

AP World History Comparative Essay Generic Rubric Overview

Basic Core <i>Historical skills and knowledge required to show competence.</i>	Expanded Core <i>Historical skills and knowledge required to show excellence.</i>
<p>1. Has acceptable thesis. 1 Point <i>(addresses comparison of the issues or themes specified)</i></p> <p>2. Addresses all parts of the question, though not necessarily evenly or thoroughly. 2 Points <i>(Addresses most parts of the question: for example, deals with differences but not similarities)</i> (1)</p> <p>3. Substantiates thesis with appropriate evidence. 2 Points <i>(Partially substantiates thesis with appropriate evidence.)</i> (1)</p> <p>4. Makes at least three relevant, direct comparisons between or among societies. 1 Point</p> <p>5. Analyzes at least three reasons for a similarity or difference identified in a direct comparison. 1 Point</p>	<p>Expands beyond basic core of 1-7 Points. The basic core of a score of 7 must be achieved before a student can earn expanded core points. 0-2 Points</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Has a clear, analytical, and comprehensive thesis ▪ Addresses all parts of the question (as relevant): comparisons, chronology, causation, connections, themes, interactions, content. ▪ Provides ample historical evidence to substantiate thesis. ▪ Relates comparisons to larger global context. ▪ Makes several direct comparisons consistently between or among societies. ▪ Consistently analyzes the causes and effects of relevant similarities and differences.
<p>Subtotal 7 Points</p>	<p>Subtotal 2 Points</p>

TOTAL 9 Points

Comparative Essay Notes

- The time allotted for the essay is 40 minutes, 5 minutes of which should be spent planning and/or outlining the answer.

Sample Comparative Essay

Unfree labor systems were widely used for agricultural production in the period 1450-1750.

Discuss the major similarities and differences between TWO of the following systems:

- Caribbean slavery
- North American slavery
- West African slavery
- Russian serfdom

Comparative Structure for Essay

I Introduction

- Thesis
- Roadmap

II 1st Sentence for each body paragraph should be a comparative (a direct comparison sentence)
2nd sentence then explains/analysis the direct comparison in the first sentence

III Then subsequent sentences in the paragraph should provide at least 2 info statements/evidence in each paragraph.

IV

V Conclusion

Keep in Mind:

- * the thesis can only be counted as the thesis and not also as a direct comparison
- * use linking comparative words such as “whereas” to help set up direct comparisons
- * if in the comparative question there is a parenthetical qualifier such as (political, economic, cultural), it is not required that evidence is given for each. This parenthetical qualifier helps students think about what to write.

Thesis Statement Construction

A thesis statement must

- Fully address the question asked (not the one you’d prefer to answer)
- Take a position in answering the question asked
- Provide organization categories to support your position (these categories will be the subject of the topic sentences in the main body paragraphs)

Compare urban-based societies with pastoral/nomadic societies: political, social (class, labor, and gender), economic, religious, and cultural needs and organizational patterns.