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## ABOUT THE BOOK

This book gives you all the tools you'll need to master the Advanced Placement Examination in United States History. REA's concise review is the perfect companion to your textbook readings and classroom discussion. And our six full-length practice tests, all based on the current format of the AP exam, mirror the actual test-taking experience.

We don't stop there, however. Following each exam you'll find an answer key complete with detailed explanations that tell you not just what's correct but *why*.

By studying our review section, completing all six practice exams, and carefully checking the answer explanations, you'll be able to completely inventory your strengths and weaknesses. Follow our study schedule (see page x) and when test day rolls around, you'll have everything you need to be completely at ease with the material.

Teachers, too, will find this book an excellent resource for the Advanced Placement course in U.S. History. In fact, many AP instructors use it as a supplementary text because it so comprehensively supports and addresses specific curriculum objectives for the course and exam.

## ABOUT THE TEST

The Advanced Placement Program is designed to allow high school students to pursue college-level studies while attending high school. The three-hour five-minute AP U.S. History exam is usually given to high school students who have completed a year's study in a college-level U.S. History course. The test results are then used to determine the awarding of course credit and/or advanced course placement in college.

According to the College Board, students taking this exam are called upon to demonstrate "systematic factual knowledge" and bring to bear critical, persuasive analysis of the full sweep of U.S. history. This is why we make every effort to establish and build upon context for you, rather than encouraging rote memorization of disconnected facts.

The AP U.S. History Exam is divided into two sections:

1) **Multiple-Choice:** This section is composed of 80 multiple-choice questions designed to gauge your ability to understand and analyze U.S. history from the Colonial period to the present. The majority of the questions, however, are based on 19th- and 20th-century history. This section tests factual knowledge, scope of preparation, and knowledge-based analytical skills. You'll have 55 minutes to complete this section, which accounts for 50 percent of your final grade.

2) **Free-Response:** This section is composed of three essay questions designed to measure your ability to write coherent, intelligent, well-organized essays on historical topics. The essays require you to demonstrate mastery of historical interpretation and the ability to express views and knowledge in writing.

The essays may relate documents to different areas, analyze common themes of different time periods, or compare individual and group experiences which reflect socioeconomic, racial, gender, and ethnic differences. Part A consists of a mandatory 15-minute reading period, followed by 45 minutes during which you must answer a document-based question (DBQ), which changes from year to year. In Part B the student chooses to answer on two of the topics that are given. You will have 70 minutes to write these essays. The free-response section counts for 50 percent of your final grade.

These topics are broken down into thirds:

Political Institutions	1/3
Social and Economic Change	1/3
Behavior and Public Policy, Diplomacy and International Relations, Intellectual and Cultural Development	1/3

The time periods covered are as follows:

Pre-Colonial through 1789	1/6
1790–1914	1/2
1915–present	1/3

## ABOUT THE REVIEW SECTION

This book begins with REA’s concise yet thorough 230-page review of U.S. history designed to acquaint you with the exam’s scope of coverage. Our review covers these topics and historical time periods:

- The Colonial Period (1500–1763)
- The American Revolution (1763–1787)
- The United States Constitution (1787–1789)
- The New National (1789–1824)
- Jacksonian Democracy and Westward Expansion (1824–1850)
- Sectional Conflict and The Causes of the Civil War (1850–1860)
- The Civil War and Reconstruction (1860–1877)
- Industrialism, War, and the Progressive Era (1877–1912)
- Wilson and World War I (1912–1920)
- The Roaring Twenties and Economic Collapse (1920–1929)
- The Great Depression and the New Deal (1929–1941)
- World War II and the Post-War Era (1941–1960)
- The New Frontier, Vietnam, and Social Upheaval (1960–1972)
- Watergate, Carter, and the New Conservatism (1972–2001)

## SCORING THE EXAM

The multiple-choice section of the exam is scored by crediting each correct answer with one point and deducting one-fourth of a point for each incorrect answer. *You will neither receive a credit nor suffer a deduction for unanswered questions.* The free-response essays are graded by instructors and professors from across the country who come together each June for a week of non-stop AP essay grading. Each essay booklet is read and scored by several graders. Each grader provides a score for the individual essays. The DBQ is scored on a scale from 0 to 15, 0 being the lowest and 15 the highest. Each topic-based essay receives a score from 0 to 9. These scores are concealed so that each grader is unaware of the previous graders' assessments. When the essays have been graded completely, the scores are averaged—one score for each essay—so that the free-response section generates three scores.

The total weight of the free-response section is 50 percent of the total score. Your work in the multiple-choice section counts for the other 50 percent. Each year, grades fluctuate slightly because the grading scale is adjusted to take into account the performance of the total AP U.S. History test-taker population. When used with the corresponding chart, the scoring method we present here will *strongly approximate* the score you would receive if you were sitting for the actual AP U.S. History exam.\*

### SCORING THE MULTIPLE-CHOICE SECTION

For the multiple-choice section, use this formula to calculate your raw score:

$$\frac{\text{number right}}{\text{number}} - \left( \frac{\text{number wrong}}{\text{number}} \times 1/4 \right) = \frac{\text{raw score}}{\text{raw score}} \text{ (round to the nearest whole number)}$$

### SCORING THE FREE-RESPONSE SECTION

For the free-response section, use this formula to calculate your raw score:

$$\frac{\text{DBQ}}{\text{DBQ}} + \frac{\text{essay \#1}}{\text{essay}} + \frac{\text{essay \#2}}{\text{essay}} = \frac{\text{raw score}}{\text{raw score}} \text{ (round to the nearest whole number)}$$

You may want to give your essays three different grades, such as a 13, 10, and an 8, and then calculate your score three ways: as if you did well, average, and poorly. This will give you a safe estimate of how you will do on the actual exam. Try to be objective about grading your own essays. If possible, have a friend, teacher, or parent grade them for you. Make sure your essays follow all of the AP requirements before you assess the score.

\* The statistical formulations used by the AP Program preclude our REA practice-test scoring system from precisely replicating the procedures and determinations of the AP Program. Bear in mind that the cut-off point between each of the five AP grades typically shifts slightly from year to year. This occurs both because one year's exam cannot be expected to be exactly as difficult as another year's and because no two test-taker groups can be expected to be equally strong.

### **THE COMPOSITE SCORE**

To obtain your composite score, use this method:

$$1.13 \times \frac{\text{multiple choice raw score}}{\text{multiple choice raw score}} = \text{_____} \text{ (weighted multiple-choice score—do not round)}$$

$$2.73 \times \frac{\text{free response raw score}}{\text{free response raw score}} = \text{_____} \text{ (weighted free response score—do not round)}$$

**Now, add the two weighted sections together and round to the nearest whole number.** The result is your total composite score. See the range within which your score falls on this table to *approximate* your final grade:

AP Grade	Composite Score Range
5	114–180
4	91–113
3	74–90
2	49–73
1	0–48

These overall scores are interpreted as follows: **5**—extremely well qualified; **4**—well qualified; **3**—qualified, **2**—possibly qualified; and **1**—no recommendation. *Most* colleges grant students who earn a 3 or better either college credit or advanced placement. Check with your high school’s guidance office about specific requirements.

## **CONTACTING THE AP PROGRAM**

Prospective examinees should download from the College Entrance Examination Board’s Website or request by phone the free bulletin offering a general description of the AP Program, including policies and procedures as well as instructions on how to register for the AP Examination in United States History. Here’s how to contact the College Board:

Advanced Placement Program  
 Dept. E-22  
 P.O. Box 6670  
 Princeton, NJ 08541-6670  
 Phone: (609) 771-7300  
 Website: <http://www.collegeboard.com/ap/>

## AP U.S. HISTORY STUDY SCHEDULE

This is REA’s suggested six-week study schedule to guide your prep for the AP U.S. History Exam. Depending on how soon you will be taking the exam, you can expand or condense this timetable. In fact, if time is especially short each two-week period can be compressed into one week, cutting the standard prep time in half. The key to gaining a firm command of the subject matter and the test itself is to set aside time each day for studying purposes. Once you commit to an activity, work straight through. This will help ensure that you cover everything you need to be completely in control of the material—and the exam—come test day.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Activity</i>
1	Acquaint yourself with the exam by reading our introduction. If you have a computer, log on to the College Board Website ( <a href="http://www.collegeboard.com/ap/">www.collegeboard.com/ap/</a> ) to be sure you’re completely in tune with all the procedural minutiae. You’ll be glad you did when you walk into the test center able to focus exclusively on the task at hand. Take Practice Test 1 as a diagnostic test to gauge your strengths and weaknesses. After checking the answer key and detailed explanations, flag test items that pose difficulty for you. Review your problem areas by using the appropriate textbooks, classroom notes, or this book’s AP U.S. History course review as you prepare to take Practice Test 2.
2	Take Practice Test 2. Thoroughly read all the detailed explanations—not just those for the test items you answered incorrectly—and flag any sections that pose difficulty for you. Use appropriate textbooks, classroom notes, or our course review to go over those areas for which you need clarification.
3	Take Practice Test 3. Thoroughly read all the detailed explanations—not just those for the test items you answered incorrectly—and flag any sections that pose difficulty for you. Use appropriate textbooks, classroom notes, or our course review to go over those areas for which you need clarification.
4	Take Practice Test 4. Thoroughly read all the detailed explanations—not just those for the test items you answered incorrectly—and flag any sections that pose difficulty for you. Use appropriate textbooks, classroom notes, or our course review to go over those areas for which you need clarification.
5	Take Practice Test 5. Thoroughly read all the detailed explanations—not just those for the test items you answered incorrectly—and flag any sections that pose difficulty for you. Use appropriate textbooks, classroom notes, or our course review to go over those areas for which you need clarification.
6	Take Practice Test 6. Thoroughly read all the detailed explanations—not just those for the test items you answered incorrectly—and flag any sections that pose difficulty for you. Use appropriate textbooks, classroom notes, or our course review to go over those areas for which you need clarification.

Measure your progress from test to test. Take note of where your performance improves, remains static, or falls off. Allow extra time to address the latter two categories. Good luck on the AP United States History Exam!