

# The AP History Test Essay Survival Guide:

Part II, the Free Response Question

# AP History tests

Previously in this series, I discussed how to handle the document-based question (DBQ) in the AP History tests. However, the DBQ is only one part of the test's essay section.

Additional [buying an essay paper](#) writing is required for the AP European History, U.S. History, and World History exams in 2015. Depending on the exact exam and the topics you select, there are several ways to approach the AP History essay question(s).



# Make sure you know the question

- First, make sure you understand the prompt. Read through each prompt once, and then choose the one that you want to do. Re-read that prompt, underlining the key words. Those key words should make up the basics of your thesis.
- Tips for writing comparative essays
- If you are answering a comparative question, spend a moment thinking about which options you know the most about, and choose accordingly. For a comparative question, make a quick Venn diagram of your choices. This will let you visualize what the topics have in common and what they don't. This will also let you see how much you have to write about, and more importantly, identify any big topics that can make for themes.

# Make your thesis and outline

The next step is to come up with the thesis. It is very important that you come up with a clear, and complete, thesis. It needs to fully answer the question asked, and be complete enough to support a well-reasoned answer. That thesis will also be the first part of your outline, which you should now start working on.

Make sure that your outline encompasses every aspect of the question - each of the underlined words or phrases should be included in the outline somewhere. It is also very important that you find examples to include in the outline. It's best to determine the examples that you'll use now; otherwise, you will be trying to do it while you're writing. Once you shift to writing mode, your goal should be to focus on composing the best and most well-reasoned essay that you can.

