

AP World Test

The Interpretive, or “Essay” Test

AP Information

There are three free response questions for the second section of the AP exam. The three types of questions are: Document based question (DBQ, 1 question 55 minutes long; including a ten minute reading period), change over time essay (1 question 40 minutes), comparative essay (1 question 40 minutes). The three questions, in part two, are weighted equally for half of the overall score on the AP exam.

Benefits of an Essay Exam

Essay exams give much more control over your answers. Think about it this way: On a fill in the blank test, if you don't know the answer to the question, you miss it. You can't say, "Well, I don't know the fact, but I do know all these other facts that you didn't ask me about!" On an essay test, you get to decide how to support yourself. You decide what facts are important. Your essay must be reasonable and well grounded, but as long as you show that you know what you are talking about, you get credit. Not bad, huh?

Hints for Essay Exams

1. Time is your master for an essay test.
2. Read through the test
3. Map out and schedule your test.
4. Organize and outline your response
5. Write your response
 - a. To keep on track, make only one point per sentence and keep them short
 - b. Avoid semicolons, exclamations marks, and parenthetical statements.
 - c. Keep your writing free of fragments and run-on sentences
 - d. Back yourself up every step of the way.
 - e. Use transitions to smooth out your writing.
 - f. Be formal, but not stuffy.
 - g. Skip every other line as you write, and mind your handwriting.
6. Proof read your response

Note:

Wear a watch

If your classroom does not have a plainly visible clock, wear a watch to your test. This is extremely important. You will need a watch in order to budget your time effectively and complete all parts of the test successfully.