Notes on the Practice Exam

Introduction

This section provides a description of how the questions in the AP Practice Exam correspond to the components of the curriculum framework included in the *AP U.S. History Course and Exam Description*. For each of the questions in the AP Practice Exam, the learning objectives, historical thinking skills, and key concepts from the curriculum framework are indicated.

In addition, the multiple-choice and free-response questions include the following features:

- For multiple-choice questions, the correct response is indicated with a justification for why it is correct. There are additional explanations that address why the other responses are incorrect.
- Free-response questions include scoring guidelines that explain how students can use required and optional knowledge learned in the AP U.S. History course to answer the questions.

The AP U.S. History Exam is 3 hours and 15 minutes in length. There are two sections. Each section is divided into two parts, as shown in the table below. Student performance on these four parts will be scored, compiled, and weighted to determine an AP Exam score.

- Section I is 1 hour, 45 minutes long and consists of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.
- Section II is 1 hour, 30 minutes long and consists of a document-based question and a long essay question.

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Timing	Percentage of Total Exam Score
I	Part A: Multiple-choice questions	55 questions	55 minutes	40%
	Part B: Short-answer questions	4 questions	50 minutes	20%
II	Part A: Document-based question	1 question	55 minutes	25%
	Part B: Long essay question	1 question (chosen from a pair)	35 minutes	15%

All of the questions on the exam are designed to measure students' achievement of the thematic learning objectives and their use of the historical thinking skills. Students' understanding of all nine periods of U.S. history will be assessed. No document-based question or long essay question will focus exclusively on events prior to 1607 (Period 1) or after 1980 (Period 9).

AP® United States History Exam

SECTION II: Free Response

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

At a Glance

Total Time
1 hour, 30 minutes
Number of Questions
2
Percent of Total Score
40%
Writing Instrument
Pen with black or dark blue ink

Question 1 (DBQ): Mandatory

Suggested Reading Period
15 Minutes. Use this time to read the question and plan your answer.
Suggested Writing Time
40 minutes
Percent of Total Score
25%

Question 2 or 3: Choose One Question

Answer either Question 2 or 3
Suggested Writing Time
35 minutes
Percent of Total Score
15%

IMPORTANT Identification Information

PLEASE PRINT WITH PEN:

1. First two letters of your last name ☐☐
   First letter of your first name ☐
2. Date of birth
   ☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐☐☐
   Month Day Year
3. Six-digit school code
   ☐☐☐☐☐☐
4. Unless I check the box below, I grant the College Board the unlimited right to use, reproduce, and publish my free-response materials, both written and oral, for educational research and instructional purposes. My name and the name of my school will not be used in any way in connection with my free-response materials. I understand that I am free to mark "No" with no effect on my score or its reporting.

   No, I do not grant the College Board these rights. ☐

Instructions

The questions for Section II are printed in the orange Questions and Documents booklet. You may use that booklet to organize your answers and for scratch work, but you must write your answers in this Section II: Free Response booklet. No credit will be given for any work written in the Questions and Documents booklet.

The proctor will announce the beginning and end of the reading period. You are advised to spend the 15-minute period reading the question and planning your answer to Question 1, the document-based question (DBQ). If you have time, you may also read Questions 2 and 3.

Section II of this exam requires answers in essay form. Write clearly and legibly. Circle the number of the question you are answering at the top of each page in this booklet. Begin each answer on a new page. Do not skip lines. Cross out any errors you make; crossed-out work will not be scored.

Manage your time carefully. The proctor will announce the suggested time for each part, but you may proceed freely from one part to the next. Go on to Question 2 or 3 if you finish Question 1 early. You may review your responses if you finish before the end of the exam is announced.

You will answer 1 Long Essay on the real test.
Suggested writing time: 35 min
* try it! Time yourself!

In your response you should do the following:

1. State a relevant thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question.
2. Support your argument with evidence, using specific examples
3. Apply historical thinking skills as directed by the question
4. Synthesize the elements above into a persuasive essay that extends your argument, connects it to a different historical context, or connects it to a different category of analysis

Prompt: Evaluate the extent to which transportation developments contributed to economic growth in the United States from 1860 to 1910.

- Try to keep your writing short and sweet
  - suggested time is 35 min on the real exam
- You may use up to 6 pages, but no more.

AP U.S. History Long Essay Rubric

Maximum Possible Points: 6

A. Thesis 0–1 point

Skills assessed: Argumentation + targeted skill

States a thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question. The thesis must do more than restate the question **1 point**

B. Support for argument: 0–2 points

Skills assessed: Argumentation, Use of Evidence

Supports the stated thesis (or makes a relevant argument) using specific evidence **1 point**	**OR**	Supports the stated thesis (or makes a relevant argument) using specific evidence, clearly and consistently stating how the evidence supports the thesis or argument, and establishing clear linkages between the evidence and the thesis or argument **2 points**

C. Application of targeted historical thinking skill: 0–2 points

Skill assessed: Targeted skill

For questions assessing CONTINUITY AND CHANGE OVER TIME		
Describes historical continuity AND change over time **1 point**	**OR**	Describes historical continuity AND change over time, and analyzes specific examples that illustrate historical continuity AND change over time **2 points**

For questions assessing COMPARISON		
Describes similarities AND differences among historical developments **1 point**	**OR**	Describes similarities AND differences among historical developments, providing specific examples AND Analyzes the reasons for their similarities AND/OR differences OR, DEPENDING ON THE PROMPT, Evaluates the relative significance of the historical developments **2 points**

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For questions assessing CAUSATION		
Describes causes AND/OR effects of a historical development **1 point**	OR	Describes causes AND/OR effects of a historical development and analyzes specific examples that illustrate causes AND/OR effects of a historical development **2 points**

For questions assessing PERIODIZATION		
Describes the ways in which the historical development specified in the prompt was different from OR similar to developments that preceded and/or followed **1 point**	OR	Analyzes the extent to which the historical development specified in the prompt was different from AND similar to developments that preceded and/or followed, providing specific examples to illustrate the analysis **2 points**

D. Synthesis: 0–1 point

Skill assessed: Synthesis

Response synthesizes the argument, evidence, and context into a coherent and persuasive essay by accomplishing one or more of the following as relevant to the question.						
Appropriately extends or modifies the stated thesis or argument **1 point**	OR	Explicitly employs an additional appropriate category of analysis (e.g., political, economic, social, cultural, geographical, race/ethnicity, gender) beyond that called for in the prompt **1 point**	OR	The argument appropriately connects the topic of the question to other historical periods, geographical areas, contexts, or circumstances **1 point**	OR	(World and European History) Draws on appropriate ideas and methods from different fields of inquiry or disciplines in support of the argument **1 point**

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Practice Long Essay. You may use 1 to 6 pages.

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page.

Mandatory	Circle one
1	2 or 3

Practice Long Essay. You may use 1 to 6 pages.

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page.

~~Mandatory~~	~~Circle one~~
~~1~~	~~2 or 3~~

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