

| **Part One** |

THE BASICS

CHAPTER 1: INSIDE THE AP WORLD HISTORY EXAM

“World History”—even the title of the course seems overwhelming. At first glance, it seems like a course on the entire world for all of recorded time. But such a course would be impossible. Anyone teaching a world history course, therefore, must decide what to include and what to leave out.

The people who write the AP World History exam face the same dilemma. As a student studying for the AP exam, you need to know how to separate the important stuff to know from the not-so-important stuff. This book will guide you through that process.

You should know that this course has a completely different approach than the typical history course. AP World History deals more with the **connections** between issues in history than the facts of everything that has happened in world history. The **big picture** is much more important than the small details. In some ways, this organization makes your job easier; in others, it makes your job more difficult.

ABOUT THE 2012 TEST CHANGES

You may have heard that the AP World History exam is changing starting with the 2012 exam. Rest assured, Kaplan's *AP World History 2012* is current for the newly revised exam. All of the practice multiple-choice questions have the new four-option format, and all are weighted according to the new distribution for the historical periods. The new exam emphasizes the five world history themes and the four new historical thinking skills. Both are explained in detail throughout this book. In addition, the content chapters have been revised to correspond to the new curriculum framework. With a thorough revision for 2012, this book provides the latest information to get you inside the new AP World History exam.

OVERVIEW OF THE TEST STRUCTURE

The material tested on the exam is divided into six chronological periods.

Time Period	Weight on Exam
8000 BCE to 600 BCE	5%*
600 BCE to 600 CE	15%*
600 to 1450 CE	20%
1450 to 1750 CE	20%
1750 to 1900 CE	20%
1900 to the present	20%

* Even though these are considered two separate periods on the AP, they are combined for the purposes of the review chapter and tests in this book. The periods 8000 BCE to 600 BCE and 600 BCE to 600 CE are grouped into a single time frame of “up to 600 CE.”

The College Board uses the designation BCE (**Before the Common Era**) and CE (**Common Era**) instead of BC and AD. The dates themselves are otherwise the same; 1492 CE is the same as 1492 AD. This abbreviation system is not difficult to understand but might be confusing if you have never seen it before.

Often, teachers speed through the 20th century in a rush to finish the material before the exam date. In your review, you may want to emphasize more modern history to compensate.

You may also notice that the exam covers material up to the present. In case you think that your studying should also include current events, do not worry. The exam is written a few years before it is administered to students. You will *not* need to know any specific material that has occurred in the *very recent past*.

REGIONS TESTED ON THE EXAM

Almost all parts of the world are covered on the AP World History exam, though some areas are covered more extensively than others. Asia, for instance, receives much more attention than Australia.

The overwhelming majority of the World History exam deals with those areas outside of Europe, such as Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The questions that address European history account for at most 30% of the exam. The College Board offers a separate AP European History exam.

In addition, U.S. history is not emphasized on the World History AP exam, except when it involves relationships with other areas of the world and with issues that involve larger global processes.

EXAM FORMAT

Multiple-choice	70 questions	55 minutes	50% of the exam
Free-response essays	3 questions	130 minutes	50% of the exam

QUESTION TYPES

There are two types of questions on the exam: multiple-choice and free-response (essays).

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

The multiple-choice questions have four possible responses (A through D). The 70 questions are arranged in chronological clusters or groups in the first 40 or so questions and then repeat the sequence to the number 70. You don't need to shift your mind from African prehistory to the Cold War to the Mongol invasions for consecutive questions. Some of the questions may also cover material that crosses chronological boundaries.

Many questions will contain visual materials, such as maps, charts, graphs, illustrations, and pictures. Other questions may be based on quotations from historical sources. Occasionally, two multiple-choice questions may be drawn from a longer quotation or a more complex visual source.

FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

There are three types of free-response essay questions. Each essay allows for the same amount of writing time and counts the same for the final score. Note, however, that there are **no mandatory stop times for each essay**. If you spend 90 minutes on the document-based essay, your other two essays are bound to be sloppy. Bring a watch, and consciously budget your time.

Essay Type	Time Allotted	Scoring Weight
Document-based essay	10 minutes reading 40 minutes writing	33.3% of the essay section; 16.7% of the whole test
Continuity and Change- Over-Time essay	40 minutes writing	33.3% of the essay section; 16.7% of the whole test
Comparative essay	40 minutes writing	33.3% of the essay section; 16.7% of the whole test

Unlike the other AP history exams, AP World History does not provide you with a choice among several questions. You must answer the question provided. You may, however, have some flexibility within each question. For example, you may be able to answer a Continuity and Change-Over-Time or a Comparative essay question by using information about two regions of the world out of several regions that are listed.

WORLD HISTORY THEMES

In defining what the AP exam should include, the College Board highlights five specific themes in world history—all dealing with the big picture of world history. These themes form the building blocks of the course, and they help the College Board decide what to put into the test. Knowing these themes will help you focus on certain areas for studying.

THEME 1

Interactions between people and the environment

Includes: demography and disease; migration; patterns of settlement; technology

In other words: **How does the environment shape human societies, and how do humans shape the environment?**

THEME 2

Development and interaction of cultures

Includes: religions; belief systems, philosophies, and ideologies; science and technology; the arts and architecture

In other words: **How do people express themselves, and what is the impact of ideas?**

THEME 3

State-building, expansion, and conflict

Includes: political structures and forms of governance; empires; nations and nationalism; revolts and revolutions; regional, transregional, and global structures and organizations

In other words: **How do people govern themselves, and how do these processes lead to conflict?**

THEME 4

Creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems

Includes: agricultural and pastoral production; trade and commerce; labor systems; industrialization; capitalism and socialism

In other words: **How do human societies use their environments to produce, distribute, and consume goods and services?**

THEME 5

Development and transformation of social structures

Includes: gender roles and relations; family and kinship; racial and ethnic constructions; social and economic classes

In other words: **How do human societies group their members socially, and how do these groupings affect people's lives?**

HISTORICAL THINKING SKILLS

In addition to the five major themes of world history, the College Board has identified four historical thinking skills that are tested on the exam.

HISTORICAL THINKING SKILL 1

Crafting Historical Arguments from Historical Evidence in World History

In other words: using historical sources to support your thoughts on what happened in the past.

HISTORICAL THINKING SKILL 2

Applying Chronological Reasoning Skills to World History

In other words: using cause and effect, change and continuity, and the division of historical periods to analyze what happened in the past.

HISTORICAL THINKING SKILL 3

Applying Comparison and Contextualization Skills to World History

In other words: using similarities and differences among regions and how the story of one region fits into the larger picture of history to better interpret what happened in the past.

HISTORICAL THINKING SKILL 4

Applying Historical Interpretation and Synthesis to World History

In other words: using the different perspectives concerning history and the wide variety of types of sources to better understand the complexity of what happened in the past.

How can you apply this list of skills to your studying? It comes down to understanding the exam better. A multiple-choice question might use a quotation to test how you are able to analyze historical interpretation; another question might ask you to identify the correct statement comparing two cultures. Both of these types of questions assess your ability with the historical thinking skills.

The free-response essay section uses the historical thinking skills as much as the multiple-choice section. All of the essays, for example, ask you to construct arguments, which is the first historical thinking skill. One essay deals specifically with change and continuity over time, and another deals specifically with making comparisons among societies. The document-based essay heavily emphasizes point of view, diversity of interpretations, and putting diverse ideas into historical context. Knowing why the questions are written helps you decode what is being asked.

HOW THE EXAM IS SCORED

The multiple-choice and free-response sections each count for 50% of your total exam grade. The actual grading process and formula are more complicated.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE SECTION

Beginning with the May 2011 administration of AP exams, the method for scoring the multiple-choice section has changed. Scores are based on the number of questions answered correctly.

There is no penalty for incorrect answers. No points are awarded for leaving a question blank. Therefore, you should answer every question, even if you have to guess.

Often, you can use the process of elimination to rule out at least one of the four possible responses. The odds are more in your favor if you can narrow it down to two or three responses. Use your best judgment, make an educated guess, and move on quickly to the next question.

The answers for the 70 multiple-choice questions are scored by machine. A weighted score for this first section comes from multiplying the number of correct responses by 0.8571. The weighted scores range from 0 to 60. Any score less than zero is rounded up to zero.

$$[\text{Number Correct (Out of 70)}] \times 0.8571 = \text{Multiple-Choice Section Score}$$

FREE-RESPONSE SECTION

The essays are scored by hand, meaning that real people read and evaluate them. College and high school world history teachers come together at a central reading site and are guided through the specific standards for each essay question. A great deal of effort is taken to ensure consistency so that all essays are scored fairly and with the same set of standards.

Each essay is scored on a 10-point system, from 0 to 9. Each essay score is multiplied by 2.2222; all essay scores are then added together to get a total weighted free-response score between 0 and 60.

$$\begin{array}{r} (\text{Question 1 score} \times 2.2222) \\ + \\ (\text{Question 2 score} \times 2.2222) \\ + \\ (\text{Question 3 score} \times 2.2222) \end{array} \quad \Bigg\rangle = \text{Free-Response Section Score}$$

FINAL AP SCORE

For your composite score, the scores from both sections of the exam are added together.

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Multiple-Choice Section Score (out of 60 points)} \\ + \\ \text{Free-Response Section Score (out of 60 points)} \end{array} \quad \Bigg\rangle = \text{Composite Score (out of 120 points)}$$

Neither you nor your school will ever see your composite score, however. That score is converted into a scale of 1 through 5. See page 271 for a conversion chart.

AP Grade	Recommendation	2010 AP World History Grade Distribution
5	Extremely well qualified	9.8%
4	Well qualified	15.5%
3	Qualified	23.8%
2	Possibly qualified	24.2%
1	No recommendation	26.7%

How do these AP scores convert to college credit? That depends. Each college department sets its own AP policy. Grades of 3, 4, and 5 are accepted for college credit at the majority of American colleges and universities; some of the most competitive schools accept only grades of 4 or 5.

You may be accustomed to tests that score on a straight percentage basis. In other words, on a 25-question test, 5 wrong would be an 80 percent or a B-minus. Ten wrong out of 25 would be barely passing with 60 percent.

The AP exams do *not* work this way. For one thing, the questions tend to be much more difficult than non-AP questions. Students can do well even if they miss quite a few multiple-choice questions.

The difficulty of the multiple-choice questions depends on the options presented. On some questions, it can be quite difficult to make a distinction between two, even three answer choices. Thus, the process of eliminating clearly incorrect responses is critical. On the most difficult questions, if you can get down to two possibly correct answers, you are doing well. On the AP exam, many of the questions that you get right will be educated guesses.

You may also notice that the types of questions on the AP World History exam are different from other kinds of tests. Very few questions ask for the detailed recall of specific events, dates, or people. Even the testing of historical vocabulary is done within the context of higher-level, thought-provoking questions. The questions tend to reflect the world history themes and habits of mind discussed earlier. Questions concerning technology, social structure, and the impact of interactions among societies receive greater emphasis on the World History AP exam than they might on other kinds of history exams.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

If you are taking an AP World History course at your high school, registering for the AP exam is easy. Just talk with your teacher and your school's AP coordinator about signing up. Make sure that your name is on the AP exam order list that your AP coordinator sends in March.

If you are home schooled or not in a school that offers AP courses, you can still take the exam. Call AP Services at 609-771-7300 or 888-225-5427 for a list of schools in your area where you can take the exam. Then contact the AP coordinator at one of the schools identified by the College Board for a place on the exam day.

The College Board makes accommodations if you have a documented disability. These may include extended time, large-print exams, use of a word processor, and other necessary accommodations. If you have a need for these sorts of special accommodations, see your AP coordinator.

At the date of printing, the cost of the exam was \$87. Many possible deductions are possible. For those qualified with acute financial need, the College Board offers a \$26 credit. In addition, most states offer exam subsidies to cover all or part of the remaining cost for eligible students. To learn about other sources of financial aid, contact your AP coordinator.

For more information on the AP Program and the World History exam, contact:

AP Services
P.O. Box 6671
Princeton, NJ 08541-6671
Phone: 609-771-7300 or 877-274-6474
Email: apexams@info.collegeboard.org
Website: www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The best starting place to find information about the AP World History and the AP exams in general is at the official College Board AP website: **www.apcentral.collegeboard.com**.

The major world history textbook companies also run valuable websites that can be used for review and getting additional information.

Pearson Longman *World Civilizations*
wps.ablongman.com/long_stearns_wcap_4

McGraw-Hill *Traditions and Encounters*
glencoe.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/2222555555/student_view0/

Prentice Hall *The World's History*
cwx.prenhall.com/bookbind/pubbooks/spodek2/

Houghton Mifflin *The Earth and Its People*
college.hmco.com/history/world/bulliet/earth_peoples/3e/students/