Practice Guide for the NEW 2020 DBQ

AP® U.S. History, AP® European History, AP® World History

We've created this guide for you to practice for the revised AP® exam for spring 2020. The format and scoring of the document-based question (DBQ) has changed, but the essential content and skills have not. Be sure to practice under strict time conditions and study your performance as a test-taker. Since there is no single method that works equally well for everyone, be sure to adapt your strategies as you go. As we get closer to the exam date, we will release a compressed version of this material that you can use on test day. Good luck!

Exam Format

	OLD FORMAT	NEW FORMAT
Format	Pen-and-paper	Online only (you can type or write by hand)
Time	15 minutes to read + 45 minutes to write	45 minutes to read and write + 5 minutes to upload response
Documents	7 documents	5 documents
Rubric	0–7 point scale	0–10 point scale

How to Prepare

1. **TIMING.** With exactly 45 minutes and no additional reading period, there is no time to waste on test day. As you practice, read the documents quickly and pay attention to how you are managing your time. At first, you may write too much or too little on the Annotation Guide and Prewriting Worksheet, but with time you can become more efficient in using these resources.

2. **ONLINE FORMAT.** You can use almost any device to take the real AP® Exam, but try to avoid using a phone or tablet if you can. You should practice for test day by reading the DBQ on the computer, taking notes on paper, and typing your final response on a computer before you submit it.

3. **STRATEGY.** As you practice for the exam, focus on earning the easiest points first and the more difficult points only if you have the time. This is the benefit of typing because it's easier to go back and add in the more difficult points later. This chart is a starting point for customizing your own personal strategy for test day.

Rubric Strategies

	6 Points	8 Points	10 Points
Thesis	X	X	X
Describe 2 Documents	X	X	X
Use These 2 Documents to Support Argument	X	X	X
Outside Evidence #1	X	X	X
Outside Evidence #2	X	X	X
Sourcing (POV+) for 1 Document	X	X	X
Sourcing (POV+) for 2 Documents		X	X
Contextualization		X	X
Support Argument with 4 Documents			X
Complex Understanding			X

ANNOTATION GUIDE

INSTRUCTIONS: Always start by analyzing the prompt carefully. Then, read through the documents quickly, paying attention to the general information about each document. If you don't understand the document or know how to use it in your essay, "STRIKE" that document and move on to the next one. To earn the point for using two documents, plan to use an extra document (in case you misinterpret one). Likewise, plan to use all five documents if you are trying to earn the point for using four documents. Move quickly through this Annotation Guide, writing phrases rather than full sentences. After you are finished jotting down notes on this Annotation Guide, move on to the Prewriting Worksheet to plan your essay.

DOCUMENT 1	☐ **USE** or ☐ **STRIKE**
Briefly *summarize the document in your own words.*	
What argument could this document be used to support?	***POV, Context, Audience, or Purpose*** *(Do this for only two documents.)*

DOCUMENT 2	☐ **USE** or ☐ **STRIKE**
Briefly *summarize the document in your own words.*	
What argument could this document be used to support?	***POV, Context, Audience, or Purpose*** *(Do this for only two documents.)*

DOCUMENT 3	☐ **USE** or ☐ **STRIKE**
Briefly *summarize the document in your own words.*	
What argument could this document be used to support?	***POV, Context, Audience, or Purpose*** *(Do this for only two documents.)*

DOCUMENT 4	☐ USE or ☐ STRIKE
Briefly summarize the document in your own words.	
What argument could this document be used to support?	**POV, Context, Audience, or Purpose** *(Do this for only two documents.)*

DOCUMENT 5	☐ USE or ☐ STRIKE
Briefly summarize the document in your own words.	
What argument could this document be used to support?	**POV, Context, Audience, or Purpose** *(Do this for only two documents.)*

After you go through the documents, quickly note 1–2 pieces of **outside evidence** you could use:

1. _____

2. _____

What would be some good ideas for **contextualization** in this essay?

1. _____

2. _____

PREWRITING WORKSHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Use this worksheet to organize your argument and plan your essay before you begin typing. Remember there is no required number of paragraphs or structure, so adapt this worksheet to your preferences and style. Use the Writing Checklist below to evaluate how many of the tasks you have completed in your essay.

Your General Argument:

Contextualization:

BODY PARAGRAPH #1
EVIDENCE FROM DOCUMENTS
Doc # _____ -
Doc # _____ -
Sourcing (POV+) Doc #: _____
OUTSIDE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ARGUMENT

BODY PARAGRAPH #2
EVIDENCE FROM DOCUMENTS
Doc # _____ -
Doc # _____ -
Sourcing (POV+) Doc #: _____
OUTSIDE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ARGUMENT

Thesis Statement:

Writing Checklist

- Did you write 2–3 sentences contextualizing the topic of the prompt and connecting it to your thesis?

- Do you have a thesis that clearly addresses the prompt and introduces your main arguments?

- Did you use at least two document(s) to support your argument?

- Did you include one or two separate pieces of outside evidence to support your argument?

- Did you evaluate the historical situation, intended audience, purpose, or point of view for one or two documents?

- Did you attempt to develop a complex argument that makes connections, qualifies your argument or uses advanced historical reasoning to support your claim (causation, comparison, change over time)?