AP U.S. History Long Essay Rubric

Maximum Possible Points: 6

A. Thesis 0–1 point

Skills assessed: Argumentation + targeted skill

States a thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question. The thesis must do more than restate the question **1 point**

B. Support for argument: 0–2 points

Skills assessed: Argumentation, Use of Evidence

Supports the stated thesis (or makes a relevant argument) using specific evidence		Supports the stated thesis (or makes a relevant argument) using specific evidence, clearly and consistently stating how the evidence supports the thesis or argument, and establishing clear linkages between the evidence and the thesis or argument
1 point	OR	**2 points**

C. Application of targeted historical thinking skill: 0–2 points

Skill assessed: Targeted skill

For questions assessing CONTINUITY AND CHANGE OVER TIME		
Describes historical continuity AND change over time		Describes historical continuity AND change over time, and analyzes specific examples that illustrate historical continuity AND change over time
1 point	OR	**2 points**

For questions assessing COMPARISON		
Describes similarities AND differences among historical developments		Describes similarities AND differences among historical developments, providing specific examples AND Analyzes the reasons for their similarities AND/OR differences OR, DEPENDING ON THE PROMPT, Evaluates the relative significance of the historical developments
1 point	OR	**2 points**

For questions assessing CAUSATION		
Describes causes AND/OR effects of a historical development **1 point**	**OR**	Describes causes AND/OR effects of a historical development and analyzes specific examples that illustrate causes AND/OR effects of a historical development **2 points**

For questions assessing PERIODIZATION		
Describes the ways in which the historical development specified in the prompt was different from OR similar to developments that preceded and/or followed **1 point**	**OR**	Analyzes the extent to which the historical development specified in the prompt was different from AND similar to developments that preceded and/or followed, providing specific examples to illustrate the analysis **2 points**

D. Synthesis: 0–1 point

Skill assessed: Synthesis

Response synthesizes the argument, evidence, and context into a coherent and persuasive essay by accomplishing one or more of the following as relevant to the question.						
Appropriately extends or modifies the stated thesis or argument **1 point**	**OR**	Explicitly employs an additional appropriate category of analysis (e.g., political, economic, social, cultural, geographical, race/ethnicity, gender) beyond that called for in the prompt **1 point**	**OR**	The argument appropriately connects the topic of the question to other historical periods, geographical areas, contexts, or circumstances **1 point**	**OR**	(World and European History) Draws on appropriate ideas and methods from different fields of inquiry or disciplines in support of the argument **1 point**