

AP FRQ Hints/Reminders

- Read the question carefully (usually 3 or 4 times) and analyze what they are actually asking you.
- Annotate the question. Circle key words, underline things to stay focused on, etc.
- Identify big themes.
- Plan before writing. Either make a short outline of the question, or for each part make a list of all of the things that you have knowledge on that might connect and make your answer stronger
- Label the parts of the question. Make it “friendly” to the reader (they read for 8 hours a day for 6 straight days). Treat the reader as if they don’t much at all. Additionally, keep yourself on track with basic transitions in your writing (ie: The first reason ___(question)_____ is ___(answer)_____. A second reason ___(question)_____ is ___(answer)_____.
- Clearly state your intent - Say what you mean in as clear of terms as possible.
- Be as specific as possible (especially with country, region, etc)
- Offer additional information, elaboration, examples and analysis. Show that you understand the subtleties of the question - think breadth AND depth of knowledge.
- If asked for an example, you may give more than one, but always put your best one first, in case the rules are more strict on that particular question, allowing them to score only one.
- Use as much correct terminology, location, models, names, references as possible
- Always think about how you can show understanding of the question using multiple units from the course
- After you have answered a part, add one more sentence...it might make the difference between hitting the point or not!
- Don’t show off. Once you have answered, don’t continue to ramble to show how much more you know.
- NEVER leave a question blank! Give it a shot, you might surprise yourself once you start writing.