

3.1 Contextualizing State Building

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to write the **context** for seventeenth-century state building.

You must be able to:

- name the pressures that pushed rulers to strengthen the state
- explain why war drove administrative change
- state the two models the century produced
- avoid narrating reigns instead of naming conditions

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ The pressures

Prolonged warfare, religious division within realms, fiscal shortfall, and revolt. Each pushed rulers toward more reliable revenue and more direct control.

■ War and administration

Larger and longer wars required money on a scale that occasional grants could not supply. Permanent taxation required permanent administration, and permanent administration is what distinguishes the century's states from their predecessors.

■ Two models

One route concentrated authority in the crown; another distributed it between crown and representative institutions. The century produced both, in neighbouring realms, from similar pressures.

2 Practice

2.1 Name three pressures that pushed rulers to strengthen the state.

[3]

2.2 Explain why war produced permanent administration. [2]

2.3 Two neighbouring realms respond to similar pressures differently.

(a) State what this shows. [1]

(b) State what an explanation must therefore include. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Permanent taxation required [1]

- **A** occasional grants
- **B** permanent administration
- **C** fewer officials
- **D** no records

3.2 That similar pressures produced different outcomes shows [1]

- **A** the pressures were imaginary
- **B** other factors determined which route was taken
- **C** the outcomes were identical
- **D** war was irrelevant

3.3 A context paragraph lists four pressures and stops.

(a) State what is missing. [1]

(b) Explain why it matters. [2]

4 Go further

- work through the **3.1 Contextualizing State Building** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Absolutism and Constitutionalism** section of the AP European History handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 any three of: prolonged warfare; religious division within realms; fiscal shortfall; revolt.

2.2 longer wars needed money beyond what occasional grants supplied, and permanent taxation required a permanent apparatus to assess and collect it.

2.3 (a) that the pressures did not determine the outcome. (b) the local factors — institutions, alliances, the balance between crown and elites — that decided which route was taken.

3.1 B. a standing revenue needs a standing apparatus.

3.2 B. the same input with different outputs implies further variables.

3.3 (a) what each pressure made possible or necessary. (b) a condition explains nothing until its consequence is stated, which is the purpose of a context paragraph.