AP European History

Revision Sheet · 考前速记

Learn these by heart before the exam. 考试前把这些内容背熟。

The Nine Units

Renaissance and Exploration. Italian humanism and civic ideals; the Northern Renaissance and Christian humanism; the printing press spreads both; New Monarchies centralise; caravel and compass open the Atlantic; Columbian Exchange, the slave trade and the Commercial Revolution.

Age of Reformation. Luther's ninety-five theses; Calvin's predestination; the English break under Henry VIII; wars of religion end in the Peace of Augsburg, then the Edict of Nantes and the Peace of Westphalia; the Catholic Reformation and the Council of Trent; Mannerist and Baroque art as persuasion.

Absolutism and Constitutionalism. Louis XIV, Versailles and divine right; Habsburg and Romanov state-building; the English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution produce a limited monarchy; Dutch Golden Age commerce; mercantilism; balance of power.

Scientific, Philosophical, and Political Developments. Copernicus to Newton replaces authority with observation; Bacon and Descartes supply method; the Enlightenment's Locke, Voltaire, Montesquieu, Rousseau and Wollstonecraft; enlightened absolutism; salons and the public sphere.

Conflict, Crisis, and Reaction in the Late 18th Century. Fiscal crisis and the French Revolution; Declaration of the Rights of Man; Terror; Napoleon's empire and code; the Congress of Vienna restores order and creates the conservative reaction.

Industrialization and Its Effects. British advantages of coal, capital and colonies; factory towns and public health; new class structure; family and gender roles reorganised; responses from liberalism, socialism and Marx to trade unions and state reform.

19th-Century Perspectives and Political Developments. Nationalism unifies Italy and Germany under Cavour and Bismarck; Realpolitik; liberalism, conservatism, romanticism and realism; the second industrial revolution; new imperialism and its justifications; Darwin, Freud and the crisis of certainty.

20th-Century Global Conflicts. Alliance systems and the First World War; the Russian Revolution; Versailles and its resentments; the Depression; Stalin's Soviet Union, Mussolini's Italy and Hitler's Germany; appeasement, the Second World War and the Holocaust.

Cold War and Contemporary Europe. Iron Curtain, Marshall Plan, NATO and the Warsaw Pact; the welfare state; decolonisation; 1968 and the New Left; detente; 1989 and the collapse of Soviet control; European integration, migration and its politics.

Themes to Argue With

Interaction of Europe and the world 欧洲与世界的互动: exploration, empire and their return effects on European economy, ideas and politics

Economic and commercial developments 经济与商业发展: from the Commercial Revolution to industrialisation to the modern welfare economy

Cultural and intellectual developments: how ideas about God, nature, reason and the self change, and what each shift permits politically.

States and other institutions of power: centralisation, absolutism, constitutionalism, the nation-state, and the supranational European Union.

Social organisation and development: class, family, gender roles and the movement between countryside and city.

Technology and innovation: printing, gunpowder, steam, rail, and mass communication - each redistributes power.

National and European identity: how people came to feel French, German or European, and what that made possible.

Turning Points and -isms

Named turning points worth citing precisely: 1517 Reformation, 1648 Westphalia, 1688 Glorious Revolution, 1789 Revolution, 1815 Congress of Vienna, 1848 revolutions, 1871 German unification, 1914, 1917, 1945, 1989.

Liberalism 自由主义: individual rights, constitutional government and free markets; nineteenth-century liberalism is not the modern American sense of the word

Conservatism 保守主义: order, tradition, monarchy and church; the Congress of Vienna's operating creed

Nationalism can unify (Italy, Germany) or dissolve (Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Balkans). Say which it is doing.

Socialism from utopian to Marxist to revisionist and social democratic; Marx explains history by class conflict and predicts revolution in industrial societies.

Romanticism answers the Enlightenment with emotion, nature and the nation; realism, impressionism and modernism follow as further reactions.

Totalitarianism uses mass media, a single party and terror to reach into private life - the feature that distinguishes it from older autocracy.

Historical Thinking Skills

Contextualization 情境化: place the topic in the broader processes of its moment, then tie the context to your argument

Causation 因果分析: distinguish immediate from long-term causes and rank them; explain effects, do not merely narrate what followed

Continuity and change 延续与变迁: argue both sides across a period - most answers only prove change

Comparison: compare states, movements or periods and explain WHY they differ, not just that they do.

Sourcing 史料分析: explain how a document's author, purpose, audience or situation shapes its claim

Use the historian's caution: 'to a large extent', 'in the short term', 'for the urban middle class'. Qualified claims are defensible claims.

Exam technique

State a defensible thesis in the introduction or conclusion that answers the whole prompt and sets out a line of reasoning.

For the document-based question, use most documents as evidence, describe each accurately, and supply at least one specific piece of outside evidence.

Source several documents: name point of view, purpose, historical situation or audience, and explain why it matters to your argument.

For the long essay, everything rests on your own evidence. Two developed examples with dates and names beat a broad survey.

Short answers: answer each part directly with one specific example, in a sentence or two. No thesis needed.

Name the specific: Bismarck's Ems Dispatch, not 'a German leader'. The specificity IS the mark.

Watch the dates in the prompt, and cover the whole span it names - answers that stop at 1914 lose the second half.

Complexity comes from a genuine qualification: a region, class or decade that behaved differently, explained rather than mentioned.