INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

Unit 17

The EU and the CoE

Form 5
1. The setting up of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) (1951)

World War II (1939-1945) devastated the economy of Europe. Some Europeans hoped that the reconstruction of Western Europe would result in an agreement to create a unified European state. But the idea of a unified Europe was undermined by the beginning of the Cold War. Two Frenchmen—Jean Monnet, a civil servant, and Robert Schuman, a foreign minister—believed that France and Germany might put aside their antagonism if given economic incentives for cooperation. In May 1950 Schuman proposed the creation of a common authority to regulate the coal and steel industry in West Germany and France; membership was also open to other Western European countries. The proposal was welcomed by the governments of West Germany, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. The six countries signed the Treaty of Paris (1951), and the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was established in August 1952. The British government opposed the supranational nature of the ECSC and decided not to join.

2. The setting up of the European Economic Community (EEC) (1957)

In June 1955 the foreign ministers of the six nations in the ECSC agreed to examine the possibilities for further economic integration. This new effort resulted in the Treaty of Rome of March 1957, which created the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). The latter proved to be of little importance because each national government kept control of its nuclear power programs.

Economically, the EEC treaty mandated, over a 12-year period, the elimination of trade barriers among member nations, the development of a common tariff for imports from the rest of the world, and the creation of a common policy for managing and supporting agriculture (CAP or Common Agricultural Policy). The treaty provide for the EEC to become more supranational as economic integration progressed.

3. The setting up of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) (1960)

4. The change from EEC to EC (1968)

The basic economic features of the EEC treaty were gradually implemented, and ‘three communities’ (the EEC, the ECSC, and Euratom) merged in July 1967 under one set of institutions, the European Community (EC). No progress was made on enlargement of the EEC until Charles De Gaulle was President of France (he resigned in 1969). The next French President, Georges Pompidou, was not against new countries joining the EEC.

At Pompidou's suggestion, a summit meeting of the leaders of the member states was held in The Hague, the Netherlands, in December 1969. That summit started negotiations for new members to join the EC, for the first since its foundation in 1957.

5. Expansion of the EC in the 1970s and 1980s

On January 1, 1973, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Denmark joined as scheduled; however, in a national referendum, Norway voted against membership. In Great Britain, opposition to EC membership continued. After the Labour Party regained power in 1974, it carried out its election promise to renegotiate British membership. Despite strong opposition from some groups, the British people voted for continued membership in a referendum held in 1975.

The year 1979 was another landmark for the EC, when members to the European Parliament were elected by the popular votes of the member countries. Since then, similar elections have took place every five years: in 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009. The Maltese took part in the last two elections.

Greece entered the EC in 1981, Spain and Portugal joined in 1986. In the 1970s and 1980s the EC increased its aid to less developed countries in Africa, Central and South America.

6. The European Monetary System

In March 1989 a European Monetary System (EMS) was established as a first step toward achieving an economic and monetary union (EMU). The EMS was proposed to stabilize exchange rates and curb inflation. A Common European Currency Unit (ECU) was introduced to set common exchange rates. The EMS requires member governments to take appropriate measures to prevent continued deviation from the central rate.


The campaign for the single market was led by Jacques Delors, a former French finance minister who was President of the European Commission (1985-1995). At the Milan Summit the EC proposed a seven-year timetable for removing all the remaining trade barriers between member states. The aim was to achieve a Single European market by December 31, 1993. Ultimately, it led to the formation of the European Union.

One obstacle to full economic integration was the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). During the 1980s the CAP accounted for about two-thirds of the annual EC expenditures. The CAP encouraged the production of large surpluses that the EC was committed to buy. In 1988, EC leaders agreed to limit agricultural subsidies for the first time since the 1960s.
The Single European Act was approved by all 12 members by July 1987, established the first major changes to EC structure since the Treaty of Rome (1957). Among the changes was the introduction of the weighted majority system to ensure that neither the larger members nor the smaller members could dominate the EC by joining and voting together.

The Single European Act also made other important changes: the European Parliament was given greater voice and influence; the Court of First Instance was established to hear appeals of EC rulings brought by individuals, organizations, or corporations; each member state agreed to bring its economic and monetary policies in line with the EMS.

Supporters of an economic and monetary union argued that there could not be a single market as long as restrictions on money transfers limited the free flow of capital. A three-stage plan for achieving EMU was suggested. At the same time, the commission proposed a Social Charter on Human Rights (1990) which updated the previous Social Charter of 1961.

Representatives from each of the EC countries negotiated the Treaty on European Union in 1991, and in December the European Council met at Maastricht in the Netherlands, to consider a draft version. After intense bargaining among members, the final treaty was signed by the European Council on February 7, 1992. Each member state had to approve the European Union by a popular referendum; The European Union formally replaced the European Community on November 1, 1993, when the treaty went into effect.

10. Enlargement of the EU in the 1990s
As Communism crumbled in Eastern Europe, many of the former Communist countries looked to the EC for political and economic assistance. The EU agreed to military aid and association agreements with many of these countries, but ruled out immediate membership. An emergency summit in April 1990 made an exception for East Germany, allowing that country to be automatically incorporated into the EC when Germany was reunified in October 1990.

In 1993 the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) was set up at Frankfurt (Germany) to a single currency called the Euro. The Euro was to enter into effect at different stages between 1999 and 2002. Another aim of the IGC was to pursue closer European unity in the wake of the rapid political changes taking place in Eastern Europe.

Turkey applied for membership in the EU in 1987; Austria in 1989; Cyprus and Malta in 1990; Sweden in 1991; and Switzerland, Finland, and Norway in 1992. Austria, Finland, Norway, and Sweden were offered membership in the EU in June 1994. The people of Austria, Finland, and Sweden voted to enter the EU. The people of Norway, however, voted to reject entrance into the EU; Norway's economic strength was one reason for its decision to remain independent. Several Eastern European countries will begin membership negotiations for entrance into the EU in 1996 (Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland). Similarly, the EU started negotiations for membership with the three Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
History of the European Union since 1950

In 1991 the EC and EFTA agreed to establish the European Economic Area, which would provide a single market for goods, services, and capital. The European Economic Area became effective on January 1, 1994 and it eliminated trade barriers between the EU and EFTA. However, on January 1, 1995 Sweden, Austria and Finland formally left EFTA and joined the EU. From then onwards EFTA was reduced to only four members: Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Lichtenstein.

The largest single enlargement of the EU took place on May 1, 2004, when ten new members joined the EU at one go: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus. Romania and Bulgaria joined the Union in 2007. By that time negotiations were started with Turkey and Croatia.

With the enlargement of 2004, the composition of the European Parliament (EP) and the European Commission had to be changed to include representatives from the new member countries. The members of the EP was increased from 626 to 736. Seats in the EP were allocated proportional to the population size of the member countries. The European Commission were increased to 27, one commissioner from each member state.

11. The future of the EU

The EU represents a desire for peace and cooperation among sovereign European states. With increased cooperation and growth, the EU may become a major economic rival to North America and Asia. However, the long-term goal of a single federal European political state as envisioned by the original proponents has largely been rejected.

9. Procedure when passing EU directives or laws

10. EP seats by political groups after elections held in 2004

11. EU countries in the Eurozone in 2002
### The European Commission

- Puts forward a proposal.
  - The Commission is then responsible for putting the agreed policy into operation in the member-states.
  - The Commission is the executive arm of the Union. It has the power to EU laws (called directives) with the approval of the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament.
  - The term of office of the Commission is five years.
  - The Commission is composed of 27 Commissioners and a President of the Commission.
  - The President is responsible for the general direction and work of the Commission. But he cannot do it alone.
  - The member-states nominate the President. The President then chosen the rest of the Commissioners.
  - Both President and Commissioners are then approved or rejected by the European Parliament.
  - A two-thirds majority vote in the European Parliament can force the Commission to resign (as had occurred in 1999 due to mismanagement.)

### The European Parliament

- Gives its opinion on the proposal.
  - Since 1979 the European Parliament has been elected directly by the citizens of Europe.
  - 736 MEPs for a term of five years.
  - The number of MEPs is roughly in proportion to the population of each member-state.
  - The seating plan is a semicircle, according to political party groups.
  - Seating of MEPs is in alphabetical order, to avoid MEPs of the same nationality influencing each other.
  - Voting in the European Parliament tends to be on the merits of the question, not by political groups or by national interests.
  - Voting is by show of hands or if requested electronically (using a push button on every MEP desk).
  - The European Parliament works on a four-week cycle:
    - Week 1: Group Meeting (Brussels)
    - Week 2: Plenary Session (Strasbourg)
    - Week 3: Committees (Brussels)
    - Week 4: Constituency (Strasbourg)
  - The administrative HQ is in Luxembourg, but the EP prefers to centre its activities in Brussels.

### The Council of Ministers

- Takes a final decision on a proposal.
  - The CoM is actually several councils depending on what subject is being discussed:
    - The Agricultural Council
    - The Energy Council
    - The Education Council
    - The Social Affairs Council
    - The Trevi (Immigration) Council
    - The ECOFIN (Financial) Council
    - The Senior (Foreign Affairs) Council
  - Each Council is composed of the Minister concerned from each member-state.
  - The Presidency of the Council is held by each member-state for six months at a time, rotating between the member-states in alphabetical order.
  - The European Council or Summit is when the Council of Ministers meets at Prime Ministers’ level twice a year (in June and December).
  - EU Summits agree on the general policy in which the member-states wish to see the Union develop.
  - Decisions in the Council of Ministers require an unanimous vote to be binding.
  - *unanimity = all Ministers representing the member-states in the CoM approve or disapprove.

### The European Court of Justice

- Pass final judgment on cases of conflict between the other three institutions.
  - The European Court is composed of 13 Judges and 6 Advocates-General. They are appointed by agreement of the member-states.
  - Once appointed they are independent of governments or other institutions of the EU.
  - Functions of the Court:
    - Interprets the EU Treaty.
    - Can rule if an action of an institution is valid or not.
    - Give a ruling if a court or tribunal of a member-state request it.

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**Images:**
- EC building in Brussels
- EC hall
- EP hemicycle hall in Strasbourg
- CoM hall and building in Brussels
- European CoJ in Luxembourg
- European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt
1. Mention two common aims of the EU and the CoE?
   (a) ____________________________________________________________ (2)
   (b) ____________________________________________________________ (2)

2. Give the function of the following EU institutions:
   (a) Council of Ministers: _________________________________________ (2)
   (b) European Commission: ________________________________________ (2)
   (c) European Parliament: _________________________________________ (2)

3. Which two of these issues requires the intervention of the European Court of Justice?
   (a) an Italian living in Germany is issued a working permit.
   (b) a man and a woman working as clerks with the same firm and receiving equal pay.
   (c) the European Commission refuses to resign after being found responsible of corruption.
   (d) an EU country passes a law to stop extra-Europeans from working in that country.
   (e) an EU country wanting to follow a neutral foreign policy.
   (f) an EU country refuses to give equal rights to homosexual people. (2)

4. (a) The European Commission is chosen by the member-states every ____________ years. (1)
    (b) It is composed of ____________ members: one or two for each EU member-state. (1)

5. The European Parliament is made up of ____________ members sitting and voting by
   (political affiliation, national groups, linguistic groups). (2)

6. The European Parliament meets in two of the following:
   (The Hague, Brussels, Paris, Strasbourg, Rome, Maastricht, Geneva) (2)

7. The ________________ ________________ is attended by the ministers of European affairs,
   prime ministers or head of states of the member states in June and December of each year. (2)

8. The European Union institution that requires an unanimous vote is the:
   (European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of Ministers). (1)

9. The word unanimous means ____________________________________________
    _________________________________________________________________ (1)

(Total Marks: 20)
1. Why the CoE was set up?
The first half of the 20th century in Europe were full of dictatorships, wars and genocides. With the end of World War II, many Europeans were determined to avoid another catastrophe. There were reasons to be afraid of another world war from breaking up: atomic bomb; the Cold War; a divided Europe into two rival blocs. A new world war would have bring further destruction in Europe. The only solution to avoid this from happening was to create a democratic and peaceful Europe based on the protection of human rights and the rule of law.

2. How does the CoE function?
The CoE was set thus set up in 1949 by the Treaty of London by 10 European states (see map below). It is run by four institutions: the Committee of Ministers, the General Assembly, the Secretariat and the European Court on Human Rights. Each of these bodies have their own respective functions. The seat of the CoE is in Strasbourg (France) and its official languages are English and French. The Council’s work has resulted in standards, charters and conventions to bring more cooperation and unity between its current 47 European member-countries. Malta joined the Council of Europe in 1965 as its 18th member when PM Borg Olivier was invited to one of its summit meetings.

For a country to be admitted as a member in the CoE it has to satisfy three criteria: it has to be an independent state, it has to have a democratically elected government and it has to formally accept and implement the principles that guide the CoE (mainly the protection of human rights, respect rule of law).

The CoE’s famous achievement was the Convention on Human Rights of 1950 and the creation of the Human Rights Court in Strasbourg. Since then, the CoE has agreed on a number of charters or conventions intended to improve the quality of life of Europeans.
Unit 17.3 - The Council of Europe

1. Why was the CoE set up in 1950?
__________________________________________________________________________ (1)

2. Underline its 10 original members.
(Ireland, Spain, Luxembourg, Belgium, Poland, West Germany, France, Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden, Norway, Austria, Ireland) (2)

3. Its headquarters is situated at (Brussels, the Hague, Strasbourg, Geneva).. (1)

4. Its two main building quarters are:
__________________________________________________________________________ (2)

5. Its two official languages are: ____________________ and ____________________ (1)

6. Name the four main bodies without which the CoE could not function.
__________________________________________________________________________ (2)

7. When did Malta join the CoE? ________________________________________________ (1)

8. What are the three requirements new members need to join the CoE?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________ (3)

9. Give a reason why many more countries joined the CoE after 1989?
__________________________________________________________________________ (1)

10. How can European citizens benefit from the functions and activities of the CoE?
__________________________________________________________________________ (1)

11. What are ‘Conventions’ of the CoE?
__________________________________________________________________________ (1)

12. Name one convention of the CoE for each of the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Convention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>humanitarian treatment</td>
<td>Convention for the Prevention of Terrorism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>domestic violence and child abuse</td>
<td>Convention against Spectator Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>rights of national and linguistic minorities</td>
<td>Convention for the Protection of Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>safety when traveling across Europe</td>
<td>Convention on Trafficking Human Beings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>organized illegal immigration</td>
<td>Protection of National Minorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>illegal use of the Internet</td>
<td>The European Cultural Convention (1954)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>Europe’s historical and cultural heritage</td>
<td>Convention on Cybercrime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>fairness in international sport</td>
<td>Committee for the Prevention of Torture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Total Marks: 20)
Unit 17.3 - The Council of Europe

1. Write a short sentence to show the meaning of the following key words and phrases that have to do with the history or functions of the European Union. (14)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Schuman Declaration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Directive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 acquis communautaire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 The three freedoms of the EU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 European Commission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 convention</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Schengen Agreement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Single Market</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Euro</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 CAP</td>
<td></td>
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<td>11 VAT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12 EFTA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 ECSC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 EEA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Match Column B and Column C with the respective EU treaty in Column A. (6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
<th>Column C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Treaty of Rome</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Introduced the Single European Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Treaty of Maastricht</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>enlarged the EU to 25 member states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Treaty of Athens</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>set up the EEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Treaty of The Hague</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>set up the ECSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Treaty of Paris</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>established the EU as it is today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Treaty of Schengen</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>established open borders between EU states</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Total marks: 20)
Unit 17.4 - History of the European Union since 1950 – Essay Questions

Read carefully the following essay titles and answer any ONE in about 200 to 300 words. Essays carry 20 marks each.

**PAPER 2A**
1. Describe the events which led to the creation of the E.E.C. in 1957. To what extent people in Western Europe have derived benefit from it since the time of their foundation to the present day? (10 x 2) (London GCE)
2. Analyse and explain how the European Union has developed since the Schuman Declaration. (SEC 2010)
3. What were the political and economic motives which convinced European countries to try to build a united Europe after the Second World War? (8) Account for the development of this organization up to 2004. (12) (SEC 2012)

**PAPER 2B**
1. Since World War II there has been a process of European integration. Trace how this has progressed from its early days to the present time. (SEC 1998)