to get married in the 16th – 17th centuries? Any drawbacks?

1. Given the ongoing debate between “faith” & “reason”, how might you draw on Cervantes “Don Quixote” to illustrate this struggle?

1. Explain why Shakespeare’s plays could be considered humanistic, rather than religiously based?

**Religious Wars**

1. Why was Calvinism more attractive to those who favored political decentralization? Why was Catholicism favored by those desiring absolute monarchy?

1. Henry of Navarre (Henry IV) said, “Paris is worth a Mass”. Elizabeth I was said to be “Married to England”. William of Orange was declared an “Outlaw”. What was meant by these classifications within the context of the religious wars in which each were involved.

1. What were the classic Huguenot theories of resistance? What were they resisting?

1. Why were Pope Sixtus V and Philip II upset by the ascension of Henry IV to the throne of France? Were their concerns justified?

1. What effect did Spain’s success in Silver Mining in the New World have on their homeland?

1. How was the Anglican Church established? Did Elizabeth’s solution please everyone? Why or why not?

1. Who made use of the “Sea Beggars” and why were they useful? Who was not able to use them? Why not?

1. How did the fragmentation of Germany contribute to the cause of the Thirty Years War?

1. How did a pile of manure save the day during the “defenestration of Prague”?

**Absolutism**

1. Why was the Parliament of England more politically active than the Estates General of France during this time period? How did trust play a role?

1. What was the Millenary Petition and what was the only substantive result?

1. How did Charles I attempt to raise funds, and save money, without having to call Parliament? Given the example of his tax on tobacco, how did his policy on knighthoods backfire?

1. Why did the Scots rebel against Charles I?

1. Outline the significant changes enacted by the “Long Parliament”?

1. What was so glorious about the “Glorious Revolution”?

1. What was meant by “One king, one law, one faith”?

1. How specifically did Richelieu act “Machiavellian” in his approach to ruling?

1. What was the concept of “The Divine Right of Kings”?

1. Why did Louis revoke the Edict of Nantes and what happened as a result?

1. Why was there a “War of the Spanish Succession”? Who fought? Why fight? Who won? What were the various results?

**Scientific Revolution**

1. Compare & contrast Geocentrism and Heliocentrism considering their major attributes, accuracy, and problems.

1. Given the geographic location of Copernicus, Brahe, Kepler, Galileo, Newton & Descartes, deduce or determine their religious affiliation, and analyze how that may have effected their respected work?

1. Based on Copernicus’s “On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres” (p. 452) and Galileo’s “Letter to the Grand Duchess Christiana” (p. 468) how do each approach the dilemma of relating science to the bible? Carefully ascribe precautions, motives, and assertiveness of the arguments relative to their audiences and evaluate whether each would likely have changed their view given the other’s audience.

1. Would you rather live under a government designed by Thomas Hobbes, or John Locke? Explain your answer with at least 3 examples.

1. What factors prevented women from fully participating in the new science? How did family relationships help some women become involved in the advance of natural philosophy?

1. Explain why there were “Witch-hunts”, and why did they occur during this time in particular? Analyze how the Reformation may have contributed to this?

**Paths To Power (Eastern Absolutism)**

1. What was the primary role of the “Parlements” of France? Compare/contrast the French parlement of Paris with the British Parliament in terms of structure and political aims.

1. What were the fundamental differences between the Whigs and Tories? How were they organized?

1. Consider Lady Mary Wortley’s advice and answer the following: What do you know about the author? What is the author’s point of view/bias? What point is the source trying to convey? Why is the source important?

1. Who were the “Maritime Nations” and describe the “shift” of political influence that occurred. Who benefited, who lost out?

1. With relation to government, religious practice, trade/economics, and foreign relations, describe how the Ottoman empire fell into decline after the siege of Vienna in 1683.

1. What did Russia seek on the Baltic and Black seas and why would this be important to them?

1. Where did Peter the Great travel and in what specific ways did this trip impact Russia?

1. Study the painting on page 510. What does this Dutch still life represent? Why might it be called “a dialogue between this newly affluent society and its material possessions”? Explain any bias in the painting (What’s not “true” about the painting?).

**Enlightenment**

1. Describe how Isaac Newton and John Locke influenced enlightened ideals.

1. Consider Immanuel Kant’s definition of Enlightenment and answer the following: What do you know about the author? What is his point of view / bias? Where was it published and how might that affect the meaning of the source? Why is this source important?

1. What was the “print culture”? How did this movement affect religious publications? How did it enrich the concept of public opinion and thus governments?

1. How was a coffeehouse like a “political stock exchange”?

1. Explain Voltaire’s cry: “Crush the Infamous Thing”.

1. Consider Voltaire’s attacks on “Religious Fanaticism” and answer the following: What do you know about the author? What is his point of view / bias? Where was it published and how might that affect the meaning of the source? Why is this source important?

1. Consider Rousseau’s argument for separate spheres for men and women and Mary Wollsonecraft’s rebuttal. Based on this evidence, describe what the role of women in various classes probably consisted of in the late 18th century. Does this evidence suggest any improvement in the lives of women since the 1400’s? Explain your answer.

1. Who partitioned Poland from 1772 – 1795? Why was Poland able to be partitioned multiple times, and what motivated the state who took advantage?

**French Revolution**

1. “The problem lay with the inability of the royal government to tap the wealth of the French nation through taxes to services and repay the debt.” (p. 626) Briefly outline and summarize the attempts of the King to raise money. What stood in the way?

1. What are the main differences between the two groups of historians who have debated the causes of the French Revolution. Based on your study, come back to this question and answer which group of historians you tend to agree with, and why?

1. Why was the system of weights and measures reformed? What is a gram?

1. Why did the September Massacres take place, and what was the end result in terms of political structure?

1. Why was the “Republic of Virtue” enacted? What did it do, and how was it justified? Were these actions justified? Why or why not? (be specific)

1. What was the “Temple of Reason” and explain the greater context in which this “temple” was created. Why has the “Civil Constitution of the Clergy” been considered the greatest blunder of the National Assembly?

**Age of Napoleon**

1. Describe the key aspects of the Constitution of the Year VIII. Compare and contrast to the United States Constitution. Why did this constitution not last?

1. Describe the following tactics used by Napoleon to gain absolute power. How effective and/or necessary were each to his success?

-Bribery

-Centralized Government

-Secret Police

-Political Opportunities

-Concordat with Pope Pius VII

-The Napoleonic Code

1. Why did Napoleon set up "satellite states" and how were these states managed? Name

the Satellite States. Was it successful?

1. How did Napoleon alter the form and functions of the church?

1. What did the Congress of Vienna do to prevent France from attempting to dominate Europe again? Did it work?

**Nationalism**

1. What difficulties did Conservatives face in Austria, Prussia and Russia following the Napoleonic wars?

1. What were the aims of the “Concert of Europe”? How did the Congress of Vienna change the outlook and practice of international relations in the eighteenth century?

1. Describe the constitution of the restored monarchy of France. Was the government truly constitutional?

1. What was “The Eastern Question”, who was “asking” it, and how was it answered? Outline the major events, motivations and results of the Greek Revolution of 1821 (you may need to expand beyond the text as this is an important topic).

1. In what significant way did Brazil’s move to independence differ from other Latin American colonies? What were the overall results of Latin American independence?

1. What was so “great” about the Great Reform Bill in Great Britain?

**Industrial Revolution (Ch. 16)**

1. Describe the typical family structure, roles of each member in the family economy, and explain WHY this structure existed as it did.

1. What were the advantages of the “family economy”? What were the disadvantages? Why & how did married couples try to limit the number of children they had?

1. Why did the “Village method” or Open-Field method fail to meet the needs of the changing, commercial revolution in agriculture?

1. If you were out on an “Industrial Revolutionary Picnic” which would you rather have, some Charcoal or Coke? Why?

1. Identify an underlying, intermediate, and immediate cause of the “defamation of women workers” and how their work became more associated with the home. Explain the significance of this shift. (also see p 750 – 756)

1. Who were the Upper Classes, Middle Classes, and Artisans of the time period? What role did guilds play and who would benefit from them the most?

**(Ch. 22)**

1. What changes did industrialism make in society? Why was this time period so difficult for artisans?

1. In what ways did the industrial economy change the working-class family? Specifically, how did the role of women change in the new industrial era?

1. What were the goals of the working class in the new industrial society, how did these goals differ from middle-class goals?

1. What were the chief ideas and motives behind the early socialists? How did the ideas of Karl Marx differ from those of earlier writers?

**Age of Nation States**

1. Complete a “War Chart” for the Crimean War. Add additional research if you find it difficult to complete the chart, but the chart must be complete.

100.      Why did the Ottoman Empire attempt to reform itself and how successful were these efforts?

101.      What were the main challenges facing those who desired Italian unity and how were these overcome?

102.      What were the underlying and immediate causes for the establishment of the Dual Monarchy in Austria-Hungary? Why did the Hapsburgs agree to the Compromise of 1867?

103.      Why did the abolition of serfdom not satisfy the peasants?

**Toward The Modern World**

104.      What new industries emerged in the late 19th century and how did they help transform society? How did these changes transform family life?

105.      Why did Napoleon III redesign Paris, and what was the significance of these changes? What were the lasting results of the redesign? Were these mainly positive or negative? Explain.

106.      What social class first became active proponents of housing reform, and why?

107.      What social disabilities did women face in the late 19th century? Were any of these challenges overcome, if so, how?

108.      Explain the “Skepics” point of view and why did Christianity come under attack? Apply Hegel’s theory of history to the situation and identify the Thesis, Anti-Thesis, and Synthesis.

109.      What was the character of late-nineteenth-century racism? How did it become associated with anti-Semitism?

**World War I**

110.      Explain how economic, cultural and strategic motives contributed to the imperialist movement of the 19th century.

111.      Which countries could justify their imperialist actions based upon strategic concerns and which countries were motivated by more irrational elements?

112.      Who was the “Honest broker”? What was he brokering, and how honest and successful was he?

113.      Complete the [CHARTS](http://www.jannervision.com/apeuro.html/WWI-chart.doc) using text p. 892-900 regarding Alliances.

114.      Why did Austria need German support before going to war with Serbia? What was the “Blank Check”?

115.      In a nutshell, what was the Schlieffen Plan? Why was it critical to make the “right wing” strong, and why did this not happen? What was the result?

116.      What were the new innovations associated with warfare in WWI? How effective were each? (This may include notes from class and/or additional research)

117.      Who were the “Red Russians” and the “White Russians” and what were their political goals? Who succeeded? Why?

**Political Experiements (Russian Revolution – Interwar Period)**

118.      Kagan states that “Political and economic nationalism went together”. What does he mean by this?

119.      Identify and explain the top postwar economic challenges that Europe faced.

120.      Why was land confiscated under “War Communism”?

121.      Why did Lenin issue the New Economic Policy (NEP)? Did it seem to deviate from his core Communist beliefs? If so, how? If not, why not?

122.      Explain the concept of “Socialism in one country” as it relates to Russian communism.

123.      Describe Communist views toward women

124.      What methods were used to help elevate Mussolini to power?

125.      Why did the French invade the Ruhr and what effect did it have on the Weimar Republic? How was it finally resolved?

126.      Describe the initial challenges facing the Weimar Republic.

127.      What was the Nazi definition of “Socialist”? Who did Hitler blame for Germany’s woes and why did he blame them?

128.      Evaluate the success of the Locarno Agreements and conclude whether or not the Weimar Republic might have succeeded.

**Europe And The Great Depression**

129.      What were the causes of the Great Depression in the 1930’s?

130.      How did various governments do to confront the Great Depression? Offer specific examples.

131.      Describe the principles of the Nazi Economic policy and to what extent were they successful at improving the German economy.

132.      What problematic resulted from Stalin’s program of rapid industrialization?

**World War II**

133.      Why were the Russians suspicious of the British and French leading up to WWII, and why did they sign the Nazi-Soviet pact?

134.      What was the reasoning behind “Precision bombing” and “Area bombing”? Who conducted which? Evaluate which was more effective overall?

135.      Why were the Jews the main target of Hitler’s policy of extermination? How was it possible to carry out such a vast mass murder?

136.      Describe the attitude of the Vichy French and include a description of their relationship with the Catholic Church during this time.

137.      Create a chart with the following columns: “Tehran”, “Yalta” & “Potsdam”. Title the following rows: “People”, “Purpose”, “Results”. Be prepared to analyze this chart for discussion in class or possible essay.

**The Cold War**

138.      Consider both the American and Soviet perspectives with regard to the U.S. containment policy. How might the Truman doctrine be perceived as a threat to Soviet security?

139.      What happened in Prague in 1948 and why was this event significant for all of E. Europe?

140.      How did the US and Soviet Union’s policy for a post-war German differ? Develop a brief argument taking the Soviet side and write down 2-3 reasons (evidence) to support it.

141.      Outline the major steps of the creation of Israel. What happened as a result and how does it factor into the Cold War?

142.      Outline the events of the Korean War and explain its causes and results.

143.      What was the Suez crisis, and what were the results?

144.      What did the disturbances in Poland and Hungary illustrate about Soviet domination in E. Europe? How does this compare with U.S. domination of W. Europe?

145.      What was the Cuban Missile Crisis? Why was it a crisis? Who was the winner? How?

146.      Describe the causes and effects of Decolonization. How was Vietnam drawn from a move for Independence, into the Cold War?

147.      In one sentence for each, summarize Nixon, Ford, & Carter’s interactions with the Soviet Union.

148.      Outline the significant changes in Soviet policy that began under Mikhail Gorbachev. Why did these changes lead to the August 1991 coup? What was the result of the Coup?

149.      When communism collapsed, what happened in Yugoslavia?

**Dawn of the Twenty-First Century**

150.      What caused the mass migrations in the latter half of the 20th century? Why did people move? Who moved? Where from? Where to?

151.      What is the “Welfare State”? What are the reasons behind it? How have attitudes changed toward it in more recent years?

152.      How have the role of women changed in the 20th century? Outline causes and effects of these changes. How do these trends differ between Western Europe and Eastern Europe?

153.      Who were the “Intellectuals” and why, if they were SO smart, would they praise Stalin?

154.      How did Existentialism compare with Rationalism? Which is better & why?

155.      What is a “Consumer Society” and how has it transformed Europe?

156.      Describe the effects the dawn of the computer age has had on society, considering “Haves and have-nots”.

157.      Outline the steps of the rise of Radical Islam, considering relations with Israel, the Iranian Revolution, Arab nationalism, and the first Gulf War in 1991.

158.      What are the main differences between Conservative Arab states, and their foreign policy, and the fundamentalist outlook?

159.      How has the events of September 11th changed US foreign policy and how does this change impact the nations of Europe in particular?