

APUSH DBQ RUBRIC

Updated September 2023

Name: _____

DBQ Topic: _____

CONTEXTUALIZATION

Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.

The response must relate the topic of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question.

This point is not awarded for merely a phrase or a reference.

THESIS / CLAIM

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

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.*

DOCUMENTS, EVIDENCE, & ANALYSIS

	DESCRIBES	SUPPORTS	EXPLAINS
Doc ____			
Doc ____			
Doc ____			
Doc ____			
Doc ____			
Doc ____			
Doc ____			

Accurately **DESCRIBES** the content of at least **THREE** documents to address the topic of the prompt. *Quotes are insufficient to earn this point.*

SUPPORTS an argument in response to the prompt using at least **FOUR** documents. *These documents should meet (and exceed) the standard set for the description point.*

For at least **TWO** documents, **EXPLAINS HOW** or **WHY** the document's historical situation, intended audience, point of view, and/or purpose (**HIPP**) is relevant to an argument.

EVIDENCE BEYOND THE DOCUMENTS

(beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt.

The response must **describe** the evidence and must use more than a phrase or reference.

This evidence must be different from the evidence used to earn the contextualization point.

COMPLEX UNDERSTANDING of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt through **sophisticated argumentation** and/or **effective use of evidence**.

SOPHISTICATED ARGUMENTATION

- Exploring nuance by analyzing multiple themes or perspectives
- Explaining both similarity and difference, both continuity and change, both causes and effects, multiple causes or effects, multiple similarities or differences, or multiple continuities or changes
- Explaining relevant and insightful connections within and across periods or geographical areas

EFFECTIVE USE OF EVIDENCE

- Effectively uses **ALL SEVEN** documents to support an argument
- Effective HIPP analysis for at least **FOUR** documents
- Uses documents and outside evidence to demonstrate sophisticated understanding

TOTAL POINTS:

/ 7

Complex understanding can be demonstrated in any portion of the essay, but not merely by a single phrase or reference.