

SHORT ANSWER

10 minutes for these questions (4 points each)

1. Where did the colony of New York get its name?
Charles II granted the Dutch-controlled area, which they called New Amsterdam, to his brother James, then the Duke of York, who ousted the Dutch and named the region after himself.
2. Between North and South Carolina, which one was more isolated? Why?
North Carolina was more isolated than South Carolina because it lacked good harbors and roads, making commerce and travel difficult.
3. Name two other nationalities, besides the English, that settled in the area of the middle colonies.
The Dutch and the Swedes
4. Name one effect that Charles II's reign had on the American colonies.
Any one of these would be correct:
 - *He ruled his overseas empire more closely than kings before him.*
 - *He created several new "land grant" or "proprietary" colonies for his friends and supporters; these included New York, New Jersey, and the Carolinas.*
 - *The English seized Dutch holdings in America during his reign.*
 - *The proprietors of the Carolinas tried to establish a new feudalism in the New World, but failed.*
 - *With Royalists and Anglicans in power, more Puritans fled to the Americas.*
5. Name one way in which Charles II's reign was reactionary.
Any one of these would be correct:
 - *He replaced Commonwealth government with a quasi-absolutist monarchy (though he was still checked by the English parliamentary tradition).*
 - *He revoked the social legislation by which the Puritans had attempted to enforce morality.*
 - *He himself set an example of loose living, characterized by drink, dancing, gambling, and mistresses.*
 - *He reestablished the Church of England and the persecution of dissenters.*
6. What two political parties appeared in Parliament during Charles II's reign?
Whigs and Tories
7. Who was Cardinal Mazarin?
Mazarin was an Italian cardinal, naturalized as a Frenchman, who served as prime minister to Louis XIV during his early years as a boy-king, effectively ruling the country himself. He put down the rebellions of the nobility, thereby strengthening monarchical power in France.
8. What tactic did Louis XIV use to keep the noblemen of France under his control?
He required them to live for long periods of time at the royal court. This kept them busy tracking court politics and currying favor with the king, rather than managing their own affairs independently of him, which prevented them from planning rebellion.
9. For approximately how many years did Louis XIV rule?
Approximately seventy (seventy-two, in fact)
10. Name one person who influenced the development of New France under Louis XIV, and describe what he did.
Any one of these would be correct:
 - *Jolliet and Marquette discovered the source of the Mississippi.*
 - *La Salle sailed the entire length of the Mississippi and claimed all "Louisiana" for France.*
 - *Comte de Frontenac, the governor general, encouraged trade and exploration.*
 - *Colbert, Louis XIV's financial minister, encouraged settlement and exploration of the New World as a way to enrich the mother country.*

ESSAY QUESTION

20 minutes for one of these questions. If extra time is needed, allot 30 minutes. (60 points)

1. Louis XIV was called the “Sun King.” In a descriptive essay, explain why this title was apt, and give three examples demonstrating how this was so.

Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

- As the “Sun King,” everything in his political universe revolved around him.
- His power was absolute and unchallenged in his world, with all other power deriving from him.
- He refused to appoint a successor to Cardinal Mazarin, preferring to rule alone without a prime minister.
- The French nobles, historically the wielders of great local power, all lived in the palace, where their daily lives consisted of attending on the king. This severed them from their own estates and their own peasants.
- As the “Sun King,” everything in his social universe revolved around him as well.
- Louis lived a grand and wealthy lifestyle as seen in his proud demeanor, lavish appearance, and majestic court pageantry. It was not unusual for him to spend half his day devoted to the ceremonial pomp of the court.
- French society centered on the pageantry at his court, where the chance to hand the king his shirt or his shaving basin was a mark of high distinction for a nobleman.
- The spectacular and opulent palace of Versailles, which Louis had built, was a statement of Louis’s excessive regard for parading grandeur, while remaining oblivious to the voices, cares, or toil of the peasants beneath him.
- The administration of the state centered around him as the one from whom bureaucratic appointments were purchased.
- His favor or disfavor meant life or death for people and projects in his realm.
- His was the longest reign in European history, the center of the political scene in Europe for three quarters of a century. All other absolutist monarchs in Europe took him as their model.
- His reign was “shining” in its success; he was the most powerful king in Europe over its most prosperous and populous nation.

Sample Answer

The “Sun King,” the powerful center of the solar system around which everything else revolves, was an apt title for Louis XIV. French government, French society, and even the politics of Europe all orbited around him throughout his long and brilliant reign.

As an absolutist king, Louis XIV was the sole center of political power in France. Soon after he came of age, when his prime minister Cardinal Mazarin died, he refused to appoint another minister so that he could rule alone. He required his nobles to attend him in court, which broke the strong local power that they had traditionally had over their own estates. The country was governed by a bureaucracy composed of middle-class officials who all looked to him as their authority. Thus, Louis XIV brought all political power in France under one central head, himself.

Socially, the life of France centered on the king as well. The nobles who danced attendance on him in his court measured their lives by his daily routine. All Louis’s actions were public events. Nobles counted it the highest honor to hand him his shirt or his shaving basin in the morning. The court at Versailles was the center of culture and society, and court politics, petty intrigues, and affairs replaced real concerns of power and government. Louis so controlled the social priorities of his subjects that they all revolved around him.

Louis’s “planets” included not just his own French people but all of Europe. The other European rulers looked with admiration and envy at the dazzling court of Versailles. Many of them took Louis as their model in creating absolutist governments of their own. His seventy-year reign was so long, and his power so great, that he came to define the international political game. People could not imagine Europe without him. Thus, the “Sun King” formed the center

for all of European life during his long period of power in France.

Louis XIV certainly lived out his role as the “Sun King,” around which all the other powers of his day revolved. Whether the government of France, the social lives of the nobles, or even the politics of the surrounding nations, all aspects of European life turned towards the sunshine of this greatest of absolutist rulers.

2. Compare and contrast the absolutist government of Louis XIV with that of Charles II. Who was the more successful absolutist ruler, and why might this be the case?

Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

Louis XIV:

- Ever since the Hundred Years’ War, when the Estates-General gave the king power to raise taxes without their permission, the power of the French kings had been growing unchecked.
- French nobles had traditionally been very powerful in their own domains, but in the last several centuries that power had weakened.
- Recent French kings and their prime ministers had been greatly consolidating royal power.
- Louis took the last step and ruled without a prime minister, leaving only himself at the center.
- By making the life of Versailles the center of French culture and society, at which all nobles were required to attend him, Louis broke the connection between nobles and their tenants, keeping the nobles constantly under his surveillance.
- His brilliant, opulent court life set the standard for European culture all over the Continent.
- Louis faced no opposition, overt or covert, until the very end of his long reign.
- He worked openly to eradicate religious dissent, persecuting the Huguenots and revoking the Edict of Nantes that protected them.
- Because of its dazzling effectiveness, Louis’s reign became the model for all the surrounding absolutist kings.

Charles II:

- English history is a story of a monarchy increasingly checked by Parliament, which retained the power of the purse during the Hundred Years’ War and used this power as a bargaining tool to gain concessions from its kings.
- Charles II came to the throne right after the ultimate climax of parliamentary power, the trial and execution of Charles I, and the establishment of the Commonwealth under Cromwell.
- The tide had turned back toward monarchy in Charles’s day, but the tradition of dissent was still strong.
- Charles’s court did set the standard for the cultural life of England in reversing the moral rigor of the Puritan social legislation passed under Cromwell.
- Charles attempted to rule as he wished and went without a Parliament for the last four years of his reign.
- Nevertheless, he was always fiscally dependent on Parliament.
- Any appearance of successful autocratic rule on his part rested on the warm support of the eighteen-year, Tory-dominated, “Cavalier” Parliament.
- Throughout his reign, he faced the open criticism and censure of the Whig party.
- He attempted to eradicate religious dissent by reestablishing the Church of England and persecuting those of other religious persuasions.
- He faced opposition from religious dissenters such as the Puritans, Independents, Quakers, and Baptists, who were too firmly entrenched to be rooted out.

Sample Answer

Louis XIV and Charles II were two seventeenth-century European kings who tried to rule their countries in an absolutist fashion, but with very different results. In the effectiveness of their absolutist reigns, they reflect the very different roots of French and English government.

Louis XIV intended to make himself the center of all power in France, political and social, and he did. French kings had been increasingly independent in their rule, without a parliament controlling their money or anyone advising them except their ministers. Louis XIV took the last step and ruled without even a prime minister. He could decree whatever policies he wanted, religiously, financially, and politically. No one would oppose or even criticize him. Other rulers in Europe wanted to be like this grand ruler, the “Sun King,” to whom all other powers were merely lowly planets.

One monarch who tried to imitate Louis’s absolutism was Charles II of England, but the different history of English government resulted in much less successful absolutism. Charles II was the son of the aspiring absolutist Charles I, who got his head chopped off for ignoring Parliament. Although the tide of popular opinion had turned back toward kings after the demise of the Commonwealth, Charles II could never forget what happened to his father. He was not free to spend money without the permission of Parliament. He could reestablish the Church of England, but he could not eradicate all dissenters like Louis could. Throughout his reign, he faced the opposition of the Whig party in Parliament. The English tradition of Parliamentary government hampered at every turn his attempts to establish the absolutist model of government in England.

Despite living and ruling at the same time as Louis XIV, and even attempting to follow his absolutist model of government, Charles II saw very different results because of the historical situation in which he found himself. Louis XIV, the most successful absolutist in Europe, ruled a land already so centered on the king that he could do whatever he wished. Charles II, however, inherited a monarchy checked by Parliament, which had recently asserted itself to chop off the head of its king. Though the English monarchy had been restored, it would never be absolutist in the way that the French could be.