

Writing Short-Answer Questions (SAQs)

The short-answer section will consist of three questions (choosing from four) that require students to use historical thinking skills and content knowledge to respond to a historian’s argument, general propositions or questions about world history, or stimulus material. As in the multiple-choice section, stimulus material may consist of a primary or secondary source, including texts, images, charts, graphs, maps, etc.

Two of the four SAQs will include stimulus material. Each SAQs will directly address a primary practice or skill. Each SAQ will ask students to analyze historical developments and/or processes using examples drawn from the concept outline or other examples explored in-depth in classroom instruction. The SAQs may require students to take a position based on the stimulus material presented, identify a significant change or continuity, or account for differences and similarities in perspectives, historical developments, etc.

COMPONENTS

- 20% of AP exam score
- 40 minutes to answer 3 SAQs
- Each SAQ will be worth 0-3 points
- Each SAQ must fit within the space provided (one page)

#	<i>Skill</i>	<i>Stimulus</i>	<i>Units</i>
Students are required to answer SAQ 1 AND SAQ 2			
1	Analyzing secondary sources	Secondary source	3-6
2	Comparison or Continuity and Change over Time	Primary source text or visual source	3-6
Students select SAQ 3 OR SAQ 4			
3	Comparison or Continuity and Change over Time (the other skill that’s not in #2)	No stimulus	1-3
4			4-6

ANSWERING THE QUESTION

Each SAQ is divided into parts (A), (B), and (C). To earn one point for each part, make sure your responses include these three sentences:

- An IDENTIFY sentence that provides a “buzzword” that correctly answers the question (i.e. an example, cause, effect, factor, response, etc.).
- A DESCRIBE sentence that defines or clarifies what you identified as the answer.
- A CONNECT sentence that relates your answer to the main idea in the SAQ (i.e. How is your answer a change or a continuity? How does it compare or contrast?).

To earn a point for each part of the SAQ, the answer must correctly address meaning or significance. Student responses that receive no credit most often do not connect the answer to the main idea of the SAQ.

SAMPLE QUESTION

1. **Answer all parts of the question that follows.**
 - A. Identify and explain ONE way in which a foundational civilization formed a stable political state.
 - B. Explain ONE similarity between Mesopotamian Nile River Valley methods of expanding their civilizations.
 - C. Explain ONE difference between Nile River Valley and Yellow River Valley methods of celebrating their civilizations.

SAMPLE ANSWERS

- A. In ancient Mesopotamia stability was based on all men and women contributing to an agrarian society. The primary occupations were growing crops and raising livestock and the secondary occupations like beermaker, tanner, weaver, and shoemaker were dependent on agriculture. Although different empires rose and fell across the Fertile Crescent, the survival of all states were dependent on the production of surplus grains. (IDENTIFY, DESCRIBE, CONNECT)
- B. Both the Egyptians and Babylonians expanded their empire through standing armies. Both empires employed volunteers who were trained as professionals, drafted citizens and hired foreign mercenaries. The empires took territory along waterways that allowed them to expand their trade networks. (IDENTIFY, DESCRIBE, CONNECT)
- C. Ancient Egypt expanded the authority of their society through building monuments for great pharaohs and noblemen while the Zhou Dynasty venerated their ancestors by constructing big palaces. The Egyptian pyramids were not only tombs for their deceased leaders but public monuments proclaiming that the pharaohs were Gods and would continue to rule in the next life. The Zhou emperors build private residences with ancestor shrines and colored pillars reserved for use only by the royal family and forbidden by commoners regardless of wealth. (IDENTIFY, DESCRIBE, CONNECT)

TIPS

- It is NOT an essay! However, you do need to answer in COMPLETE SENTENCES, and DIRECTLY. Don't dress it up.
 - Typical answers are between 3-4 sentences for each part.
- There will be three separate questions, with three separate boxes for each question.
 - You CANNOT write outside of the box! Anything outside of the box will not be read/scored.
- The questions are divided into three tasks, labeled A, B, and C.
 - When you respond, you should label these A -, B -, C -, and skip a line between each letter.
 - Each of the sub-questions will be graded separately, so approach them as separate but related.
- Two of the questions will ask you to relate your knowledge of history to a stimulus or to two stimuli. Stimuli can include maps, graphs, pictures, quotations, sources, etc. One will be primary and the other will be secondary.
 - They may ask for evidence to support an argument, or to undermine it; prepare for both.
 - You might use information from the stimuli, or you might be bringing in outside information.