

AP US History – Exam Redesign (2015)**Time Periods**

Period	Date Range	Conceptual Focus	% of Instructional Time	% of AP Exam
1	1491–1607	On a North American continent controlled by American Indians, contact among the peoples of Europe, the Americas, and West Africa created a new world.	5%	5%
2	1607–1754	Europeans and American Indians maneuvered and fought for dominance, control, and security in North America, and distinctive colonial and native societies emerged.	10%	45%
3	1754–1800	British imperial attempts to reassert control over its colonies and the colonial reaction to these attempts produced a new American republic, along with struggles over the new nation’s social, political, and economic identity.	12%	
4	1800–1848	The new republic struggled to define and extend democratic ideals in the face of rapid economic, territorial, and demographic changes.	10%	
5	1844–1877	As the nation expanded and its population grew, regional tensions, especially over slavery, led to a civil war — the course and aftermath of which transformed American society.	13%	
6	1865–1898	The transformation of the United States from an agricultural to an increasingly industrialized and urbanized society brought about significant economic, political, diplomatic, social, environmental, and cultural changes.	13%	45%
7	1890–1945	An increasingly pluralistic United States faced profound domestic and global challenges, debated the proper degree of government activism, and sought to define its international role.	17%	
8	1945–1980	After World War II, the United States grappled with prosperity and unfamiliar international responsibilities, while struggling to live up to its ideals.	15%	
9	1980–present	As the United States transitioned to a new century filled with challenges and possibilities, it experienced renewed ideological and cultural debates, sought to redefine its foreign policy, and adapted to economic globalization and revolutionary changes in science and technology.	5%	5%

Historical Thinking Skills

SKILL TYPE Students demonstrate these directly when writing LE (Long Essay) or DBQ (Document Based Essay)	
I. Chronological Reasoning	1. Historical Causation 2. Patterns of Continuity and Change 3. Periodization
II. Comparison & Contextualization	4. Comparison 5. Contextualization
III. Crafting Historical Arguments	6. Historical Argumentation

	7. Appropriate Use of Relevant Historical Interpretation.
IV. Historical Interpretation and Synthesis	8. Interpretation 9. Synthesis

Themes

Ideas, Beliefs, and Culture	CUL
America in the World	WOR
Environment and Geography	ENV
Politics and Power	POL
Identity	ID
Peopling; migration	PEO
Work, Exchange, Technology	WXT

AP Exam

The College Board redesigned the APUSH Exam for the 2014-2015 school year. Students will need to have an in-depth content knowledge beginning with the early colonial period and continuing up through recent times. Students will also have to be able to express this knowledge in written form. Students will be expected to analyze primary documents and write extensive essays throughout this course.

AP U.S. HISTORY EXAM: 3 HOURS 15 MINUTES

Assessment Overview

The AP Exam questions measure students' knowledge of U.S. history and their ability to think historically. Questions are based on key and supporting concepts, course themes, and historical thinking skills.

Format of Assessment

Section I Part A: Multiple Choice | 50–55 Questions | 55 Minutes | 40% of Exam Score

- Questions appear in sets of 2–5.
- Students analyze historical texts, interpretations, and evidence.
- Primary and secondary sources, images, graphs, and maps are included.

Section I Part B: Short Answer | 4 Questions | 45 Minutes | 20% of Exam Score

- Questions provide opportunities for students to demonstrate what they know best. (**No thesis.**)
- Some questions include texts, images, graphs, or maps.

Section II Part A: Document Based | 1 Question | 60 Minutes | 25% of Exam Score

- Analyze and synthesize historical data. (**Thesis required.**)
- Assess written, quantitative, or visual materials as historical evidence.

Section II Part B: Long Essay | 1 Question | 35 Minutes | 15% of Exam Score

- Students select one question among two.
- Explain and analyze significant issues in US History. (**Thesis required.**)
- Develop an argument supported by an analysis of historical evidence.