



Fact Sheet

WESTERN EUROPE SINCE 1945

TEST INFORMATION

This test was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that which is learned by students taking the course. The school may choose to award college credit to the student based on the achievement of a passing score. The passing score for each examination is determined by the school based on recommendations from the American Council on Education (ACE). This minimum credit-awarding score is equal to the mean score of students in the norming sample who received a grade of C in the course. Some schools set their own standards for awarding credit and may require a higher score than the ACE recommendation. Students should obtain this information from the institution where they expect to receive credit.

CONTENT

The following topics, which are commonly taught in courses on this subject, are covered by this examination.

- | | Approximate
Percent |
|---|--------------------------------|
| I. Historical Background | 15% |
| A. Reconstruction of Europe After World War II | |
| B. Impacts of the Cold War on Europe | |
| C. Impacts of the end of the colonial era on Europe | |
| D. The expansion of democracy and the welfare state | |
| E. Prominence and decline of Communism | |
| F. Emergence and development of European Institutions | |
| G. The end of the Cold War | |

- | | Approximate
Percent |
|--|--------------------------------|
| II. National Political Systems
(Primarily focused on France, Germany, Italy Spain and the United Kingdom) | 35% |
| A. Major Patterns of Governance | |
| 1. Parliamentary | |
| 2. Federalism | |
| 3. Constitutional Monarchies and Republics | |
| B. Political Processes and Institutions | |
| 1. Electoral Systems and Outcomes | |
| 2. Parties and Coalitions | |
| 3. Interest Groups | |
| 4. Political Movements | |
| 5. Participation | |
| C. Governmental Institutions | |
| 1. Legislative – Executive Relations | |
| 2. Judiciary | |
| 3. Bureaucracy | |
| D. Political Economy | |
| E. Policy Making and Implementation | |
| F. Constitutional Developments | |
| III. Issues and Policies | 25% |
| A. Class Distinctions | |
| B. Gender | |
| C. Ethnicity | |
| D. Religion | |
| E. Migration | |
| F. Employment | |
| G. Social Policies | |
| H. Politics of Identity | |

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|--|--------------------------------|
| | Approximate
Percent |
| IV. European Institutions and Processes | 20% |
| A. Common Institutions for | |
| 1. Governance | |
| 2. Economic Affairs | |
| 3. Human Rights | |
| 4. Security | |
| B. Common Policymaking | |
| C. Issues and Policies | |
| 1. Agricultural | |
| 2. Migration and Asylum | |
| 3. Public opinion | |
| 4. Regional | |
| 5. Environmental | |
| 6. Monetary | |
| 7. Social | |
| V. Europe's relations with the rest of the world | 5% |

Questions on the test require candidates to demonstrate the following abilities. Some questions require more than one of the abilities.

- Knowledge of basic facts and terms (about 45-50% of the examination)
- Understanding of concepts and principles (about 35-40% of the examination)
- Ability to apply knowledge to specific problems and situations (about 15-20% of the examination)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following countries has a federal political system?
 - (A) Norway
 - (B) Germany
 - (C) France
 - (D) Netherlands
2. The Marshall Plan proposed
 - (A) sending American troops to Germany
 - (B) creating new boundaries for Germany and Italy
 - (C) giving United States economic aid to European countries
 - (D) establishing NATO
3. The Treaty of Rome did which of the following?
 - (A) Created the European Coal and Steel Community.
 - (B) Established the European Economic Community.
 - (C) Extended the membership of the European Community from six countries to ten.
 - (D) Merged the European Community and the Council of Europe.
4. The Fourth French Republic was characterized by
 - (A) short-lived governments
 - (B) strong party discipline
 - (C) direct election of the prim minister by popular vote
 - (D) direct election of the president by popular vote
5. Who was the primary architect of the European unity movement?
 - (A) Pierre Mendès-France
 - (B) Ludwig Erhard
 - (C) Alcide de Gasperi
 - (D) Jean Monnet
6. The British electoral system is characterized by
 - (A) proportional representation with plurality decision.
 - (B) single-member constituencies with plurality decision.
 - (C) single-member constituencies with absolute majority decision.
 - (D) multiple-member constituencies with absolute majority decision.
7. Which of the following political parties dominated Italian politics in most of the postwar period?
 - (A) Christian Democratic
 - (B) Socialist
 - (C) Communist
 - (D) Liberal

STUDYING FOR THE EXAMINATION

The following is a list of reference publications that were being used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. Appropriate textbooks for study are not limited to those listed below. If you wish to obtain study resources to prepare for the examination, you may reference either the current edition of the following titles **or** textbooks currently used at a local college or university for the same class title. It is recommended that you reference **more than one textbook** on the topics outlined in this fact sheet. You should **begin by checking textbook content against the content outline** included on the front page of this Fact Sheet **before** selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study. Textbooks may be found at the campus bookstore of a local college or university offering a course on the subject.

Sources for study material suggested but not limited to the following:

Black, Cyril, Jonathan Helmreich, Paul Helmreich, Charles Issawi, and A James McAdams. *REBIRTH: A History of Europe Since World War II*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, Inc., current edition.

Edited by Joseph Colomer. *Political Institutions in Europe*. New York, NY: Routledge, current edition.

George, Stephen. *Politics and Policy in the European Union*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, current edition.

Lane, Jan-Erik and Svante Ersson. *European Politics: An Introduction*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, current edition.

Hancock, Donald, David Conradt, B. Guy Peters, William Saftan and Raphael Zariski. *Politics in Western Europe: Introduction to the Politics of the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy Sweden, and the European Union*. Chatham, NJ: Chatham House Publishers, current edition.

Nelson, Brent and Alexander Stubb. *The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration*. Boulder, CO: L. Rienner Publishers, current edition.

Piening, Christopher. *Global Europe: The European Union in World Affairs*. Boulder, CO: Rienner Publishers, current edition.

Rose, Richard. *What is Europe?: Dynamic Perspective*. New York, NY: Longman, current edition.

Sperling, James and Emil Kirchner. *Recasting the European Order: Security Architectures and Economic Cooperation*. New York, NY: Manchester University Press, current edition.

Steiner, Jurg. *European Democracies*. New York, NY: Longman, current edition.

Urwin, Derek. *Western Europe Since 1945: A Political History*. New York: Longman, current edition.

Wood, David and Birol Yesilada. *The Emerging European Union*. White Plains, NY: Longman, current edition.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

Conradt, David. *The German Polity*. White Plains, NY: Longman, current edition.

Dalton, Russell. *Citizen Politics in Western Democracies: Public Opinion and Political Parties in the United States, Great Britain, Western Germany, and France*. Chatham, NJ: Chatham House Publishers, current edition.

Norton, Philip. *The British Polity*. New York, NY: Longman, current edition.

Paxton, Robert. *Europe in the Twentieth Century*. Fort Worth, TX: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, current edition.

Safran, William. *The French Polity*. New York, NY: Longman, current edition.

Stirk, Peter. *A History of European Integration Since 1914*. New York, NY: Pinter, current edition.

Tipton, Frank, and Robert Aldrich. *An Economic and Social History of Europe from 1939 to the Present*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, current edition.

Turner, Henry. *Germany from Partition to Reunification*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, current edition.

Additional supplementary materials

Western European Politics – four times/year
Frank Cas and Company
Newbury House
890-900 Eastern Avenue
Ilford, Essex, 1G2 7HH,
United Kingdom.

European Journal of Political Research – eight times/year
Kluwer Academic Publishers
Postbus 322
3300 AH Dordrecht
The Netherlands

Journal of Common Market Studies – four times/year
Blackwell Publishers
108 Cowley Road
Oxford OX4 1JF
United Kingdom

Current textbook used by a local college or university for a course on the subject.

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Center for Adult Learning and Educational Credentials for the American Council on Education (ACE) has reviewed and evaluated the DSST examination development process. The American Council on Education has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course	
Equivalent:	Contemporary Western Europe: 1946-1990
Level:	Lower level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit:	Three (3) semester hours
Source:	ACE Commission on Educational Credit and Credentials

INFORMATION

Colleges and universities that would like additional information about the national norming, or assistance in local norming or score validation studies should write to: DSST Program, Prometric, 2000 Lenox Drive, 3rd Floor, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

It is advisable that schools develop a consistent policy about awarding credit based on scores from this test and that the policy be reviewed periodically. Prometric will be happy to help schools in this effort.

Correct Responses to sample questions: 1.B; 2.C; 3.B; 4.A; 5.D; 6.B; 7.A

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