

INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

LO4 fg

European Integration

1949–2008



Formed in 1961, ACML later became 'Get Britain Out', a British Eurosceptic organisation. A significant piece of history in the light of the referendum on 'Brexit' in 2016.

Getting into Europe: The 1973 Common Market Match. When Britain joined the EEC, a celebratory football match was held at Wembley, revealing split opinions on membership.

Year 11

Third Edition – 2024
for History SEC 2025



Curriculum Centre Annex

LO4 f – The early phase of European Integration in the 1950s & 1960s



*Left: Aerial view of part of Berlin in May 1945.
Right: After the war Europe was flooded with millions of homeless refugees.*

I

Reasons for West European integration after the Second World War.

After political oppression and war in the first half of the twentieth century, Europeans undertook the task of rebuilding and uniting Europe. Combat and bombings had flattened cities and towns, destroyed bridges and railroads, and scorched the countryside. The war had also exacted a staggering toll on both military and civilian lives. Shortages of food, fuel, and various consumer products persisted and, in many cases, worsened even after the war.

From 1949 onwards, the Iron Curtain marked the imaginary boundary dividing Europe into two separate areas. The term symbolized the Soviet Union's efforts to isolate itself and its satellite states in Eastern Europe from open contact with the Western world.

What is the European Union (EU)?

The European Union (EU) is an organization consisting of 27 European countries. It was officially established in 1993 through the Maastricht Treaty. However, in practice, the union traces its origins back to 1950 and has continued to expand in the 21st century. Together, EU countries cover much of the European continent. The EU is home to approximately 447 million people, which accounts for around 6% of the world's population. Citizens of EU countries are also considered EU citizens. The two most significant agents of European integration are the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe (CoE).

The broad aims of the European Union are to uphold and promote peace and security, political stability, economic prosperity through free and fair trade, sustainable development, and the eradication of poverty. The values enshrined in all European treaties are shared by all member states. These include respect for the principles of liberty, democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.

European integration is most evident in the Single Market Act (encompassing the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people), the single currency (the euro) and the Eurozone, the Schengen Zone and EU citizenship.



Left: The signing ceremony of the ECSC in Paris in 1951.

Right: The first 'European' iron ingot produced by the ECSE in 1953.

The establishment up of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) (1951)

After the Second World War, some leaders in Western Europe hoped to create a unified European state. However, this vision was soon undermined by the onset of the Cold War. In the end, two Frenchmen—Jean Monnet, a civil servant, and Robert Schuman, the foreign minister—believed that France and Germany should set aside their past rivalries. In May 1950, the "Schuman Declaration" proposed the creation of a common authority to regulate the coal and steel industries of West Germany and France. Other Western European countries were invited to join. The proposal was welcomed by West Germany, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. These six countries signed the Treaty of Paris in 1951, establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). The UK, however, opposed the ECSC's supranational nature and chose not to join.

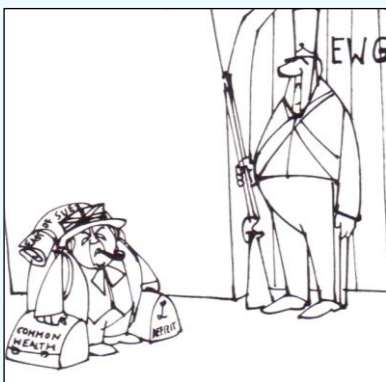


The setting up of the European Economic Community (EEC) (1957)

In 1955 the foreign ministers of the six nations in the ECSC agreed to extend economic integration beyond coal and steel. This effort led to the Treaty of Rome (1957), which created the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). The latter however proved to be of little significance because each state kept control of its nuclear power programmes.

The signing ceremony of the Treaty of Paris in 1957.

Economically, the EEC Treaty mandated the elimination of trade barriers among member nations over a 12-year period, the development of a common tariff on imported goods (Value Added Tax or VAT), and the creation of a unified policy for managing and supporting agriculture (the Common Agricultural Policy or CAP). This treaty increased the EEC's supranational character as economic integration extended into other sectors.



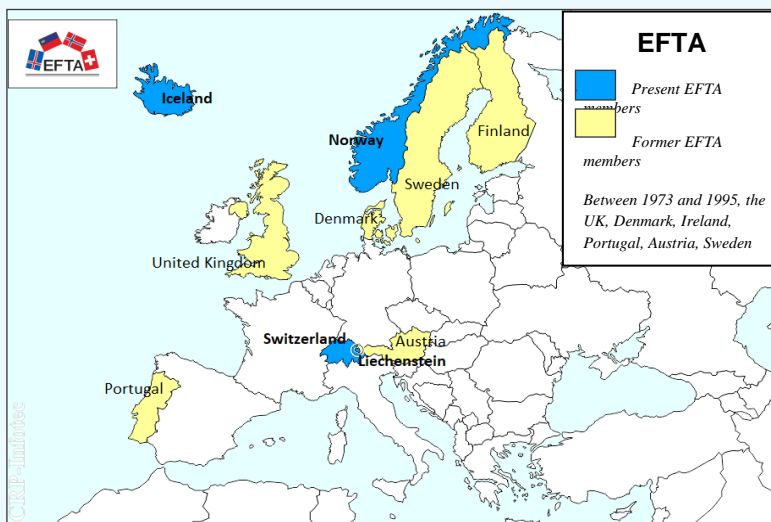
The Establishment of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

In 1960, in response to the EEC, the UK and six other non-EEC countries formed the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as a rival but less binding organization than the EEC. However, as early as 1961, impressed by the economic success of the EEC, the UK government began negotiations to join the EEC. On two occasions, in 1963 and 1967, French President Charles de Gaulle vetoed the UK's membership, citing, among other reasons, the UK's close ties with the United States.

A satirical cartoon of 1961 with the caption: Britain and Europe.

In 1994, the European Economic Area (EEA) was established to extend the EU's internal market to the remaining European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries. It eliminated many trade barriers between EFTA and the EU, allowing them to participate in the Single European Market.

The core 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, officially becoming the European Community (EC).



LO4 f – The early phase of European Integration in the 1950s & 1960s

1. Identify **four** problems in Europe that remained unresolved after the end of the Second World War in 1945.

(4)

2. What major obstacle limited European integration to Western Europe in the late 1940s and early 1950s?

(2)

3. Explain the meaning of these terms in relation to the broad aims of the EEC, EC, EU:

(a) peace and security: _____
_____ (1)

(b) political stability: _____
_____ (1)

(c) free and fair trade: _____
_____ (1)

(d) sustainable development: _____
_____ (1)

4. Provide one practical example for each of the following in the context of the EU.

(a) a democratic principle: _____ (1)

(b) a human right: _____ (1)

(c) a fundamental freedom: _____ (1)

(d) an instance where the rule of law applies: _____
_____ (1)

5. Briefly explain the difference between these three European organisations:

(a) ECSE: _____
_____ (2)

(b) EEC: _____
_____ (2)

(c) EFTA: _____
_____ (2)

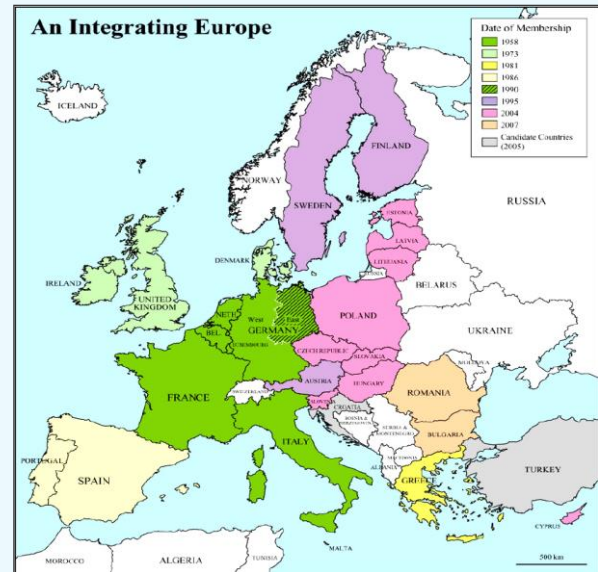
(Total: 20 marks)

LO4 g (i) – Developments in European Integration up to 1992

The first enlargements

Since its founding in 1957, no progress was made on the enlargement of the EEC until Charles De Gaulle completed his second term as President of France in 1969. His successor, Georges Pompidou did not block new countries from joining the EEC. At Pompidou's suggestion, a summit of the leaders of the member states was held in The Hague, the Netherlands, in December 1969. That summit initiated negotiations for new members to join, for the first time since its foundation in 1957.

On January 1, 1973, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Denmark joined the EEC while Norway rejected membership following a national referendum. In 1975, despite strong opposition from certain groups, the British people voted to remain in the EEC. The map below illustrates the enlargement of the EEC in the 1970s and 1980s.



Another important milestone occurred when for the first time, MEPs (*i.e.* Members of the European Parliament) were elected by popular vote of the member states. Since then, elections to the European Parliament have taken place every five years.

In the late 1970s, Greece, Spain and Portugal transitioned from military dictatorships to a democratic government. This development paved the way for negotiations to join the EEC.

In 1985, Belgium, West Germany, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands signed the **Schengen Agreement** which removed cross border controls and introduced freedom of movement for all EEC citizens. This agreement **enabled** every EEC citizen to travel, work, study and live in an EU country without special formalities. Schengen enabling citizens to move around the Schengen Area without being subject to border checks.

In 1989 a **European Monetary System** (EMS) was established as a first step toward achieving an economic and monetary union. The EMS aimed to stabilize exchange rates and control inflation. A common European currency unit (ECU) was introduced to set standardized exchange rates between the member states.

The Single European Market (1987)

The campaign for the single market was led by Jacques Delors, a former French finance minister who served as President of the European Commission (1985–1995). At the Milan Summit, the EC proposed a seven-year timetable for the removal of all remaining trade barriers between the member states. The ultimate goal was to achieve a Single European Market by December 31, 1993, and lay the foundation of today's European Union.



*The drive towards the Euro
The first euro banknotes entered circulation in 2002.*

The Single European Act (1987)

The Single European Act was approved by all 12 member states in 1987. It made the first major changes in the structure of the EEC since the Treaty of Rome of 1957. One important change was the introduction of the 'weighted majority system' which ensured that neither the larger members nor the smaller members could dominate the decisions of the EEC by agreeing to vote together. Other important changes included: the European Parliament was granted more influence; the European Court started hearing appeals brought by individuals, organisations, or corporations; the member states agreed to bring its economic and monetary policies in line with the EMS.

LO4 g (ii) – Developments in European Integration, 1990-2008

The Treaty of Maastricht in 1992

Supporters of an economic and monetary union argued that a single market could not exist as long as there were restrictions on money transfers that limited the free flow of capital. Consequently, a three-stage plan for achieving EMU was proposed. At the same time, the European Commission proposed a Social Charter on Human Rights (1990) to update the previous Social Charter of 1961.

In December 1991, the European Council met in Maastricht, Netherlands, to agree on a draft version of the treaty. After intense negotiations among the members, the final treaty was signed in 1992. It was also agreed that each member state would need to approve the new structure of the European Union through a popular referendum. The treaty establishing the European Union came into effect on November 1, 1993. The 12-star flag became the official flag of the EU, and Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' was adopted as the official EU anthem



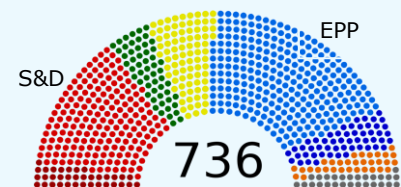
Enlargement in the 1990s

As communism crumbled in Eastern Europe, many of the former communist countries turned to the EU for political and economic assistance. The EU agreed to establish association agreements with most of these countries but ruled out immediate membership. An emergency summit held in 1990 made one exception when it allowed East Germany to be automatically incorporated in the EC when Germany was to be reunified in October 1990.

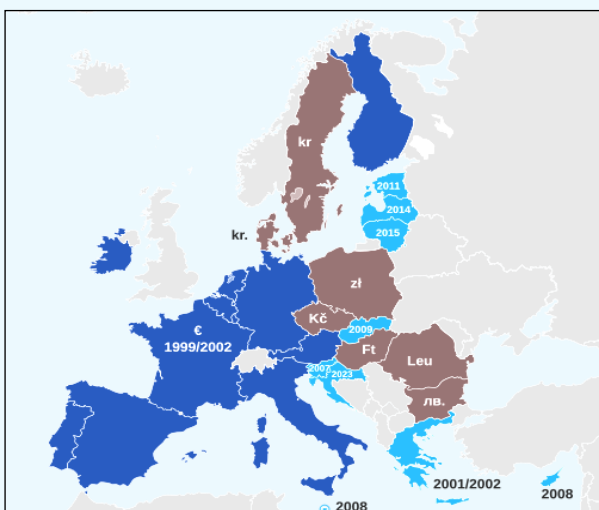
In 1993, the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) met in Frankfurt in Germany to establish a single currency called the *euro*. The *euro* was set to be implemented in different stages between 1999 and 2002. Another aim of the IGC was to pave the way for the next enlargement since many more countries were seeking to join the EU.

The next significant enlargement occurred in 1994, when the people of Sweden, Finland and Austria voted to join the EU. Norway, however, rejected membership for the second time. Norway's economic strength was one reason for the decision to remain outside the EU.

The largest enlargement took place on May 1, 2004, when ten countries joined the EU simultaneously: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus. Romania and Bulgaria joined in 2007 and Croatia in 2013. With the 2004 enlargement, the composition of the European Parliament and the European Commission had to be changed to include representatives from the new member countries. The number of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) was increased from 626 to 736. Seats in the EP were allocated in proportion to each member state's population size. The number of the European Commissioners was increased to 27, one from each member state.



Political groups represented in the European Parliament election of 2004. The largest groups are the EPP (European Popular Party) and the S&D (Socialists and Democrats). Malta's Nationalist Party is affiliated with the EPP and the Labour Party is affiliated with the European Social Democrats.



The future of the EU

The EU embodies a desire for peace and cooperation among European states. With increasing cooperation and growth, the EU has the potential to become a major economic rival of the United States and China. However, the long-term goal of a single federal European political state as envisioned by its original proponents has largely been rejected to this day.

LO4 fg – Developments in European Integration 1970s to 2008

1. (a) Who stopped the EEC from expanding in the 1960s and why?

(2)

(b) What was the direct consequence of France's change of policy in the 1970s?

(1)

2. Underline **four** dates when there was an enlargement of the EC. (2)

1960 - 1969 - 1973 - 1978 - 1981 - 1986 - 1990 - 1992 (2)

3. What paved the way for Greece, Spain and Portugal to join the EC?

(2)

4. What was the EMU and what was its main function?

(2)

5. What was the Single European Market set up in 1987?

(2)

6. List **three** changes to the EC brought about by the Single European Act of 1987.

(3)

7. Mention **one** important decision taken by the EC with regards to the following:

(a) The Maastricht Treaty in 1992: _____ (1)

(b) The IGC which met at Frankfurt in 1993: _____ (1)

(c) The enlargement of 2004: _____ (1)

8. What does the term 'Eurozone' mean?

(2)

9. Identify the two largest political groups in the European Parliament by writing their full name.

(1)

(Total: 20 marks)

A closer look at the four main governing bodies of the European Union

The European Commission

- The Commission is then responsible for implementing the agreed policies in the member-states.
- The Commission is the executive arm of the Union. It has the authority to propose 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.
- It consists of 27 Commissioners and a President, who is responsible for the overall direction and work of the Commission.
- Both the President and the Commissioners are 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 headquarters and the meeting hall of the European Commission in Brussels.

The European Parliament

- Since 1979, the European Parliament has been elected directly by the EU citizens.
- It is composed of 736 MEPs elected for a five-year term.
- Their number of MEPs is in proportion to the population of each member-state.
- The MEPs sit in a semicircle arrangement and in alphabetical order and not according to their political groups.
- Voting is based on the merits of each issue, not by political groups or by national interests.
- Its administrative headquarters are in Luxembourg, but the EP holds its meeting in Brussels.



The circular hall of the European Parliament in Brussels.

The Council of Ministers

- The Council of Ministers is actually made up of several councils depending on what subject is being discussed, such as:
 - *The Agricultural Council*
 - *The Energy Council*
 - *The Education Council*
 - *The Social 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, rotating 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), set broad policy directions.
- Decisions in the Council of Ministers require a unanimous approval (*i.e.* all Ministers representing the member-states approve or disapprove).



The headquarters and the hall of the Council of Ministers in Brussels.

The European Court of Justice

- The European Court is composed of 13 Judges and 6 Advocates-General appointed by agreement among the member states.
- It functions as an independent body free from interference by national governments and from EU officials.
- It interprets the EU treaties and determines if an action of an institution is legal or not.



The Headquarters of the Court of Justice in Strasbourg.

The Council of Europe

- Established in 1949 by the Treaty of London to protect democracy and human rights and to promote European unity by cooperating on legal, cultural, educational and social issues.
- Initially comprising 10 original countries, it has since expanded to include 46 countries.



The headquarters of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

A closer look at the four main governing bodies of the European Union

1. Tick (✓) the column to which these statements about the major EU institutions apply. (10)

	Statement	European Commission	European Parliament	Council of Ministers	European Court of Justice	Council of Europe
a	The executive arm of the EU.					
b	Voting is done by merit to the question not by political groups.					
c	Founded in 1949 by the Treaty of London.					
d	Composed of 13 judges and 6 advocates.					
e	Composed of ministers or prime ministers of the member states.					
f	Seating is in alphabetical order not by political groups.					
g	Its members increased from the original 10 to the present 46.					
h	Composed of 27 Commissioners, one from each member state.					
i	Decisions require an unanimous vote.					
j	Composed of 736 MEPs.					

2. Identify the city where each of these EU institutions have their headquarters.

- (a) The European Commission: _____
- (b) The European Parliament: _____
- (c) The Council of Ministers: _____
- (d) The European Court of Justice: _____
- (e) The Council of Europe: _____ (5)

3. In your opinion, which of these EU institutions is closest to the European citizens. Explain your answer.

(5)

(Total: 20 marks)

LO4 fg – European Integration, 1949–2008

Source Question

World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it.

The contribution which an organized and living Europe can bring to civilization is indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations...

Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity. The coming together of the nations of Europe requires the elimination of the age-old opposition of France and Germany. Any action taken must in the first place concern these two countries.

With this aim in view, the French Government proposes that action be taken immediately on one limited but decisive point.

Source A. Extract from the Schuman Declaration of 1950.



Source B

1. Who was Schuman and why was Source A named after him? (2)
2. Why was it very important to work for peace in Europe at the time of the publication of this document? (2)
3. How was Europe divided at that time? (2)
4. Why does Source A states that 'Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan'? (2)
5. Mention **two** instances from the history of the European Union which proves this affirmation. (2)
6. (a) Give the full name of the institution created by the Treaty of Paris in 1951. (1)
(b) Mention the **six** original European states that joined this institution. (3)
7. Why is the Maastricht Treaty of 1992 considered one of the milestones in the history of European integration? (2)
8. What does the logo in Source B stands for? (2)
9. Explain the European agreement which brought it about. (2)

(Total: 20 marks)

Essay Question. Read carefully these essay titles and then choose one to answer.

PAPER Level 2-3

1. (a) List **four** reasons why West Europeans felt the need to unify Europe after the Second World War. (8)
(b) Discuss **three** problems which Europeans had to face when pushing forward the idea of European integration. (12)
2. (a) Identify four significant events linked to West European integration since 1949. (8)
(b) Explain the historical significance of these four events mentioned in (a). (12)

PAPER Level 1-2

1. (a) List eight facts on the history of European integration during the period 1949 and 2008. (8)
(b) Briefly describe the historical importance of four of these facts. (12)

