

# 2018 AP European History DBQ

## Sample Responses



### SAMPLE RESPONSE A (7/7)

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| <p><i>Martin Luther's 95 Theses shook the foundations of Catholic control of the Holy Roman Empire. With the help of the printing press, his ideas spread through the Empire and attracted the attention of many sympathetic nobles. The conflicts between Lutherans and Catholics in the sixteenth century were settled by the Peace of Augsburg, which set as the rule, "Whoever reigns, his religion," giving local rulers the choice between the Lutheran and Catholic faiths within their principalities. The Thirty Years' War began in 1618 as a result of tensions between the Catholic leadership of the Holy Roman Empire and the leaders of Bohemia (modern day Czech Republic), which was heavily Protestant. These disagreements came to a head after the Defenestration of Prague, in which Bohemian Protestants threw Catholic messengers out of a seventh story window.</i></p>   | <p><b>CONTEXTUALIZATION</b> is very detailed, leaving no room for the reader to ask whether this point is to be earned or not.</p>   |
| <p><i>The Thirty Years' War was primarily a religious conflict within the Holy Roman Empire but became political after the intervention of Sweden and France, who saw the war as an opportunity to weaken the Habsburg monarchy.</i></p>  | <p>A <b>THESIS</b> is present that makes a historically defensible claim supported by a line of reasoning.</p>   |
| <p><i>The Thirty Years' War began as a religious war. In the early seventeenth century, a conflict arose between the Holy Roman Emperor and the Protestant leaders of Bohemia regarding the liberty of the local population to practice Protestantism. In an open letter to the Protestants in Bohemia, Emperor Matthias assured his subjects that he had no intention of restricting Protestant liberties in Bohemia and that they had no reason to rebel (Doc 1). The purpose of this open letter was to get the Bohemians – who were evidently arming themselves for war – to calm down. However, they had plenty to worry about once Matthias was succeeded by Ferdinand, who revoked Protestant liberties once he took over as Emperor. In response to Ferdinand taking the throne, Bohemian Protestants formed the Bohemian Federation, which swore to defend Protestant rights and to renounce allegiance to the Holy Roman Emperor if</i></p> | <p>A <b>TOPIC SENTENCE</b> is presented, making it clear that this paragraph will address the war's origins.</p> <p><b>DOC 1</b> is accurately described and supports the topic sentence.</p> <p><b>PURPOSE (POV+)</b></p> <p>A small amount of <b>OUTSIDE EVIDENCE</b> is presented – not necessarily enough to earn the point on its own merit.</p> <p><b>DOC 2</b> is accurately described and supports the topic sentence.</p> |

Protestant rights were not respected (Doc 2). The Bohemian phase of the Thirty Years' War was fought primarily in Bohemia and resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Catholic armies of the Holy Roman Empire. Behind the Catholic armies came the Jesuits, who sought to re-Catholicize Protestants in the Holy Roman Empire. A Jesuit official noted resistance from local authorities and also that he enjoyed the support of the government of the Holy Roman Empire (Doc 3). The Jesuit activities in the Holy Roman Empire were consistent with the mission of the Jesuit Order, which was founded by Ignatius of Loyola in order to re-Catholicize areas that had fallen into the "heresy" of Protestantism.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT** for Doc 2 (POV+)

**DOC 3** is accurately described and supports the topic sentence.

**NOTE:** ALL documents in this paragraph support the argument that the 30YW began as a local, religious conflict.

**POINT OF VIEW / HISTORICAL CONTEXT** (POV+)

After observing the defeats of the Protestants by the Catholic armies of the Holy Roman Empire, Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden intervened on behalf of the Protestants. His motives were primarily religious, but he had some political motives, as well. In a letter to the Protestant elector of Brandenburg, Gustavus claimed that he sought not his own advantage, but to keep the Protestant religion from being abolished in the Holy Roman Empire; however, he did acknowledge that he was concerned about the security of his kingdom (Doc 4). As a foreign ruler intervening in a civil war in another country, it was important that Gustavus make his motives look as pure as possible so that he would not be seen as an opportunist. Gustavus Adolphus, known as the "Father of Modern Warfare," achieved several victories with his strategies that made use of mobile artillery on the battlefield, but he was killed in battle. After his death, a confidential account of a meeting between his allies stated that his intentions had been to liberate Protestants who were being oppressed as well as to keep his kingdom's interests in the Baltic region safe (Doc 5). Since this account was a confidential record of a meeting between allies, it should be seen as reliable, but since Gustavus Adolphus was dead, he was unable to speak for himself regarding his own intentions. It should be noted that, to varying degrees, the confidential account of the meeting between Sweden and Brandenburg was consistent with Gustavus' letter to the Elector of Brandenburg since both mentioned that he had two motives: defending Protestantism and securing Sweden's interests – Gustavus focused on the former in his letter but did mention the latter.

A **TOPIC SENTENCE** is presented, making it clear that this paragraph will focus on the motivations of Gustavus Adolphus.

**DOC 4** is accurately described and supports the topic sentence.

**POINT OF VIEW** (POV+)

Another sentence containing **OUTSIDE EVIDENCE** is presented – not necessarily enough to earn the point on its own merit.

**DOC 5** is accurately described and supports the topic sentence.

**POINT OF VIEW** (POV+)

**COMPLEX UNDERSTANDING** is demonstrated by showing **corroboration** between Doc 4 and Doc 5

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| <p>The final phase of the Thirty Years' War was increasingly political, as France – a Catholic country – got involved on the side of the Protestants with no religious pretext, whatsoever. France had recently been through its own Wars of Religion, resulting in its government being dominated by politiques – people who cared more about politics than about religion. In a political cartoon by Jean Gagniere, Cardinal Richelieu, the First Minister of France, is depicted persecuting Protestants in France while Catholic Spain and Austria – both ruled by Habsburgs – watched in chains (Doc 6). Richelieu believed that France's interests were best served by intervening on the side of the Protestants because that would weaken the Habsburgs and strengthen France's position in Europe. The French intervention resulted in a stalemate, leading to the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. The Peace of Westphalia guaranteed the rights of Protestants in the Holy Roman Empire – including Calvinists in addition to Lutherans, who had already been protected – and also weakened the Habsburg monarchy's control over the Holy Roman Empire. Protestant areas, such as Switzerland and the Netherlands, were granted freedom from Habsburg control. Freedom of private worship was also guaranteed in the Holy Roman Empire. The pope was not very happy about these changes and declared them null and void in a declaration in response to the treaty (Doc 7).</p> | <p>A <b>TOPIC SENTENCE</b> is presented, making it clear that this paragraph will focus on the political nature of France's intervention.</p> <p><b>HISTORICAL CONTEXT</b> is presented for Doc 6 (POV+)</p> <p><b>DOC 6</b> is accurately described and supports the topic sentence.</p> <p><b>OUTSIDE EVIDENCE</b> is presented in a thorough account of the French phase of the Thirty Years' War in multiple sentences.</p> <p><b>DOC 7</b> is accurately described – possibly argumentative but it doesn't need to be since six others have been.</p> |
| <p>The Thirty Years' War began as a religious conflict in the Holy Roman Empire and continued to be mostly about religion, but the interventions of Sweden and France added political elements to the war – especially with Catholic France siding with the Protestants.</p>   | <p><b>THESIS RESTATED</b> without looking back at the original thesis. If it didn't get credit the first time, maybe the second attempt will get credit.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Even the best essays don't require a "conclusion" paragraph.</p>  |

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