

AP World History Comparative Essay Generic Rubric Overview

Basic Core <i>Historical skills and knowledge required to show competence.</i>	Expanded Core <i>Historical skills and knowledge required to show excellence.</i>
1. Has acceptable thesis. 1 Point <i>(addresses comparison of the issues or themes specified)</i> 2. Addresses all parts of the of the question, though not necessarily evenly or thoroughly. 2 Points <i>(Addresses most parts of the question: for example, deals with differences but not similarities)</i> (1) 3. Substantiates thesis with appropriate evidence. 2 Points <i>(Partially substantiates thesis with appropriate evidence.)</i> (1) 4. Makes at least three relevant, direct comparisons between or among societies. 1 Point 5. Analyzes at least three reasons for a similarity or difference identified in a direct comparison. 1 Point	Expands beyond basic core of 1-7 Points. The basic core of a score of 7 must be achieved before a student can earn expanded core points. 0-2 Points Examples: ■ 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.
Subtotal 7 Points	Subtotal 2 Points

TOTAL 9 Points

Comparative Essay Notes

- The time allotted for the essay is 40 minutes, 5 minutes of which should be spent planning and/or outlining the answer.

COMPARE/CONTRAST ESSAY

Compare is taken to mean **show similarities and differences**.

Contrast is taken to mean **show differences**.

---**Ideas** for compare/contrast essays:

- How different societies responded to each other, other societies or events
- How different societies changed or didn't change in response to certain events
- How different societies developed
- How different societies responded to new technologies or ideas

---**Read** the question CAREFULLY

---**Underline** and/or mark the parts carefully
 key verbs
 time period

--Set up a **chart** including all the parts of the question

General Rules:

---There is no set length but a minimum of 4 paragraphs is necessary

---You must **address all parts of the question**

---**Define all terms** as you use them

---**Include reasons** for the similarities or differences

---**Ideas for Introduction:**

- Three sentences----
- 1. General statement containing time and place
- 2. Factual statement /bridge
- 3. Thesis (might partially re-state question. **Although** is a **magic** word for this type of essay)

- Use **transitions** between paragraphs
- Body paragraphs contain a **minimum of 5 sentences**
- Conclusions** might include the **reason why the similarities/differences were more important**

Structure for Writing Compare and Contrast Essays

Sample prompt: Compare and contrast the Inca and Aztec cultures.

The Split	categories
Body paragraph 1	political (Similarities and differences)
Body paragraph 2	economic (Similarities and differences)
Body paragraph 3	social (Similarities and differences)

Similarities and differences

Body paragraph 1 - similarities

Political

Economic

Social

Body Paragraph 2 - differences

Political

Economic

Social

** There may not be similarities and differences in all three categories.*

The Lump

Body paragraph 1 - region I

Political Economic

Social

Body Paragraph 2 - region 2

Political Economic

Social

** * When writing the body paragraph 2 you must make comparisons and contrasts back to information in the body paragraph 1.*

No matter which structure you choose, you must be sure to make direct comparisons.

Tips:

1. In a compare and contrast essay, it is very important that there constant comparisons between the two subjects in every paragraph.
2. **There is no set length for a compare and contrast essay but it is usually necessary to have at least 4 paragraphs.**
3. It is crucial that you address all parts of the question in your answer.
4. Define terms as you use them
5. **Include reasons for the similarities or differences between the subjects.**
6. The concluding sentence might include the reason why the similarities/differences were important or why they occurred.
7. To write a decent comparative essay, then, **you are going to write an essay with a thesis, support that thesis by referencing relevant history, and compare and contrast as the question indicates, making sure you include not only similarities but also differences.**
8. In a compare and contrast essay, **the most important points mentioned are similarities, differences, analysis, short term effects, long-term effects, historian viewpoint's, connections, and historical evidence.** Mention change over time and use time occasionally.