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AP Euro
Period C
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Historical Essay Analysis

Title: 69. Sigmund Freud

Author: Michael H. Hart

Author's thesis: Freud was the undisputed founder of modern psychoanalysis, and the theories he developed have greatly influenced the study of the human psyche, even though many of them remain controversial to this day.

Author's evidence:

- a) Published *Studies in Hysteria* and *The Interpretation of Dreams*
- b) He worked with French neurologist Jean Charcot and Viennese physician Josef Breuer
- c) Developed theories regarding the importance of unconscious mental processes & studies of mental illness
- d) His ideas stimulated interest in psychological theory
- e) Many of his ideas remain controversial to this day

Author's conclusion of the topic's significance:

Sigmund Freud was the greatest psychoanalyst of our time, and his works have done much to further an entire field of study. While many of his theories remain controversial and are cast into doubt, the very influence he had on starting the field of psychoanalysis is monumental.

What questions you have about the reading:

1. If Freud hadn't existed, would the field of psychoanalysis have risen on its own?
2. How many of Freud's ideas have been accepted into psychoanalytic theory?
3. What ideas remain disputed today?

To what extent does your knowledge of the period support or conflict the author's thesis?

My knowledge of the period supports that Freud was the most significant contributor to the field of psychoanalytics over the turn of the century, and that his work has been the basis for which all modern psychoanalytic work has been derived.

Explain the gist of the article, the nature of the evidence, and the significance of the topic:

Sigmund Freud is the most important contributor to the field of psychoanalytics. His publications of *Studies in Hysteria* and *The Interpretation of Dreams* near the turn of the century helped to establish the field of study, and his many and brilliant theories were the inspiration for which the field today was based on. The author is careful to note that his theories have remained controversial and that many of them could very well be proven false or implausible, but that it was his impact on this very important field of study that gains him the place he has on the list.