

Part B: Long Essay Questions

Students will choose one of three long essay questions to answer. The long essay requires students to demonstrate their ability to use historical evidence in crafting a thoughtful historical argument. In the following questions, students will analyze an issue using the reasoning skill of continuity and change over time.

The three questions focus on the same reasoning skills but apply them to different time periods. This allows students to choose which time period and historical perspective they are best prepared to write about.

Question 2: Evaluate the extent to which new transportation technologies changed economic activity in the period before 600 B.C.E.

Question 3: Evaluate the extent to which the decline and reconstitution of empires led to changes in urban development in Afro-Eurasia in the period circa 400–1450 C.E.

Question 4: Evaluate the extent to which globalization transformed the world's economy in the period 1950–2001.

Scoring the Response

For the long essay question, a good response should:

- respond to the question with an evaluative thesis that makes a historically defensible claim. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion. Neither the introduction nor the conclusion is necessarily limited to a single paragraph.
- explain how a relevant historical context influenced the topic addressed in the question. It should also relate the topic of the question to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or after the time frame of the question. This explanation should consist of more than merely a phrase or a reference.
- use historical reasoning to explain relationships among the pieces of evidence provided in the response and how they corroborate, qualify, or modify the argument, made in the thesis, that addresses the entirety of the question.

Complete scoring guidelines for the short-answer, document-based, and long essay questions can be found on AP Central.