AP American History Mrs. Scherer

Essay Writing of the AP Exam

How many essays do I have to write on the AP Exam?

**2 Essays!!!! A DBQ essay and a Long Essay**

What type of essays are they?

**There are 4 different types of essays you may be asked to write. But all your essays must include a *great THESIS* and SYNTHESIS!!**

**Periodization**

* Evaluate whether or not an event or date could be considered a turning point in history.
* Explain how things were BEFORE and AFTER a particular event, year or period.

Example Essay:

Introduction: Include a great THESIS that says why the event was a turning point.

Paragraph#1: Describe events before the turning point.

Explain what the turning point was.

Paragraph#2: Explain what happened after the turning point.

Conclusion: Include SYNTHESIS if you haven’t already put it in any of the body paragraphs.

Question samples:

Evaluate the extent to which the French and Indian War was a turning point in the political and economic relationship between England and its American colonies.

Evaluate the extent to which US participation in the First World War marked a turning point in the nation’s role in world affairs.

**CCOT Continuity and Change over Time**

* Be able to determine what changed and what stayed the same between different time periods
* Describe patterns and/or shifts and explain reasons why they happened.

Question Sample:

Evaluate the extent to which FDR’s administration maintained continuity as well as fostered change in the role of the federal government during the Great Depression.

To what extent was late 19th century and early 20th century US expansionism a continuation of past expansionism and to what extent was it a departure?

**Comparison**

* Identify and analyze the similarities and differences between different historical events, time periods, geographic areas, etc.
* Describe AND explain the reasons why those similarities and/or differences exist.
* Be able to identify, compare, and evaluate different perspectives.

Question Sample:

Compare and contrast the Spanish, French, and British colonization of North America in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Compare and contrast U.S. society in the 1920s and 1950s with respect to the following: Race relations, role of women, consumerism.

Compare and contrast the foreign policies of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson.

**Causation**

* Identify, analyze and evaluate CAUSES and EFFECTS
* Describe the causes and effects of a historical event, development or process.
* Explain reasons for causes and effects.

Question Sample:

Evaluate the impact of geography on the development of the New England, Chesapeake, and Mid-Atlantic colonies.

Evaluate the effects of the French and Indian War on the relationship between Great Britain and the British colonies from 1754-1776.

In the post-Civil War United States, corporations grew significantly in number, size, and influence. Assess the impact of big business on the economy and politics and the responses of Americans to these changes. Confine your answer to the period 1870 to 1900.