

DSST® WESTERN EUROPE SINCE 1945

EXAM INFORMATION

This exam was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. This exam tests the knowledge of basic facts related to the aftermath of World War II and the rebuilding of Europe. It includes national political systems, and issues and policies in Western European societies.

The exam contains 100 questions to be answered in 2 hours.

EXAM CONTENT OUTLINE

The following is an outline of the content areas covered in the examination. The approximate percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is also noted.

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

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

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 – 20%

REFERENCES

Below is a list of reference publications that were either used as a reference to create the exam, or were used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. You may reference either the current edition of these 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** provided **before** selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study.

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

1. 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.

2. Edited by Joseph Colomer. *Political Institutions in Europe*. New York, NY: Routledge, current edition.
3. Lane, Jan-Erik and Svante Ersson. *European Politics: An Introduction*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, current edition.
4. 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.
5. Nelson, Brent and Alexander Stubb. *The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration*. Boulder, CO: L. Rienner Publishers, current edition.
6. Piening, Christopher. *Global Europe: The European Union in World Affairs*. Boulder, CO: Rienner Publishers, current edition.
7. Sperling, James and Emil Kirchner. *Recasting the European Order: Security Architectures and Economic Cooperation*. New York, NY: Manchester University Press, current edition.
8. Steiner, Jurg. *European Democracies*. New York, NY: Longman, current edition.
9. Urwin, Derek. *Western Europe Since 1945: A Political History*. New York: Longman, current edition.
10. Wood, David and Birol Yesilada. *The Emerging European Union*. White Plains, NY: Longman, current edition.
6. Stirk, Peter. *A History of Europe Since 1914*. New York, NY: Pinter, current edition.
7. Tipton, Frank, and Robert Aldrich. *Economic and Social History of Europe from 1933 to the Present*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, current edition.
8. Turner, Henry. *Germany from Partition to Reunification*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, current edition.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

1. European Journal of Political Research – eight times/year
Kluwer Academic Publishers, Postbus 322
3300 AH Dordrecht, The Netherlands
2. Journal of Common Market Studies – four times/year
Blackwell Publishers, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford
OX4 1JF, United Kingdom

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. These are samples of the types of questions that may appear on the exam. Other sample questions can be found in the form of practice exams by visiting our website at www.getcollegedcredit.com/testprep.

Questions on the exam require test takers 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)

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

1. Conradt, David. *The German Polity*. White Plains, NY: Longman, current edition.
2. Safran, William. *The French Polity*. New York, NY: Longman, current edition.
3. 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.
4. Norton, Philip. *The British Polity*. New York, NY: Longman, current edition.
5. Paxton, Robert. *Europe in the Twentieth Century*. Fort Worth, TX: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, current edition.
1. Which of the following political parties dominated Italian politics in most of the postwar period?
 - a. Christian democratic
 - b. Socialist
 - c. Communist
 - d. Liberal
2. 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
3. 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.
 4. 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.
 5. Which of the following countries has a federal political system?
 - a. Norway
 - b. Germany
 - c. France
 - d. Netherlands
 6. 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
 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

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) evaluated the DSST test development process and content of this exam. It has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course Equivalent	Western Europe Since 1945
Level	Lower-level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit	Three (3) semester hours
Minimum Score	400
Source	American Council on Education – College Credit Recommendation Service

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