

**AP World History
DBQ Essay Scoring Guide**

Thesis/Claim – 1 Point Possible

___ Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning. (1)

Improvement Needed

- ___ Thesis is properly argumentative but is too simplistic and lacks the necessary level of specificity.
- ___ Thesis simply restates or rephrases the prompt.
- ___ Thesis contains awkward organization, may be off-topic, or contain inaccuracies.

Contextualization – 1 Point Possible

___ Relates the topic of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occurred before, during, or continued after the time frame of the question. (1)

Improvement Needed

- ___ Attempts at contextualization are underdeveloped, lack explanation, or hastily phrased.
- ___ There are no attempts at contextualization.

Document Evidence and Analysis – 3 Points Possible

H.I.P.P.

Historical Situation
Intended audience
Purpose
Point of View

Document Usage

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	I P P	H I P P	H I P P	H I P P	H I P P	H I P P	H I P P

- ___ Utilizes the content of at least three documents to address the topic of the prompt. (1)
- ___ Supports an argument in response to the prompt using at least six documents. (2)
- ___ For at least three documents, explains how or why the historical situation, audience, purpose, and/or point of view is relevant to the essay's argument. (1)

Improvement Needed:

- ___ Documents are described superficially or simply quoted.
- ___ Only one or two documents are utilized effectively.
- ___ Document analysis fails to take into account historical situation, intended audience, purpose, and/or point of view for at least three documents.

Evidence Beyond the Documents – 1 Point Possible

___ Provides additional pieces of specific historical evidence beyond those found in the documents relevant to the argument about the prompt. (1)

Improvement Needed:

- ___ Outside evidence consists of the same material in the documents or other scoring categories of this rubric.
- ___ Outside evidence lacks explanation, is inaccurate or irrelevant, or non-existent.

Analysis and Reasoning – 1 Point Possible

___ Essay as a whole is coherent and employs effective use of historical reasoning and evidence to demonstrate complex understanding of the historical processes; essay may account for historical nuance, make connections within and across historical eras, and/or showcase alternative views or evidence (1)

Improvement Needed:

- ___ One or more body paragraphs are ineffective in supporting an argument.
- ___ Topic sentences are vague and/or do not support the thesis or argument.
- ___ Essay is too simplistic and/or incoherent.

Score: ___ /7 points	Letter Grade: ___
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Additional Feedback:

- ___ improve topic sentences
- ___ budget your time
- ___ use past tense
- ___ no shorthand
- ___ no quoting
- ___ improve doc usage
- more evidence
- oversimplifications
- be more organized
- study more
- writing needs improvement
- more depth