

European History Challenges

European History · Practice Test · 16 Questions

1. Which of the following was a primary consequence of the Edict of Nantes, issued by King Henry IV of France in 1598?

- A) It outlawed all forms of Protestantism within France.
- B) It granted substantial rights to Huguenots (French Protestants) to practice their faith, albeit with limitations.
- C) It officially recognized Catholicism as the sole state religion of France.
- D) It led to a complete severance of diplomatic ties between France and England.

2. The Congress of Vienna, convened in 1814-1815, aimed to restore stability to Europe after the Napoleonic Wars. Which principle guided its decisions regarding the territorial arrangement of Europe?

- A) Self-determination for all nascent nations.
- B) The restoration of legitimate monarchies and the balance of power.
- C) The expansion of democratic republics across the continent.
- D) The establishment of a unified European economic zone.

3. What was the primary purpose of the Hanseatic League, a powerful commercial and defensive confederation of merchant guilds and market towns in Northern Europe during the late Middle Ages?

- A) To promote religious uniformity among member cities.
- B) To establish and maintain trade monopolies and protect its members' economic interests.
- C) To organize military campaigns against the Byzantine Empire.
- D) To develop a unified legal system for all of Europe.

4. The Peace of Westphalia, signed in 1648, is considered a landmark event in European history. What significant shift did it signal in terms of state sovereignty?

- A) It dissolved all monarchies in favour of republics.
- B) It established the principle of cuius regio, eius religio (whose realm, his religion), strengthening secular rulers' authority over religious matters within their territories.
- C) It created a supranational European parliament.
- D) It ended all forms of warfare in Europe.

5. During the Renaissance, the rediscovery of classical Greek and Roman texts played a crucial role. Which philosophical movement, emphasizing human potential and achievements, was heavily influenced by this rediscovery?

- A) Scholasticism
- B) Existentialism
- C) Humanism
- D) Stoicism

6. The Great Schism of 1054 refers to the formal split between two major branches of Christianity. Which two branches were involved in this division?

- A) Catholicism and Calvinism
- B) Orthodoxy and Protestantism
- C) Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy
- D) Anglicanism and Lutheranism

7. The Investiture Controversy, a significant dispute in medieval Europe, primarily concerned the power struggle between which two entities?

- A) The Holy Roman Emperor and the Pope.
- B) The King of France and the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- C) The Byzantine Emperor and the Patriarch of Constantinople.
- D) The Venetian Doge and the Holy Roman Emperor.

8. What was the primary motivation behind the Age of Exploration, which saw European powers embarking on voyages of discovery from the 15th century onwards?

- A) To spread communism across the globe.
- B) To find new trade routes to Asia, acquire new territories, and spread Christianity.
- C) To establish a unified European currency.
- D) To exclusively develop scientific research centres in the Americas.

9. The Enlightenment, a philosophical movement of the 18th century, championed reason and individualism. Which of these was a core idea promoted by Enlightenment thinkers?

- A) The divine right of kings as the ultimate source of authority.
- B) The importance of tradition and established hierarchies above all else.
- C) The belief in natural rights and the separation of powers.
- D) The necessity of strict adherence to religious dogma.

10. The Black Death, a devastating pandemic that swept through Europe in the mid-14th century, had profound social and economic consequences. Which of the following was a major impact?

- A) A significant increase in the power of the nobility.
- B) A widespread decline in agricultural productivity and a labour shortage, leading to increased wages for surviving workers.
- C) The immediate unification of all European states.
- D) A complete halt to all artistic production for centuries.

11. The unification of Germany in the 19th century was largely orchestrated by Prussia. Who is considered the chief architect of German unification?

- A) Kaiser Wilhelm I
- B) Otto von Bismarck
- C) Helmuth von Moltke the Elder
- D) Frederick the Great

12. The 'Scramble for Africa' in the late 19th century saw European powers rapidly colonize the African continent. What was a key driving force behind this colonial expansion?

- A) A shared commitment to African self-governance.
- B) The desire for raw materials, new markets, and national prestige.
- C) The need to liberate African populations from internal conflicts.
- D) A philanthropic mission to rapidly industrialize African societies for their own benefit.

13. What was the primary objective of the Council of Trent, convened by the Catholic Church from 1545 to 1563?

- A) To abolish the Papacy and establish a democratic church.
- B) To reform the Catholic Church and counter the spread of Protestantism (the Counter-Reformation).
- C) To reconcile with the Eastern Orthodox Church.
- D) To promote secular education and scientific inquiry.

14. The Napoleonic Code, enacted in 1804, had a lasting impact on legal systems across Europe and beyond. What was its most significant contribution?

- A) It abolished all existing property laws.
- B) It established a unified and rational legal framework, emphasizing equality before the law and property rights.
- C) It granted absolute power to military leaders.
- D) It introduced a system of trial by ordeal.

15. Which event is widely considered the immediate trigger for the outbreak of World War I in 1914?

- A) The sinking of the Lusitania.
- B) The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary.
- C) Germany's invasion of Poland.
- D) The signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

16. The Industrial Revolution, beginning in Great Britain in the late 18th century, fundamentally transformed European society. Which of the following was a key technological innovation of this period?

- A) The internet
- B) The steam engine
- C) The printing press
- D) The telephone