

ap world course and exam description

ap world course and exam description offers a comprehensive overview of the Advanced Placement World History course and its corresponding examination. This course provides students with an in-depth understanding of global historical processes and patterns from prehistory to the present. The exam description outlines the structure, content areas, and skills assessed, which are crucial for students aiming to earn college credit or advanced placement. The curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, historical analysis, and the ability to interpret diverse sources within various historical contexts. This article will explore the key components of the AP World History course, the exam format, scoring criteria, and effective preparation strategies. Understanding the ap world course and exam description is essential for educators and students aiming to succeed in this rigorous academic challenge.

- Overview of the AP World History Course
- Course Content and Themes
- Exam Structure and Format
- Skills and Competencies Assessed
- Scoring and Grading Criteria
- Preparation Tips and Resources

Overview of the AP World History Course

The AP World History course is designed to provide high school students with a college-level curriculum that covers significant historical themes and developments across different regions of the world. The course encourages students to develop a global perspective by examining interactions between societies, including economic, political, social, and cultural dynamics. It spans from approximately 1200 CE to the present, emphasizing the patterns and processes that have shaped world history over time. The course is structured to enhance students' abilities to analyze and synthesize historical evidence, fostering a deeper understanding of the complexities of world history.

Course Objectives

The primary objectives of the AP World History course include developing students' ability to:

- Analyze historical developments and processes from multiple perspectives
- Understand and describe patterns of continuity and change over time
- Use primary and secondary sources to support historical arguments

- Recognize the impact of geography and environment on historical events
- Compare different societies and their interactions throughout history

Course Content and Themes

The curriculum is organized around key themes and historical periods that reflect significant global trends and events. These themes help students connect disparate historical phenomena and understand long-term developments.

Key Historical Periods

The course covers six major periods, each focusing on critical transformations and continuities in world history:

1. The Global Tapestry (c. 1200 to c. 1450)
2. Networks of Exchange (c. 1450 to c. 1750)
3. Land-Based Empires (c. 1450 to c. 1750)
4. Transoceanic Interconnections (c. 1450 to c. 1750)
5. Revolutions (c. 1750 to c. 1900)
6. Consequences of Industrialization and Global Conflict (c. 1900 to present)

Major Themes

The course emphasizes five overarching themes that guide content exploration:

- **Interaction between humans and the environment:** Examining how geography, climate, and disease have influenced societies.
- **Development and interaction of cultures:** Understanding religion, belief systems, and cultural diffusion.
- **State-building, expansion, and conflict:** Analyzing political structures, empires, and warfare.
- **Creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems:** Studying trade networks, labor systems, and economic policies.
- **Development and transformation of social structures:** Exploring class, gender, and social

hierarchy changes.

Exam Structure and Format

The AP World History exam assesses students' knowledge and skills through a combination of multiple-choice questions and free-response items. The exam is typically administered in May and is timed for a total of three hours and fifteen minutes.

Multiple-Choice Section

This section includes approximately 55 questions, designed to evaluate students' ability to analyze historical sources, interpret data, and apply knowledge across time periods and regions. Students have 55 minutes to complete this section, which accounts for 40% of the overall exam score.

Short Answer Questions

Following the multiple-choice portion, students answer three short-answer questions within 40 minutes. These questions require concise, focused responses that demonstrate historical thinking skills and content knowledge. This section makes up 20% of the exam score.

Document-Based Question (DBQ)

The DBQ requires students to formulate an argument based on a set of provided historical documents. Students must analyze and synthesize information from these sources while incorporating outside knowledge. The DBQ lasts 60 minutes and is worth 25% of the total exam score.

Long Essay Question (LEQ)

The LEQ tasks students with writing an extended essay in response to one of three prompts, each focusing on different time periods or themes. This section also lasts 40 minutes and constitutes 15% of the exam score.

Skills and Competencies Assessed

The AP World History exam evaluates a range of historical thinking skills essential for academic success in history and related disciplines. These skills enable students to engage deeply with historical content and evidence.

Historical Thinking Skills

- **Chronological Reasoning:** Understanding and explaining patterns of continuity and change over time.
- **Comparison and Contextualization:** Comparing societies and historical developments within broader contexts.
- **Causation:** Analyzing causes and consequences of historical events.
- **Argument Development:** Constructing coherent, evidence-based historical arguments.
- **Use of Evidence:** Interpreting primary and secondary sources to support claims.

Analytical Skills

Students must interpret diverse types of historical evidence, including texts, images, maps, and quantitative data. The ability to evaluate the reliability and perspective of sources is critical for success on the exam.

Scoring and Grading Criteria

The AP World History exam is scored on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest possible score. The scoring rubric balances multiple-choice accuracy with the quality of written responses on free-response questions.

Score Distribution

The exam's weighted components are as follows:

- **Multiple-Choice:** 40%
- **Short Answer Questions:** 20%
- **Document-Based Question:** 25%
- **Long Essay Question:** 15%

Rubric for Free-Response Questions

Free-response questions are graded based on the clarity of argument, use of evidence, historical accuracy, and synthesis of information. The DBQ requires effective integration of documents, while

the LEQ demands a well-organized essay addressing the prompt comprehensively.

Preparation Tips and Resources

Effective preparation for the AP World History exam involves a combination of content review, skill development, and practice with exam-style questions. Students are encouraged to engage with a variety of study materials and strategies to maximize their performance.

Study Strategies

- Review course themes and key historical periods thoroughly.
- Practice analyzing primary and secondary sources regularly.
- Write practice essays to improve argumentation and time management.
- Use official College Board materials and past exam questions.
- Form study groups to discuss and clarify complex topics.

Supplemental Resources

In addition to textbooks, students may benefit from online courses, video lectures, and review books specifically tailored to the AP World course and exam description. These resources provide targeted practice and deeper insights into exam expectations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the AP World History: Modern course about?

The AP World History: Modern course covers historical developments from approximately 1200 CE to the present, focusing on themes such as interaction between humans and the environment, development and interaction of cultures, governance, economic systems, and social structures.

How is the AP World History: Modern exam structured?

The exam consists of multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, a document-based question (DBQ), and a long essay question (LEQ), designed to assess students' analytical skills and historical knowledge.

What skills are emphasized in the AP World History course?

The course emphasizes skills such as analyzing historical evidence, making historical arguments, contextualizing events, comparing developments across regions, and understanding continuity and change over time.

How long is the AP World History exam, and how is it scored?

The exam lasts approximately 3 hours and 15 minutes and is scored on a scale of 1 to 5, with a composite score derived from multiple-choice, short-answer, DBQ, and LEQ sections.

What resources are recommended for preparing for the AP World History exam?

Recommended resources include the College Board's course and exam description, review books, practice exams, online tutorials, and classroom instruction focusing on both content knowledge and exam strategies.

Are there any changes to the AP World History course and exam description for recent years?

The AP World History: Modern course and exam description are periodically updated by the College Board to reflect changes in historical scholarship and pedagogy, with the most recent major update emphasizing a thematic and skills-based approach.

Additional Resources

1. AP World History Course and Exam Description

This official College Board publication offers a comprehensive overview of the AP World History course framework, including detailed information on exam structure, content themes, and skill requirements. It serves as a primary resource for both students and educators to understand the expectations and learning objectives. The book also includes sample questions and scoring guidelines to help prepare for the exam effectively.

2. Cracking the AP World History Exam by The Princeton Review

This guide provides thorough content reviews, practice questions, and test-taking strategies specifically tailored for the AP World History exam. The book breaks down complex historical themes and periods into manageable sections, making it easier for students to grasp key concepts. Additionally, it includes full-length practice tests to simulate the exam experience.

3. AP World History: Modern Crash Course by Larry Krieger

Designed as a quick-review manual, this book condenses the modern era of world history into essential facts and themes relevant for the AP exam. It emphasizes key developments from 1200 CE to the present, helping students focus their study time efficiently. The book also offers tips on answering multiple-choice and essay questions.

4. Ways of the World: A Global History with Sources by Robert W. Strayer

This textbook provides a global perspective on world history, integrating primary source documents to

deepen understanding. It aligns well with AP World History themes and periods, offering rich content that supports analytical skills. The narrative style and inclusion of diverse voices make it a valuable resource for course preparation.

5. *AP World History Exam Secrets Study Guide* by Mometrix Test Preparation

This study guide focuses on exam strategies, practice questions, and detailed answer explanations to boost test performance. It covers all major time periods and thematic learning objectives outlined by the AP curriculum. The guide is designed to build confidence and improve time management during the test.

6. *World Civilizations: The Global Experience* by Peter N. Stearns

A widely used textbook that covers global history from ancient times to the present, this book supports the AP World History curriculum with clear narratives and thematic organization. It includes maps, images, and timelines that help contextualize historical events. The content is suitable for deepening students' understanding of cultural and political developments worldwide.

7. *AP World History: Modern Prep Plus 2023 & 2024* by Kaplan Test Prep

Kaplan's prep book offers comprehensive content reviews, practice quizzes, and full-length exams tailored to the latest AP World History specifications. It emphasizes critical thinking and historical analysis skills necessary for success on the exam. The book also provides strategies for tackling document-based and long essay questions.

8. *Reading Like a Historian: AP World History Edition* by Sam Wineburg and others

This resource focuses on developing critical reading and historical thinking skills through the analysis of primary and secondary sources. It aligns with AP course goals by encouraging students to engage deeply with historical evidence. The book includes lesson plans and activities that foster inquiry and argumentation.

9. *The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History* by Richard W. Bulliet

Known for its thematic approach to global history, this textbook covers major civilizations and their interactions over time. It supports AP World History students with clear explanations, visuals, and thematic essays that connect historical developments. The book emphasizes cultural exchanges and environmental factors shaping human history.

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