

**THE SAQ**

**AP WORLD  
HISTORY**

# About the SAQ

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

#1: You will be analyzing historical arguments in a secondary source or sources. (Will NOT be on periods 1 or 2).

#2: You will be analyzing primary source(s) where you will either address the historical skills of continuity and change over time or comparison (will not be on periods 1 or 2).

You will then choose to answer either # 3 (about something from periods 1-3) OR #4 (about something from periods 4-6). You will not have to analyze a source, you will just answer a general historical question.

# 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

- You are NOT required to develop and support a thesis.
- In EACH short-answer question, you will be asked to do three things. Each one is assigned a point.
- To receive each point, you must CLEARLY and DIRECTLY address what is being asked.

## 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.
- 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.

## Example!

Prompt: Answer all parts of the question that follows.

*1. a) Identify and explain TWO benefits of an agricultural society prior to 600 BCE.*

*b) Identify and explain ONE drawback of an agricultural society prior to 600 BCE.*

## Example!

1. a) *Identify and explain TWO benefits of an agricultural society prior to 600 BCE.*

**OK, LET'S DO ONE PART OF THE ABOVE QUESTION AS AN EXAMPLE:**

Claim  
(identify)

1. [A benefit of an agricultural society before 600 BCE was that there was more job diversity, not everybody had to get food, which led to complex civilizations.]

Because of crop surpluses not everybody had to be a farmer so others could be scribes that developed writing, metal workers enhancing technology, or priests encouraging religious development.

Evidence  
(explain)

## You do the rest!

Prompt: Answer all parts of the question that follows.

1. a) *Identify and explain TWO benefits of an agricultural society prior to 600 BCE. I*

*I already identified and explained one benefit, you do another.*

b) *Identify and explain ONE drawback of an agricultural society prior to 600 BCE.*

*Then do part b.*