

Past-paper walk-through

The European Union ■ 9.10

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2025 Set 2 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.