

5.9 Continuity and Change in 18th-Century States

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to write **continuity and change** for 1648 to 1815.

You must be able to:

- name a change and a continuity in sovereignty, commerce and thought
- explain why naming a continuity strengthens an answer
- state what the period settled and what it did not
- avoid describing only rupture

1 Worked examples

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

■ Sovereignty

Change: a rival claim that sovereignty belongs to a nation. **Continuity:** monarchy persisted almost everywhere, now answerable to a claim it had not faced before.

■ Commerce

Change: Britain ends the period holding most of the network, with financial institutions built to fight wars. **Continuity:** the network itself survived twenty-five years of war.

■ Thought

Change: Enlightenment principles reached statute and constitution. **Continuity:** reason acquired a serious critic in the same decades, so the argument continued rather than concluding.

■ Why continuity matters

Change without continuity reads as rupture; both together read as history. The continuity is also evidence that the change was real, since it shows what resisted.

2 Practice

2.1 State one change and one continuity in sovereignty. [2]

2.2 Explain why naming a continuity strengthens an answer. [2]

2.3 By 1815 monarchy persists across Europe.

(a) State what has changed about it. [1]

(b) State what has not. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Which is a continuity across 1648-1815? [1]

- **A** The commercial network survived the wars
- **B** Sovereignty acquired a rival claimant
- **C** Enlightenment principles reached statute
- **D** Romanticism emerged

3.2 Change without continuity reads as [1]

- **A** history
- **B** rupture
- **C** comparison
- **D** causation

3.3 Write a continuity-and-change paragraph on European thought, 1648-1815. [4]

4 Go further

- work through the **5.9 Continuity and Change in 18th-Century States** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Conflict, Crisis, and Reaction in the Late 18th Century** section of the AP European History handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 change: a rival claim that sovereignty belongs to a nation; continuity: monarchy persisted.

2.2 it shows what resisted the change, which makes the change measurable rather than asserted.

2.3 (a) it now faces a claim that sovereignty belongs to the nation. (b) the institution itself, which survived the period.

3.1 A. the network was redistributed, not destroyed.

3.2 B. only both together read as history.

3.3 a change named with evidence; a continuity named with evidence; the two connected; a judgment about which mattered more.