

Past-paper walk-through

Contemporary Western Democracies ■ 9.6

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2025 Set 2 Q4
- 2024 Set 1 Q4

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 4

2025 Set 2 ■ Q4

Respond to parts A, B, and C.

- (a)** Describe one significant political characteristic of European unification efforts in the period from 1945 to 1990.
- (b)** Describe one economic factor that facilitated European unification efforts in the period from 1945 to 1990.
- (c)** Explain one way the economic system in Eastern Europe differed from the economic system in Western Europe in the period from 1945 to 1990.

Solution 4

(a) Mark scheme

- Describe one significant political characteristic of European unification efforts in the period from 1945 to 1990. (1 point) — accept any: Unification efforts in Western Europe, including but not limited to NATO, were motivated by the competition with the socialist Eastern bloc, which responded by uniting under the Warsaw Pact.; Unification was a gradual process that was mostly pushed by France and West Germany.; Attempts at political unification were intended to follow economic unification.; European unification was a means for Western European countries to challenge the dominance of the United States after World War II.

Solution 4

(b) Mark scheme

- Describe one economic factor that facilitated European unification efforts in the period from 1945 to 1990. (1 point) — accept any: Unification efforts in Western Europe were spearheaded with economic measures like abolishing tariffs and trade barriers.; United States economic support to Western Europe such as the Marshall Plan encouraged states to make moves towards unification.; Integration began with the successful coal and steel treaty which motivated next steps for unification.; The loss of overseas colonies deprived Western European states of captive markets for goods and of exploitable resources, which encouraged the lowering of trade barriers within Western Europe.

Solution 4

(c) Mark scheme

- Explain one way the economic system in Eastern Europe differed from the economic system in Western Europe in the period 1945 to 1990. (1 point) — accept any: Countries in Western Europe rebuilt their economies faster than the countries of the Soviet bloc due to the Marshall Plan, which led to the “economic miracle.”; Western Europe was more prosperous than the countries of the Eastern bloc due to free market policies, in contrast to the centrally planned economic development pushed by the Soviet Union, which proved to be ineffective.; Western European countries, integrated into the global economy, developed richer consumer culture while this did not happen in the less prosperous countries of the Soviet bloc.

Question 4

2024 Set 1 ■ Q4

Respond to parts a, b, and c.

(a) Describe one difference between challenges faced by democracies in Europe in the interwar period (1919 to 1939) and challenges faced by democracies in Europe in the post-Second World War period (1945 to 1989).

(b) Describe one similarity between challenges faced by democracies in Europe in the interwar period (1919 to 1939) and challenges faced by democracies in Europe in the post-Second World War period (1945 to 1989).

(c) Explain one reason why democracy spread in Europe in the period 1975 to 2000.

Solution 4

(a) Mark scheme

- Describe one difference between the challenges faced by democracies in Europe in the interwar period [1919 to 1939] and the challenges faced by democracies in Europe in the post-War period [1945 to 1989]. (1 point) — accept any: In the interwar period, democracies were confronted by two major alternative ideologies [fascism and communism], while in the post-World War II period, they were only confronted by one, communism.; The United States played a much more active role in supporting European democracies in the post-WWII period than it had in the interwar period.; In the interwar period, Europe faced economic crisis [e.g., Great Depression], whereas in the post-War period, economic problems were addressed through financial aid [e.g., Marshall Plan].; Western European

Solution 4

democracies attempted more economic and political cooperation in the post-War period [NATO, the gradual creation of the EU].; After the Second World War, many democratic countries faced the challenges of strong anticolonial movements and eventual loss of most of their overseas colonies.; The Soviet Union and communism posed a much larger military threat in the post- WWII period.; Attempts by women to gain political and economic rights were more successful in the post-World War II period compared to the interwar period.

Solution 4

(b) Mark scheme

- Describe one similarity between the challenges faced by democracies in Europe in the interwar period [1919 to 1939] and the challenges faced by democracies in Europe in the post-War period [1945 to 1989]. (1 point) — accept any: In both periods, democracies were confronted by powerful ideologies and non- democratic regimes that at times seemed more stable and capable, such as fascist regimes and the Soviet Union.; In both periods, communism posed a threat to the legitimacy of capitalist and democratic governments.; In both periods, democracies had to contend with economic instability.; In both periods, democracies faced social and economic upheaval associated with re-adjustment/reconstruction after a major conflict.; Nationalism challenged

Solution 4

democracies in both periods.; In both periods, the United States played an increasing role in European economic and political affairs.

Solution 4

(c) Mark scheme

- Explain one reason why democracy spread in Europe in the period 1975 to 2000. (1 point) — accept any: The collapse of the Soviet Union ended support for non-democratic regimes in Eastern Europe.; The fall of communist regimes in Eastern Europe, caused largely by internal failings, vindicated democratic approaches to government.; The creation of the EU and its expansion during this period reinforced the principles of democratic governments.; The continued prosperity of democratic countries provided justification for the value of democracy.; The influence of American capitalism and consumerism demonstrated the value of economic freedom and democracy to European states.; The death of

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Spanish dictator Franco eliminated an authoritarian alternative to democracy that had persisted since the Second World War.