

STRATEGY FOR WRITING AN AP WORLD HISTORY LONG ESSAY

Remember that in the “Long Essay” section of the test you will be choosing ONE of two possible essays. BOTH essays will be based on the SAME “Historical Thinking Skill.” The covered skill will be either Comparison, Causation, Change and Continuity Over Time, or Periodization.

Your response to the essay prompt/question MUST INCLUDE the following:

- **Thesis:** You must present a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim and responds to ALL parts of the question. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, preferably and ideally in the introduction.
- **Application of Historical Thinking Skill:** You must develop and support an argument that applies the historical thinking skill as directed by the question.
- **Supporting the Argument with Evidence:** You must utilize specific examples of evidence to fully and effectively substantiate the stated thesis or a relevant argument.
- **Synthesis:** You must extend the argument by explaining the connections between the the argument and ONE of the following:
 - ⇒ A development in a different historical period, situation, era, or geographic area
 - ⇒ A course theme and/or approach to history that is not the focus of the essay (such as political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual history).
 - ⇒ A different discipline or field of inquiry (such as economics, government and politics, art history, or anthropology).

THE LONG ESSAY

Paragraph #1 = THESIS

- Address ALL parts of the prompt
- Provide some type of “examples”
 - Minimum 2-3 sentences
- Think about complexity, multiple perspectives and inclusion of “synthesis”

Paragraphs #2, 3, and possibly 4 = SUPPORTING PARAGRAPHS

- Clearly identify how the paragraph SUPPORTS your THESIS
- Identify and discuss SPECIFIC EVIDENCE that supports your THESIS

Paragraph #5 = SYNTHESIS

- How does this topic or issue CONNECT to a different ...
 - TIME
 - PLACE
- DISCIPLINE (anthropology, economics, government and politics, art history, religion)
- PERSIA / SPRITE (political, economic, religion, social, intellectual, technology, arts)

Paragraph #6 = CONCLUSION

- Address ALL parts of the prompt
- Provide some type of “examples”
 - Minimum 2-3 sentences
- Summarize what you did in paragraphs #2-4