

Generic Core-Scoring Guide for AP World History Comparative Essay

Basic Core: Competence	Points	Historical Thinking Skills Assessed
1. Has acceptable thesis. (Addresses comparison of the issues or themes specified.)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Argumentation ➤ Comparison
2. Addresses all parts of the question, though not necessarily evenly or thoroughly. [Addresses most parts of the question; for example, deals with differences but not similarities.]	2 (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Argumentation
3. Substantiates thesis with appropriate historical evidence. [Partially substantiates thesis with appropriate historical evidence.]	2 (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Argumentation
4. Makes at least one relevant, direct comparison between/among societies.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Comparison
5. Analyzes at least one reason for a similarity or difference identified in a direct comparison.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Comparison ➤ Causation
Subtotal	7	Essay as a whole: Synthesis

Expanded Core: Excellence	Points	Historical Thinking Skills Assessed
<p>Expands beyond basic core of 1–7 points. The basic score of 7 must be achieved before a student can earn expanded core points.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has a clear, analytical, and comprehensive thesis. ➤ Analyzes all parts of the question thoroughly (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. 	0–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Same skills as noted in basic core ➤ Other historical thinking skills may be demonstrated depending on the question
Subtotal	2	
TOTAL	9	