

AP WORLD HISTORY

HOW TO WRITE A COMPARATIVE ESSAY

Planning

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

Structure

I Introduction

- Thesis
- Roadmap

Thesis Statement Construction

A thesis statement must

- Fully address the question asked (not the one you'd prefer to answer)
- Take a position in answering the question asked
- Provide organization categories to support your position (these categories will be the subject of the topic sentences in the main body paragraphs)

- II 1st Sentence for each body paragraph should be a comparative (a direct comparison sentence)
2nd sentence then explains/analysis the direct comparison in the first sentence
- III 3rd - ____ sentences in the paragraph should provide at least 2 informative statements/evidence in each paragraph.

IV

V Conclusion

Keep in Mind

- * the thesis can only be counted as the thesis and not also as a direct comparison
- * use linking comparative words such as “whereas” to help set up direct comparisons
- * if in the comparative question there is a parenthetical qualifier such as (political, economic, cultural), it is not required that evidence is given for each. This parenthetical qualifier helps students think about what to write.

