

Sample Responses from the

AP[®] United States History
Exam

From the 2015 Administration

Sample Questions

Scoring Guidelines

Student Responses

Commentaries on the Responses

Effective Fall 2015

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The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT[®] and the Advanced Placement Program[®]. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools. For further information, visit www.collegeboard.org.

AP[®] Equity and Access Policy

The College Board strongly encourages educators to make equitable access a guiding principle for their AP[®] programs by giving all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP. We encourage the elimination of barriers that restrict access to AP for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underrepresented. Schools should make every effort to ensure their AP classes reflect the diversity of their student population. The College Board also believes that all students should have access to academically challenging course work before they enroll in AP classes, which can prepare them for AP success. It is only through a commitment to equitable preparation and access that true equity and excellence can be achieved.

Contents

4	Preface
	Section I, Part B: Short-Answer Questions
5	Short-Answer Question 1
6	Curriculum Framework Alignment and Scoring Guidelines
9	Student Responses
12	Scores and Commentary
14	Short-Answer Question 2
15	Curriculum Framework Alignment and Scoring Guidelines
18	Student Responses
21	Scores and Commentary
22	Short-Answer Question 3
23	Curriculum Framework Alignment and Scoring Guidelines
25	Student Responses
28	Scores and Commentary
	Section II: Free-Response Questions
30	Document-Based Question 1
35	Scoring Guidelines and Notes
49	Student Responses
66	Scores and Commentary
71	Long Essay Question 2
72	Scoring Guidelines and Notes
79	Student Responses
87	Scores and Commentary
91	Long Essay Question 3
92	Scoring Guidelines and Notes
100	Student Responses
109	Scores and Commentary

Preface

This publication is designed to help teachers and students understand and prepare for the AP[®] U.S. History Exam. The publication includes sample free-response questions, scoring guidelines, student responses at various levels of achievement, and Reader commentaries. Information is provided for the document-based question and long essay questions and for a set of short-answer questions. Collectively, these materials accurately reflect the design, composition, and rigor of the exam.

The questions are those that appeared on the 2015 AP U.S. History Exam, and the student responses were collected from actual AP students during the exam administration. The students gave permission to have their work reproduced at the time of the test. Following each question, its scoring guideline, and three student responses, there is commentary about each sample.

It is important to note that the instructions given to students, the scoring guidelines, and the scores and commentaries in this publication are **not** the ones that were used on the 2015 AP U.S. History Exam and at the 2015 AP Reading. Instead, the instructions and other materials in this publication are based on the revisions to the scoring rubrics announced by the College Board in July 2015. They provide the scores that students would have received had these rubrics been in place during the AP Reading in June 2015, as well as a brief rationale to support the score.