

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

2015 AP US History Exam



On the APUSH exam, you will have 50 minutes to answer four (4) Short Answer Questions (SAQs), giving you about twelve (12) minutes to complete each item. These items are similar to the FRQs some students may have seen on exams for AP Government, Human Geography, or Psychology. Here are some tips for tackling this section.

1. **Complete the questions one at a time and in order.** Complete #1, then #2, etc. This will be the most **efficient** way to tackle these questions.

It is a waste of time to read all of the questions before getting started, as you will have to read them again before completing them.

EXCEPTION: If an item looks like it's going to be extremely difficult or you have no idea how to answer it, then of course you can skip it and move on to another item. Hopefully, you will not have this problem.

2. **Look at each letter as a *separate, but related* task.** Clearly label each item by letter and **skip a line** between each lettered item. This will help you keep your work organized.
3. **Define key terms** and **be sure you are clear** about the expectations of the question.

Mark up the prompt
DEFINE TERMS
What are you expected to do?

ONE vs AT LEAST ONE – *Does it help you to give more than one example?*

4. **Plan your answer.** Mark up the prompt and do some (at least minimal) prewriting before answering the questions. This will cut down on time spent idly holding your pencil and staring at the paper. Go ahead and write down what evidence you will use to support your answer if nothing else. Since you have 12 minutes, you have time to **effectively plan your answer**.

When you're given choices, there's not a *wrong* answer, per se, but there is likely a BEST answer. The best answer is the answer that produces the most evidence for you.

5. **Write your answer.** This answer must be in complete sentences – bullets are NOT acceptable!

(P-E-A: Point, Evidence, Analysis)

BEGIN with a THESIS STATEMENT (although the course description says it's not necessary, this is generally a good practice since a thesis statement basically makes your point.)

THEN present your evidence.

END with a summative statement linking your thesis and evidence together with analysis.