*AP World History Comparative Essay Generic Rubric Overview*

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| **Basic Core**  *Historical skills and knowledge required to show competence.* | **Expanded Core**  *Historical skills and knowledge required to show excellence.* |
| 1. Has acceptable thesis. **1 Point**  *(addresses comparison of the*  *issues or themes specified)*  2. Addresses all parts of the **2 Points**  of the question, though not  necessarily evenly or thoroughly.  *(Addresses most parts of the*   **(1)**  *question: for example, deals with*  *differences but not similarities)*  3. Substantiates thesis with **2 Points**  appropriate evidence.  *(Partially substantiates thesis with*  **(1)**  *appropriate evidence.)*  4. Makes at least three relevant, **1 Point**  direct comparisons between or  among societies.  5. Analyzes at least three reasons **1 Point**  for a similarity or difference  identified in a direct comparison. | Expands beyond basic core of  1-7 Points. The basic core of a **0-2 Points**  score of **7** must be achieved  before a student can earn expanded  core points.  Examples:   * Has a clear, analytical, and comprehensive thesis * Addresses all parts of the question (as relevant): comparisons, chronology, causation, connections, themes, interactions, content. * Provides ample historical evidence to substantiate thesis. * Relates comparisons to larger global context. * Makes several direct comparisons consistently between or among societies. * Consistently analyzes the causes and effects of relevant similarities and differences. |
| Subtotal **7 Points** | Subtotal **2 Points** |

**TOTAL 9 Points**

Comparative Essay Notes

1. The time allotted for the essay is 40 minutes, 5 minutes of which should be spent planning and/or outlining the answer.

Sample Comparative Essay

*Unfree labor systems were widely used for agricultural production in the period 1450-1750. Discuss the major similarities and differences between TWO of the following systems:*

Caribbean slavery

North American slavery

West African slavery

Russian serfdom

Comparative Structure for Essay

I Introduction

* Thesis
* Roadmap

II 1st Sentence for each body paragraph should be a comparative (a direct comparison sentence)

2nd sentence then explains/analysis the direct comparison in the first sentence

III Then subsequent sentences in the paragraph should provide at least 2 info

statements/evidence in each paragraph.

IV

V Conclusion

Keep in Mind:

\* the thesis can only be counted as the thesis and not also as a direct comparison

\* use linking comparative words such as “whereas” to help set up direct comparisons

\* if in the comparative question there is a parenthetical qualifier such as (political, economic, cultural), it is not required that evidence is given for each. This parenthetical qualifier helps students think about what to write.

*Thesis Statement Construction*

A thesis statement must

* Fully address the question asked (not the one you’d prefer to answer)
* Take a position in answering the question asked
* Provide organization categories to support your position (these categories will be the subject of the topic sentences in the main body paragraphs)

Compare urban-based societies with pastoral/nomadic societies: political, social (class, labor, and gender), economic, religious, and cultural needs and organizational patterns.