

APUSH Essay Writing Quick Reference Chart

The Thesis Formula:

X. However, A, B, and C. Therefore, Y.

OR

Although X, Y because ABC.

Formula adapted for the BIG FOUR Historical Thinking Skills

1. Historical Causation (Cause and Effect):

What are the major causes or consequences of “event” and what were the most important causes or consequences of “event”?

X = least important cause or consequence, with an explanation why

A, B, C = most important causes / consequences, explanations why, broken up thematically

Y = your assertion statement

2. Continuity and Change over Time:

What are the major patterns of continuity or change over the time period and was there more continuity or change over that time period?

X = continuity or change, your counter-argument

A, B, C = continuity or change during the specified time period, broken up thematically

Y = your assertion statement

3. Compare and Contrast:

What similarities and differences are there between the two things, are there more similarities or differences, and why, account for those similarities or differences?

X = more similar or different, your counter-argument

A, B, C = similarities or differences between two things, broken up thematically

Y = your assertion statement

Strategy for Short Answer Questions: APE it.

Each part of an SAQ should be answered with a minimum of 3 sentences.

A – Answer—Directly answer the question by identifying your claim.

P – Provide examples—Briefly define/describe your claim.

E – Explain—Connect your claim through historical context.

BAGPIPE – Historical Themes to Be Analyzed

Belief Systems (Ideas/Ideologies, religious beliefs and culture)

America in the World (Global Context)

Geography and the Environment (Physical and Human)

Politics and Power

Intity (Gender, class, age, race and ethnicity)

Peopling (Movement and Migration)

Economy (Work, Exchange/Trade and Technology)



Document usage in the DBQ - HIPP

H: Historical Context + **I**: Intended Audience or **P**: Purpose or **P**: Point of View

Conclusion Formula:

Therefore, **Y + BC**. **BC** is similar/different to **OC (Synthesis)**, because **E**.

Y = your thesis

BC = Broad Context... what is the big picture within the era you are writing about... (identify one of the major historical themes – **BAGPIPE**)

OC = Other Context/Synthesis (comparative context)... what other time period experienced a similar OR different big picture/theme?

E = explanation (at least one strong piece of evidence to support your comparison and an explanation of *how* or *why* the broad context of each era are similar or different)

DBQ and LEQ Essay Structure

DBQ	LEQ
Contextualization	Contextualization
Thesis	Thesis
Analysis	Evidence
Documents	Analysis
HIPP	Thinking Skills
Outside Info	



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The Exam:

Question Type	Amount	Periods Tested	Time Allotted	Percentage of Exam
Multiple Choice	55	1-9	55 minutes	40%
Short-Answer Questions	3	#1- 3-8 #2- 3-8 #3- Choice between 1-5 and 6-9	40 minutes	20%
Document-Based Question	1	3-8	60 minutes	25%
Long-Essay Question	1	Choice between 3: 1-3, 4-6, 7-9	40 minutes	15%

Periodization of Course and Exam

Pre-Columbian Contacts (1491-1607)	5%
Colonial Settlement and Expansion (1607-1754)	10%
Revolution and Constitutional Origins (1754-1800)	12%
Early National Period (1800-1848)	10%
Sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction (1844-1877)	13%
Industrialism and Economic Expansion (1865-1898)	13%
Progressivism and U.S. Imperialism (1890-1945)	17%
The Cold War Era (1945-1980)	15%
United States and Globalization (1980-Present)	5%

Hints for the Multiple Choice:

1. Read question and think of an answer BEFORE you look at the documents.
2. Use hints on the document to help you with the question (author, date, and where it was published).

Hints for the Short Answer Questions:

1. Be brief but specific and ANSWER the QUESTION.
2. 2 or 3 sentences per part, maximum.
3. Clearly label which part you are answering.