

AP World History Compare and Contrast Essay Outline

The compare/contrast essay on the AP Exam usually addresses how two societies responded to a major development or theme. Besides knowing specific similarities and differences between the societies given in the topic, it is also very important to keep in mind **“big-picture” ideas in history**. In other words, don’t just concentrate on two societies or geographic regions mentioned in the question. **Think of larger global processes that influenced the changes and continuities in the societies you are comparing and contrasting.** “The major themes tested on the AP World History Exam comparative essay include the following:

- How different societies responded to each other, other societies, or events
- How different societies changed - or didn’t – in response to some event
- How different societies developed
- How different societies responded to new technologies or new ideas”¹

Basic Core Rubric for the Compare/Contrast Essay:

BASIC CORE: (Competence: Historical Skills and Knowledge Required to Show Competence: 1-7)	Point(s) Possible:
1. Has acceptable thesis (Do you <u>compare and contrast</u> the issues or themes specified?).	1
2. Addresses all parts of the question though not necessarily evenly or thoroughly. <i>Addresses most parts of the question (for example, deals with differences but not similarities).</i>	2 (1)
3. Substantiates thesis with appropriate historical evidence (this means: do you have specific examples to prove your thesis and/or your topic sentences) <i>Partially substantiates thesis with appropriate historical evidence</i>	2 (1)
4. Makes at least one or two relevant, direct comparisons between or among the societies.	1
5. Analyzes at least one reason for a similarity or difference identified in a direct comparison. (this is where your knowledge of larger historic processes comes in handy!)	1
SUBTOTAL:	7

Expanded Core Rubric for Compare/Contrast Essay:

<p>EXPANDED CORE: (excellence – Historical Skills and Knowledge Required to Show Excellence) – A student must earn 7 points in the basic core area before earning points in the expanded core area.</p>	<p>Point(s) Possible:</p>
<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a clear, analytical, and comprehensive thesis • Addresses all parts of the question (as relevant): comparisons, chronology, causation, connections, themes, interactions, content • Provides ample historical evidence to substantiate thesis • Relates comparisons to larger global context • Makes several direct comparisons consistently between or among societies • Consistently analyzes the causes and effects of relevant similarities and differences 	<p align="center">0-2</p>
<p align="center">SUBTOTAL:</p>	<p align="center">2</p>
<p align="center">TOTAL:</p>	<p align="center">9</p>
<p><i>In this class, the grading rubric for Compare/Contrast Essay will be out of 10 points. I will either add a point to basic core requirement #4 or #5. You will be informed ahead of time where the point is added before writing every essay.</i></p>	<p align="center">10</p>