

# AP History Rubrics

---

## Introductory notes:

- Except where otherwise noted, each point of the rubric is earned independently. For instance, a student could earn a point for evidence beyond the documents without earning a point for thesis/claim.
- Accuracy: The components of this rubric each require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, a response may contain errors that do not detract from its overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- Clarity: Exam essays should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and reasoning processes described in the rubrics.

## AP History DBQ Rubric (7 points)

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	Decision Rules
<b>A. THESIS/CLAIM (0–1 pt)</b>	<b>1 pt.</b> Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning.	<i>To earn this point, the thesis must make a claim that responds to the prompt rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion.</i>
<b>B. CONTEXTUALIZATION (0–1 pt)</b>	<b>1 pt.</b> Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.	<i>To earn this point, the response must relate the topic of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question. This point is not awarded for merely a phrase or reference.</i>

*continued on next page*

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	Decision Rules
<b>C. EVIDENCE</b> <b>(0–3 pts)</b>	<b>Evidence from the Documents</b>	<i>To earn one point, the response must accurately describe—rather than simply quote—the content from at least three of the documents.</i>
	<p><b>1 pt.</b> Uses the content of at least three documents to address the topic of the prompt.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>2 pts.</b> Supports an argument in response to the prompt using at least six documents.</p>	<i>To earn two points, the response must accurately describe—rather than simply quote—the content from at least six documents. In addition, the response must use the content of the documents to support an argument in response to the prompt.</i>
	<b>Evidence Beyond the Documents</b>	<i>To earn this point, the response must describe the evidence and must use more than a phrase or reference. This additional piece of evidence must be different from the evidence used to earn the point for contextualization.</i>
	<b>1 pt.</b> Uses at least one additional piece of the specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt.	
<b>D. ANALYSIS AND REASONING</b> <b>(0–2 pts)</b>	<b>1 pt.</b> For at least three documents, explains how or why the document’s point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument.	<i>To earn this point, the response must explain how or why (rather than simply identifying) the document’s point of view, purpose, historical situation, or audience is relevant to an argument about the prompt for each of the three documents sourced.</i>
	<b>1 pt.</b> Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question.	<p><i>A response may demonstrate a complex understanding in a variety of ways, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Explaining nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Explaining both similarity and difference, or explaining both continuity and change, or explaining multiple causes, or explaining both cause and effect</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Explaining relevant and insightful connections within and across periods</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Confirming the validity of an argument by corroborating multiple perspectives across themes</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Qualifying or modifying an argument by considering diverse or alternative views or evidence</i></li> </ul> <p><i>This understanding must be part of the argument, not merely a phrase or reference.</i></p>

## AP History LEQ Rubric (6 points)

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	Decision Rules
<b>A. THESIS/CLAIM (0–1 pt)</b>	<b>1 pt.</b> Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning.	<i>To earn this point, the thesis must make a claim that responds to the prompt, rather than merely restating or rephrasing the prompt. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion.</i>
<b>B. CONTEXTUALIZATION (0–1 pt)</b>	<b>1 pt.</b> Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.	<i>To earn this point, the response must relate the topic of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question. This point is not awarded for merely a phrase or a reference.</i>
<b>C. EVIDENCE (0–2 pts)</b>	<b>1 pt.</b> Provides specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt.  <b>OR 2 pts.</b> Supports an argument in response to the prompt using specific and relevant examples of evidence.	<i>To earn one point, the response must identify specific historical examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt.</i>  <i>To earn two points the response must use specific historical evidence to support an argument in response to the prompt.</i>

*continued on next page*

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	Decision Rules
<p><b>D. ANALYSIS AND REASONING (0–2 pts)</b></p>	<p><b>1 pt.</b> Uses historical reasoning (e.g., comparison, causation, continuity and change) to frame or structure an argument that addresses the prompt.</p> <p><b>OR 2 pts.</b> Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question.</p>	<p><i>To earn the first point, the response must demonstrate the use of historical reasoning to frame or structure an argument, although the reasoning might be uneven or imbalanced.</i></p> <p><i>To earn the second point, the response must demonstrate a complex understanding. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Explaining nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Explaining both similarity and difference, or explaining both continuity and change, or explaining multiple causes, or explaining both causes and effects</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Explaining relevant and insightful connections within and across periods</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Confirming the validity of an argument by corroborating multiple perspectives across themes</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Qualifying or modifying an argument by considering diverse or alternative views or evidence</i></li> </ul> <p><i>This understanding must be part of the argument, not merely a phrase or reference.</i></p>