

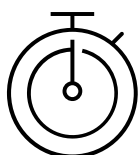
HOW TO SUCCEED IN AP HISTORY

AP History is a challenging and rigorous academic opportunity for select students with high interest and proven ability to take a special college level learning experience.

Advanced Placement History helps students to develop ***critical thinking***, to develop the ability to absorb masses of material rapidly and to write clear, effective essays using primary and secondary research sources.

Mastering world history content is but one advantage to taking an Advanced Placement course. The study skills your student will acquire in order to be successful in the course will help him or her later in his/her academic life.

Below are some “tips” on how to succeed in all of the AP History courses:



TIP #1: LEARN TO MANAGE TIME. Students who take AP classes are many times those students who are also involved in band, theatre, sports, and clubs. And that is just while they are at school. Time quickly becomes a valuable commodity. Learning to manage time effectively and to prioritize schedules and activities is difficult for most people – it is vital to success as a PIBS student.



TIP #2: READ THE TEXTBOOK!! Not just History, but ALL subjects require good reading comprehension and writing skills. This is especially true for English and History. When you read the textbook, you will get better grades. There are other payoffs as well. Research has shown that when students become avid readers they also become better writers.



TIP #3: BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN CLASS. Don't just sit there! Ask questions! Engage in a discussion – over the material, of course! When material is covered in class and you don't understand, ASK QUESTIONS! If you don't understand the reading assignment, ASK QUESTIONS! You not only will get your questions answered, but sooner or later your teacher will get the idea that this course is important to you, and you want to gain mastery of the content. And, if you didn't know by now, teachers love this!

TIP #4: VISIT THE TEXTBOOK WEBSITE. Some textbooks have a website for students, which is quite comprehensive. There are reading quizzes, vocabulary words, and study tips for students. Many times the questions used on exams in our classrooms come directly from the website. (See your child's teacher for more information)



TIP #5: INVEST IN A “HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE AP EXAM” BOOK. There are many such books available to students which they may purchase at a local bookstore, or online. While these books offer valuable advice for students who intend on taking the AP Exam in May, they are valuable study guides which many times include test taking tips, subject reviews, and practice exams.



TIP #6: TAKE NOTES IN CLASS. Yes, this sounds rather obvious, but many times students who take AP classes have had academic success in elementary or middle school without having to develop good study habits. Students who take notes are processing the information. Reviewing those notes a few hours later, or the next day also helps with retention of information.

TIP #7: PERSEVERE – EVEN IF THIS CLASS SEEMS OVERWHELMING AT FIRST. Don't give up easily. Students need to learn that in life, most things of value require effort. The payoff for becoming a good AP student is that you will become a GOOD STUDENT! And that is the best reward of all! At the end of the year, you WILL feel as though you've accomplished something amazing!



TIP #8: WORK ON DEVELOPING PROFICIENCY IN THE HISTORICAL THINKING SKILLS These skills, presented below, provide an essential structure for *learning to think historically*.

1. **Developments & Processes**
2. **Sourcing & Situation**
3. **Claims & Evidence**
4. **Contextualization**
5. **Making Connections**
6. **Argumentation**

TIP #8a: Practice REASONING PROCESSES: you will need to apply these with the Historical Thinking Skills on the AP Exam. These are the skills that historians use!

1. **Comparison**
 - Similarities & differences
2. **Causation**
 - Causes & Effects
3. **Continuity & Change**



TIP #9: DON'T BE AFRAID TO USE WHAT THE TEACHERS USE!

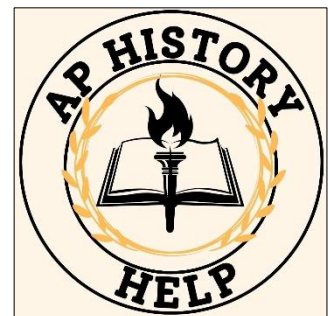
Each course follows the Course and Exam Description, published by College Board. It contains everything you are expected to know about the content, as well as the expected skills (it's where I got "Tip 8" from! There are also practice questions near the end of the 200+ pages. Here are the CEDs for each course:

[APUSH](#)
[AP Euro](#)
[AP World](#)

LAST:

Don't just do the homework to get a grade! Think of every assignment as a chance to learn more about world history. The more you learn, the better your grades will be!

Need more help? Email me at Wendy@APHistoryHelp.com



THE EXAM FORMAT

The AP World History Exam assesses students' understanding of the historical thinking skills and learning objectives outlined in the course framework. The exam is 3 hours and 15 minutes long and students are required to answer 55 multiple-choice questions, 3 short-answer questions, 1 document-based question, and 1 long essay question. The details of the exam, including exam weighting and timing, can be found below:

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Exam Weighting	Timing
I	Part A: Multiple Choice questions	55	40%	55 minutes
	Part B: Short Answer questions	3	20%	40 minutes
	-Question 1 Secondary Source	1		
	-Question 2 Primary Source	1		
	-Question 3 Primary or Secondary Source (non-text)	1		
II	Free Response questions	2		
	Question 1: Document Based (DBQ)	1	25%	60 minutes (includes 15 min reading period)
	Question 2: Long Essay (LEQ)	1	15%	40 minutes

THE BEST TIME TO REVIEW IS NOW. It's really never too soon. The most successful students review the content regularly throughout the school year.

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