

HS 101: Making of the Modern World: Europe
How to Answer an Identification Question
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*Adapted from Robert Blackey, History: Core Elements for Teaching and Learning
(Rockville, MD: Wildside Press, 2011), 245-50.*

All exams will feature an identification section. Identification questions simply provide a term or quote from a primary source. Your job is to define the term or identify the quote (author and document title) and explain its significance. You can do this by following one of two strategies:

Strategy 1: Be a Journalist: Who, What, Where, When, and Why?

- What is the term (i.e., name, person, event, or concept)?
- Who or what was involved, under what circumstances, and with regard to what relevant background?
- Where and how did it happen?
- When did the event happen, or when did the person live, or when was the concept formulated or introduced?
- What is its significance?
 - Why is this concept important?
 - Why is it on the test?
 - Think in terms of cause and effect and relationships between different concepts we have learned. *How or why did this term, idea, or document lead to some event, idea, or broader consequence?*

Strategy 2: The I-BAD (Identify, before, after, and during) Approach:

- Identify the term
- Provide some background (how or why did this concept emerge; how did this person or document become prominent?)
- Explain how the concept, person, event functioned at the time
 - What characterized it?
- Explain the consequences and significance of the term

Both Strategies:

- Answers should be about a paragraph (4-6 sentences)
- Begin with a one sentence identification of the term or source
- The rest of the answer should provide the term's significance
- Use other terms you have studied in your answer!

The significance of the term is the foundation of a good answer; it is the most important part!