

AP World/European History

Tips on Writing LEQs – Long Essay Questions

This is the only question where you will have a choice. You will be instructed to answer Question 2 or 3.

[Question 1 is always the DBQ]. The question will test the following:

Historical Thinking Skills:

1. Comparison – analyzing similarities and differences between two things, i.e. events, ideologies, eras, viewpoints
2. Causation – analyzing causes and effects, including short and long term
3. Patterns of Continuity and change over time – identify and explain why new patterns arose and what persisted
4. Periodization – Arguing that a coherence of time and place identified by common characteristics makes it unique

Phrases that may help:

1. Comparative essays = Both, unlike, like, too, unique to, one the one hand, while on the other hand, as opposed to, while, although, despite, even though
2. Causation = because, due to, as a result of, led to, resulted in, one consequence was, the impact was that, developed into, fueled by,
3. Continuity = continued, persisted, was ongoing
4. Change over time = one new development was that..., introduced, for the first time, began, ... replaced..., became a turning point
5. Periodization = the.... era is unique because it is characterized by..., this era was unlike the previous one because..., the [name an event] brought an end to this era because....

For strong arguments, be very specific in a ...

1. Changer over time questions: What is substituting what and how is it different than what previously existed?
2. What is the similarity between two things but at what point does the similarity stop and each is becomes unique?
3. In explaining causes, are they short or long-term causes and are they regional, national or global in nature?
4. In explaining effects, are they short or long-term effects and are they regional, national or global in nature?

Examples of Questions:

1. Identify and analyze changes and continuities in long-distance trade in Afro-Eurasia between 600 and 1450.
2. To what extent can 1492 be considered a turning point in world history?
3. To what extent can the 20th century be characterized as the “Age of Conflict?”
4. Identify and analyze internal and external causes for the collapse of ONE of the following empires: Russia, Ottoman and Qing.
5. Compare the collapse of TWO empires that ruled between 1450 and 1900.
6. Evaluate the extent to which the Industrial Revolution that began in the 1750s can be considered a turning point in world history.

Scoring Rubric and where in the essay to show each skill:

1. Thesis – Introduction paragraph and in conclusion paragraph after your synthesis
2. Historical Thinking Skill (Depends on the question: comparison, causation, continuity and change or periodization) – body paragraphs - should be reflected in your thesis and in EVERY ARGUMENT you make
3. Supporting Evidence – body paragraphs – identify, explain and **CONNECT** your evidence to your argument
4. Synthesis – conclusion paragraph - extend your argument beyond the question by (a) going into another era, region or situation (b) going into another theme so that if the question asks you for political and economic causes of something you now extend it to cultural causes. You must **CONNECT** your extension to the topic of your essay in order to prove why it is **RELEVANT** to the question.