

DANTES

Subject Standardized Tests

Fact Sheet

Study Guide

CONTEMPORARY WESTERN EUROPE: 1946-1990

TEST INFORMATION

Approximate
Percent

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	20%
A. Aftermath of Second World War and breakdown of order	
B. Rebuilding Europe (e.g., Marshall Plan)	
C. Impact of the cold war on Western Europe	
D. Decolonization	
E. Democratization	
F. Rise of Christian Democracy	
G. Prominence and decline of Communism	
II. National Political Systems	39%
(Main but not exclusive focus on Great Britain, France, Federal Republic of Germany, and Italy)	
A. Major types of systems	
1. Federal and unitary	
2. Parliamentary and presidential	

B. Political processes	
1. Electoral systems	
2. Parties	
3. Interest groups	
4. Participation	
C. Major Political institutions	
1. Legislative	
2. Executive	
3. Judicial	
D. Constitutional developments	
E. Economic and foreign policy issues	
III. Issues in Western European Societies	27%
A. Postindustrialism	
B. Class structure	
C. Ethnic, racial, and religious differences	
D. Social welfare policies	
E. Social and intellectual movements	
F. Extremist movements	
IV. Western European Integration	14%
A. Developing patterns of cooperation and integration	
1. Defense (e.g., NATO, EDC, WEU)	
2. Economic (e.g., OEEC-OECD, ECSC)	
3. Political (e.g., Council of Europe)	
B. European community	
1. Treaty of Rome	
2. Membership	
3. Institutions	
4. Policies	
5. Consequences (e.g., EFTA)	
6. Toward European unity	
C. Relations of the European Community with the rest of the world (e.g., United States, African-Caribbean-Pacific group, associate members)	



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) Great Britain
(B) Germany
(C) France
(D) Italy
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 a framework for future European political systems
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. Which of the following is an example of a new social movement that is concerned with increasing the political participation of citizens?
(A) The German Green Party
(B) The French Communist Party
(C) The Italian Christian Democrats
(D) The British Conservative Party
5. The Fourth French Republic was characterized by
(A) short-lived governments
(B) strong party discipline
(C) direct election of the prime minister by popular vote
(D) direct election of the president by popular vote
6. The Labour Party's victory in the July 1945 elections was an indication that the British electorate
(A) was unhappy with the postwar peace settlement.
(B) wanted to continue wartime rationing.
(C) looked forward to social improvements in peacetime.
(D) disagreed with Churchill's handling of the Potsdam Conference.
7. Who was the primary architect of the European unity movement?
(A) Pierre Mendès-France
(B) Ludwig Erhard
(C) Alcide de Gasperi
(D) Jean Monnet
8. 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.
9. In the late 1980s, which of the following areas received the largest amount of government spending across Western Europe?
(A) Health
(B) Defense
(C) Education
(D) Social Security
10. From the inception of the Italian Republic to 1990, which of the following political parties was in power most of the time?
(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/Study Guide **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:

Barzini, Luigi. *The Europeans*. New York: Simon and Schuster, current edition.

Curtis, Michael. *Introduction to Comparative Government*. New York: Harper and Row, current edition.

Dragnich, Alex N., Jorgen S. Rasmussen, and Joel C. Moses. *Major European Governments*. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole, current edition.

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

Laqueur, Walter. *Europe Since Hitler: The Rebirth of Europe*. New York: Penguin, current edition.

Mény, Yves. *Government and Politics in Western Europe: Britain, France, Italy, West Germany*. New York: Oxford University Press, current edition.

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

Urwin, W. Derek, and W.E. Paterson. *Politics in Western Europe Today: Perspectives, Policies, and Issues Since*. New York: Longman, current edition.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

Conradt, David P. *The German Polity*. New York: Longman, current edition.

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

Macridis, Roy C., ed. *Modern Political Systems: Europe*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, current edition.

Nicoll, William, and Trevor Salmon. *Understanding the European Communities*. Savage, MD: Barnes & Noble Books, current edition.

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

Paxton, Robert O. *Europe in the Twentieth Century*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, current edition.

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

Spotts, Frederic, and Theodor Wieser. *Italy: A Difficult Democracy: A Survey of Italian Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press, current edition.

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

Wallace, William. *The Transformation of Western Europe*. New York: Council on Foreign Relations Press, current edition.

Wegs, J. Robert. *Europe Since 1945 A Concise History*. New York: St. Martin's Press, current edition.

Wright, Vincent. *The Government and Politics of France*. New York: Holmes and Meier, current edition.

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 DANTES 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 to review copies of tests, have additional information about the national norming, or assistance in local norming or score validation studies should write to: DANTES Program, Mail Stop 11-P, The Chauncey Group International, 664 Rosedale Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

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. The DANTES program will be happy to help schools in this effort.

Correct Responses to sample questions: 1.B; 2.C; 3.B; 4.A; 5.A; 6.C; 7.D; 8.B; 9.D; 10.A

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