

Generic Core-Scoring Guide for AP World History

Comparative Essays

BASIC CORE Historical skills and knowledge required to show competence Points	EXPANDED CORE Historical skills and knowledge required to show excellence Points
1. Has acceptable thesis (Addresses comparison of the issues or themes specified) 1	Expands beyond basic core of 1-7 points. The basic core score of 7 must be achieved before a student can earn expanded core points. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a clear, analytical, and comprehensive thesis. • Address all part 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.
2. Addresses all parts of the question, though not necessarily evenly or thoroughly. 2 (Addresses most parts of the question: for example, deals with differences but not similarities.) (1)	
3. Substantiates thesis with appropriate historical evidence. 2 (Partially substantiates these with appropriate historical evidence.) (1)	
4. Makes at least two relevant, direct comparisons between/among societies. 1	
5. Analyzes at least two or more reasons for a similarity or difference identified in a direct comparison. 1	
Subtotal 7	Subtotal 2
TOTAL 9	

