




Document Based Question (DBQ)

- ✓ Percentage of total exam score: 25%
- ✓ Time: 60 minutes (includes a 15-minute reading period)
- ✓ 1 question from periods 3-8 (1754-1980)
- ✓ Seven documents will be included with the question
- ✓ You must develop an argument that answers the question and uses the documents to support your argument
- ✓ You must incorporate outside information and document analysis into your response

Left: Before writing the DBQ
Right: After writing the DBQ



AP History DBQ Rubric

A. Thesis/Claim (0-1pt)

B. Contextualization (0-1pt)

C. Evidence (0-3pts)

D. Analysis and reasoning (0-2pts)



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A. THESIS / CLAIM

1 pt.

Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning.

Alright, alright, alright.... You better get that thesis point.



B. CONTEXTUALIZATION

Provide historical background!

1 pt.

Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.

PREVIOUSLY ON
GAME OF THRONES

Things you learn from watching the Star Wars movie crawl:

Civil war going on, rebels have won 1st victory against Galactic Empire, Rebel spies stole plans about the Death Star, Rebel leader Princess Leia is on the run with the plans, etc.

Comparison:
Compare and contrast the development of the New England and the Chesapeake colonial regions. Analyze the reasons that by 1700 the regions had evolved into two distinct societies.


1st paragraph

- England's colonization of North America began with the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown. To encourage colonization England offered charters in the New World to prospective settlers and various joint stock companies were set up to help finance the high price of setting up a colony. As the mother country, England pursued colonization in an attempt to enrich the country as part of the economic theory of mercantilism. **Although both the New England and Chesapeake were settled by England, the motives for colonization, the characteristics of the colonists, and the geography of the region contributed to the regions evolving into two distinct societies. However, in spite of both colonies developing into two distinct societies, both would share similarities such as the development of English political institutions and administration under the British mercantile system.**

Thesis tip: To earn this point, the thesis must make a claim that responds to the prompt, rather than merely restating or rephrasing the prompt. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion.

#APUSHTIP

I promise to always use evidence to support my thesis.
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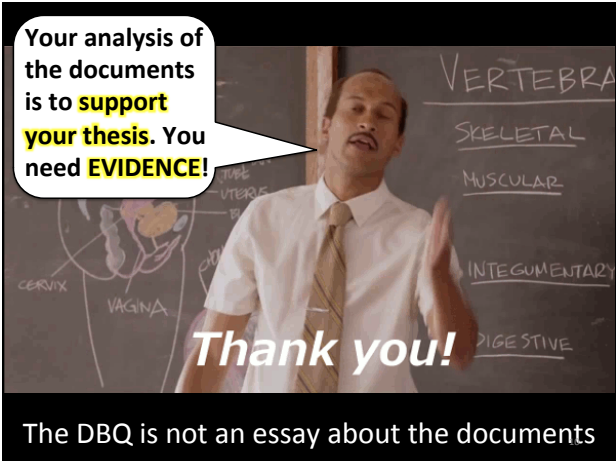
c. EVIDENCE (0-3 pts)

EVIDENCE FROM THE DOCUMENTS

1 pt.
Uses the content of at least three documents to address the topic of the prompt.

or

2 pts.
Supports an argument in response to the prompt using at least six documents.



c. EVIDENCE (0-3 pts)

EVIDENCE BEYOND THE DOCUMENTS

INCLUDE Outside Information

1 pt.
Uses at least one additional piece of the specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt.

D. Analysis & Reasoning (0-2 pts)

1 pt.
For at least three documents, explains how or why the document's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument.

H.I.P.P.O.

	Historical Context	Document Analysis
	Intended Audience	
	Point of View	
	Purpose	
	Organization /Use in Argument	


PICK A STRATEGY		
H.I.P.P.O. H.A.P.P.Y. C.A.P.P.		
Document Analysis	Document Analysis	Document Analysis
H istorical Context	H istorical Context	C ontext
I ntended Audience	A udience	A udience
P oint of View	P oint of View	P oint of View
P urpose	P urpose	P urpose
O rganization / Use in Argument	Y why does it matter for your argument	

D. Analysis & Reasoning and....

1 pt.
Demonstrates a **complex understanding** of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question.

IMPORTANT: To earn the second point, the response must demonstrate a **complex understanding**. **Variety of ways to accomplish this goal:**

- Explaining both similarity and difference (comparison)
- Explaining both continuity and change (CCOT)
- Explaining multiple causes or causes & effects (causation)
- Explaining nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables
- Explaining relevant and insightful connections within and across periods
- Confirming the validity of an argument by corroborating multiple perspectives across themes
- Qualifying or modifying an argument by considering diverse or alternative views or evidence



A. Thesis/Claim (1 pt.):
Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning.

B. Contextualization (0-1pt) :
Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.

C. Evidence (0-3pts):

Documents

1 pt.: Uses the content of at least **three documents** to address the topic of the prompt.

1 pt.: **Supports** an argument in response to the prompt using at least **six documents**.

Outside Information

1 pt.: Uses **at least one** additional piece of the specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt.

D. Analysis and reasoning (0-2pts)

1 pt.: For at least **three documents**, explains how or why the document's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is **relevant to an argument**.

1 pt.: Demonstrates a **complex understanding** of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question.

Quick DBQ Overview

- 1st paragraph
 - Contextualization (1 point)
 - End of 1st introduce paragraph introduce your super awesome complex thesis (1 point)
- Body Paragraph(s): Prove your thesis with historical evidence:
 - use of at least 3 docs to address the topic of the prompt (1 point)
 - supports an argument with at least 6 documents (1 point)
 - 2 pieces of outside information (1 point)
 - specific HIPP analysis of at least 3 docs (1 point)
- Demonstrate complex understanding – start this in your thesis and support throughout your essay (1 point)

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