

AP HISTORY GUIDELINES

TYPES OF QUESTIONS (Total 3 hrs. 15 mins.)

- 1) Multiple Choice (55 questions, 55 minutes, 40%)
- 2) Short Answers (3 questions, 40 minutes, 20%)
- 3) DBQ (1 question, 60 minutes, 25%)
- 4) Long essay (1 question, 40 minutes, 15%)

MULTIPLE CHOICE (55 mins, 40% of score, 55 questions)

- 1) Based on passages, images, charts, maps, cartoons
- 2) Questions in sets of 2 to 5 per image/text
- 3) No penalty for guessing incorrectly
- 4) May be more than one possible "right" answer – choose the best.

SHORT ANSWERS (50 mins, 20% of score, 3 questions)

- 1) Write in the box
- 2) 2-3 content rich sentences for each part
- 3) No need for thesis statement or conclusion
- 4) Do not write with bullet points
- 5) Do not quote from excerpt
- 6) Question 1 and 2 required (periods 1600-2001)
- 7) Choose between Question 3 (periods 1-2) or Question 4 (periods 3-4)

DBQ (60 MINS, 25% of score, 1 question)

- 1) Based on Documents (seven)
- 2) Total: 7 points based on rubric (see below)
- 3) Hints for DBQ
 - a. Don't worry about spelling
 - b. The essay is not about the documents but what they prove.
 - i. Docs are only there to support your thesis
 - c. Don't waste time with direct quotes from documents
 - d. Answer the question
 - e. List docs like this (Doc. 1)

LONG ESSAY (40 mins. 15% of score, 1 question)

- 1) Choose from 3
 - a. Option 1 (period 1)
 - b. Option 2 (periods 2-3)
 - c. Option 3 (periods 3-4)
- 2) Total six points based on rubric (see below)

DBQ (Points 7)

1) Contextualization (1 pt.)

- f. Connect the historical event discussed in broader context of the historical climate of the time period relevant to prompt.
- g. What is going on in US history at that time?
- h. Don't use same evidence that you will use in body.

2) Thesis (1 pt.)

- a. Directly addressing all parts of the question
- b. Must be an argument (for, against or qualify – “although”)
- c. Can be one or more sentences either in introduction or conclusion.

3) Using Documents (2 pt)

- a. Analyze all the documents (6 out of 7 are required)
- b. Must describe rather than simply quote the content.
- c. Must relate the content to the argument
- d. Label docs like this: (doc. 1)
- e. Analyze how the documents support the thesis or argument
 - i. Don't just list the documents.
- f. Best to group them into categories.

4) Outside historical evidence (1 pt.)

- a. Use an additional piece of evident relevant to the argument/prompt.
- b. Don't use same info as contextualization.
- c. Must be more than just a name or event, it needs to be explained.

5) Point of View (1 pt.)

- a. Discuss one or more of the following for at least 3 of the documents
 - i. Historical context
 - ii. Target audience
 - iii. Purpose
 - iv. Author's perspective/POV
- b. Explain the significance of the historical context, audience, purpose, POV
- c. Evaluate the credibility of the source
 - i. Examples: Was the source a witness? Did they have a bias or agenda? Were they trying to persuade an audience or was it a private source like a diary?)

6) Complexity (1 pt.)

- a. Extend argument by making connections between different time periods, themes (political, economic social, cultural or intellectual) or region.
- b. Explain a different side of the argument, multiple causes and/or effects.
- c. Must be part of the argument

LONG ESSAY RUBRIC (6 points)

- 1) **Contextualization (1 pt.)**
 - a. Describes broader historical context relevant to prompt.
 - b. Developments, processes etc. that happened before or after time frame.
- 2) **Thesis (Decide on a position) (1 pt.)**
 - a. Thesis must make a historically defensible claim
 - b. And respond to all parts of the question.
 - c. Must be one or more sentences in one place (either intro or conclusion)
- 3) **Evidence (2 pts.)**
 - a. Provide specific examples/evidence relevant to prompt. (1 pt.)
 - b. Explain how examples fit thesis (1 pt.)
 - c. Apply at least three pieces of evidence
- 4) **Historical Reasoning/Analysis (1 pt.)**
 - a. Comparison (COMP) =
 - i. Explain similarities AND differences
 - ii. And reasons why
 - b. Causation (CAUS) =
 - i. Explains causes AND effects of event, development or process
 - ii. And reasons why
 - c. Continuity and Change over time (CCOT) =
 - i. Describe continuity AND change
 - ii. And explains why
 - d. Periodization =
 - i. Describe ways a development was similar AND different from period before
 - ii. Explains extent to which it is different from and similar to development that preceded.
- 5) **Complexity (1 pt.)**
 - a. Extend argument by connecting it to ONE of following
 - i. Different time period, region, situation
 - ii. Different theme (political, economic, social, cultural, intellectual)
 - iii. Different discipline (economics, government, politics, art history, anthropology)
 - iv. Different perspectives
 - b. And how it compares
 - c. Must relate to the argument