



**THE SAQ**

**AP WORLD  
HISTORY**

# About the SAQ

There are four short-answer questions on the exam.  
You must answer **three**.

## QUESTION #1 (You must answer)

- You will read a secondary source.
- The topic could be anything we study all year.
- You must connect source information to your world history knowledge.

Skill – Source analysis (claims and evidence).

# About the SAQ

QUESTION #2 (You must answer)

- You will read a primary source.
- The topic could be anything we study all year.
- You must connect source information to your world history knowledge.

Skill – Source analysis (claims and evidence).

# About the SAQ

QUESTIONS 3 AND 4 (only do one)

- Pick the one you know the best and do it.
- There will be no source. It is just a question.
- Question #3 = From 1200 – 1750
- Question #4 = From 1750 - 2001

# About the SAQ

- You have about 13 minutes to do each question; 40 minutes total. You will do this right after the multiple-choice section of the test.
- This section is 20% of your total exam score.

# About the SAQ

- Each Question has three parts.
- Each part will be worth 1 point.
  - You either get the point or not.

## 1) Read the Prompt

- Find and underline the *key phrase*
- Make sure you have determined what is the prompt asking

## 2) Write

- Each of the three tasks you will be asked to do should be a separate paragraph.
  - This will ensure the readers can clearly follow your response.
- Answer the tasks in the order in which they appear in the prompt.
- Do NOT write an introduction OR a conclusion

## The Questions:

Almost all SAQ's will have two words, identify and explain.

- Identify = Your claim. Answer the question (prompt).
- Explain = Extend your answer providing some historical examples and explain how they prove your claim.
- Try to do BOTH for every part of every SAQ



# Each SAQ Answer is like a short paragraph.

- Topic Sentence** – Answer the question being asked. Make your claim.
- Evidence** – Provide at least one specific piece of historical evidence. Have two if you can.
- Extend** – Explain how your evidence proves the claim you made in your topic sentence.

Since every SAQ has three parts each SAQ you answer will have three separate paragraphs.

## OTHER HINTS:

- Space is short so use your words wisely and write small if you can.
- Start a new paragraph (indent) when answering each part of the question.
- Use complete sentences. They help you stay focused.
- If you mess up DO NOT CROSS ANYTHING OUT. Just start over next to where you messed up.

## Example!

- a. Identify and explain ONE example of how cultural beliefs were used by states (their governments and leaders) to govern (which could include legitimizing the power of political leaders).
- b. Identify and explain ANOTHER example of how cultural beliefs were used by states (their governments and leaders) to govern (which could include legitimizing the power of political leaders).
- b. Identify and explain A THIRD example of how cultural beliefs were used by states (their governments and leaders) to govern (which could include legitimizing the power of political leaders).

# Example!

Identify and explain ONE example of how cultural beliefs were used by states (their governments and leaders) to govern (which could include legitimizing the power of political leaders).

## **Claim**

(identify)

- I. → The Mandate of Heaven is an example of a cultural belief that was used by Chinese dynastic emperors to govern. The dynasty was said to get the right to rule by Heaven. If the dynasty protected the people then that dynasty had legitimacy. The Mandate, then, gave emperors and their heirs their power, but it also held them responsible because if they did not do their jobs they would lose the Mandate and rebellion would be justified.

## **Evidence**

← (facts,  
examples)

## **Extending**

← (explaining)

## **You do the rest!**

Prompt: Answer all parts of the question that follows.

b. Identify and explain **ANOTHER** example of how cultural beliefs were used by states (their governments and leaders) to govern (which could include legitimizing the power of political leaders).

b. Identify and explain **A THIRD** example of how cultural beliefs were used by states (their governments and leaders) to govern (which could include legitimizing the power of political leaders).