

2016 AP® US HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Question 2 or Question 3

Suggested writing time: 35 minutes

Directions: Choose EITHER Question 2 or Question 3.

In your response you should do the following.

- **Thesis:** Present a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim and responds to all parts of the question. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion.
- **Application of Historical Thinking Skills:** Develop and support an argument that applies historical thinking skills as directed by the question.
- **Supporting the Argument with Evidence:** Utilize specific examples of evidence to fully and effectively substantiate the stated thesis or a relevant argument.
- **Synthesis:** Extend the argument by explaining the connections between the argument and one of the following.
 - A development in a different historical period, situation, era, or geographical area.
 - A course theme and/or approach to history that is not the focus of the essay (such as political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual history).

2. Evaluate the extent to which the ratification of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution marked a turning point in the history of United States politics and society.

In the development of your argument, explain what changed and what stayed the same from the period immediately before the amendments to the period immediately following them. (*Historical thinking skill: Periodization*)

3. Evaluate the extent to which United States participation in the First World War (1917–1918) marked a turning point in the nation’s role in world affairs.

In the development of your argument, explain what changed and what stayed the same from the period immediately before the war to the period immediately following it. (*Historical thinking skill: Periodization*)

WHEN YOU FINISH WRITING, CHECK YOUR WORK ON SECTION II IF TIME PERMITS.

STOP

END OF EXAM