

Format of the AP U. S. History Exam

Learn to **weigh evidence** and **interpretations** as you build your factual knowledge of U.S. history. Develop your ability to **draw conclusions** and use **informed reasoning** to present your **arguments clearly and persuasively** in essay format.

The course provides **7 themes** that allow students to **make connections and identify patterns and trends over time.**

American and National Identity

Migration and Settlement

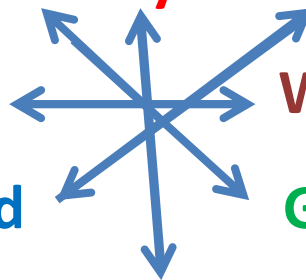
Politics and Power

Work, Exchange, and Technology

America in the World

Geography and the Environment

Culture and Society



Section I, Part A: Multiple Choice

55 Questions | 55 Minutes

40% of Exam Score

- Questions appear in sets of 2–5.
- Students analyze primary and secondary texts, images, graphs, and maps.
- Questions cover all course periods.

The AP U.S. History course is structured around **themes** and **concepts** in **9 different chronological periods from approximately 1491 to the present:**

Period 1: 1491–1607

Period 2: 1607–1754

Period 3: 1754–1800

Period 4: 1800–1848

Period 5: 1844–1877

Period 6: 1865–1898

Period 7: 1890–1945

Period 8: 1945–1980

Period 9: 1980–Present

Within each period, key concepts organize and prioritize historical developments.

Section I, Part B: Short Answer

3 Questions | 40 Minutes

20% of Exam Score

- **Students respond to 2 required questions and choose between 2 options for a third question.**
- **Questions 1 and 2 cover periods 3–8 of the course; students choose between answering either question 3 (covering periods 1–5) or question 4 (periods 6–9).**
- **Students analyze historians' interpretations, historical sources, and propositions about history.**

Section II, Part A: Document Based 1 Question | 60 Minutes 25% of Exam Score

- Students assess written, visual, and quantitative sources as historical evidence.
- Students develop an argument supported by an analysis of historical evidence.
- **Question covers periods 3–8 of the course.**

Period 3: 1754–1800

Period 5: 1844–1877

Period 7: 1890–1945

Period 4: 1800–1848

Period 6: 1865–1898

Period 8: 1945–1980

Section II, Part B:

Long Essay

1 Question | 40 Minutes

15% of Exam Score

- Students select one question among three different periods (1–3, 4–6, 7–9) of the course.

Period 1: 1491–1607

Period 2: 1607–1754

Period 3: 1754–1800

Period 4: 1800–1848

Period 5: 1844–1877

Period 6: 1865–1898

Period 7: 1890–1945

Period 8: 1945–1980

Period 9: 1980–Present

- Students explain and analyze significant issues in U.S. history.

- Students develop an argument supported by an analysis of historical evidence.

General Suggestions for AP History success: COLLEGE CREDIT!!!!

Be sure to write longer essay answers that provide ample facts to support your argument.

Over the last decade, our students have not been writing essays with enough depth and breadth of information. This is where widely “reading history” comes in handy. Arrive at the AP Exam with the expectation of writing much more.

Be sure to read your AP college-level textbook PLUS additional independent readings. It is your “job” to read the textbook, yes, all of it. A key to success!

You could write “History Logs” where you would describe your feelings about what you have read.

Biographies which reflect different eras of American History would be very helpful.

Cornell style note taking would help you remember the information.

Be sure to develop a mental awareness of the timeline of American History. This will come in handy when you are asked to assess BOTH continuity and change over time.

Be sure that you are aware of the “specifics” that College Board requests you to provide in your essays. Be sure you understand what the rubrics want and be sure to deliver those items within the different essay types.