

**AP<sup>®</sup> UNITED STATES HISTORY**  
**2008 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)**

**Question 4**

Analyze the extent to which the Spanish-American War was a turning point in American foreign policy.

**The 8–9 Essay**

- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis assessing the extent to which the Spanish-American War was a turning point in United States foreign policy.
- Provides substantial, relevant information detailing the extent to which the war marked a turning point in United States foreign policy.
- Provides effective analysis of the extent to which the war marked a turning point in United States foreign policy.
- Is well organized and well written.
- May contain minor errors.

**The 5–7 Essay**

- Contains a thesis, which may be partially developed, assessing the extent to which the Spanish-American War was a turning point in United States foreign policy.
- Provides some relevant information detailing the extent to which the war marked a turning point in United States foreign policy.
- Analyzes to some degree the extent to which the war marked a turning point in United States foreign policy.
- Has acceptable organization and writing.
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the essay.

**The 2–4 Essay**

- Presents a thesis that may be confused, simplistic, or undeveloped in terms of assessing the extent to which the Spanish-American War was a turning point in United States foreign policy; or presents no thesis.
- Includes little relevant information concerning the extent to which the war marked a turning point in United States foreign policy.
- Has little analysis of the extent to which the war marked a turning point in United States foreign policy.
- May be poorly organized and/or poorly written.
- May contain major errors.

**The 0–1 Essay**

- Lacks a thesis or restates the question.
- Includes no relevant information concerning the extent to which the Spanish-American War marked a change in United States foreign policy.
- Contains no analysis of the extent to which the war was a turning point in United States foreign policy.
- Is poorly organized and/or poorly written.
- May contain numerous errors, both major and minor.

**The — Essay**

- Is completely off topic or blank.

# AP<sup>®</sup> UNITED STATES HISTORY

## 2008 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

### Question 4 Information List

- Spanish-American War (1898) represented a major step away from generations of a foreign policy that, for most part, emphasized isolationism with respect to most areas beyond the continental United States.
- The war represented the first major military engagement beyond United States borders since the Mexican-American War (1846-48) and led to an assertion of United States interests throughout the Caribbean and into the western Pacific region, laying the groundwork for major shifts in policies, culminating in (and after) the First World War.
- As a result of the defeat of Spain, the United States eventually established control, or took possession, of the Philippines (1898), Puerto Rico, Cuba, and then Midway, Guam, Wake Island, and (American) Samoa (1899). At the same time the United States formally annexed Hawaii as well.
- The war's outcome led to huge increases in the United States naval budget and United States military involvement in the Philippines, resulting in a three-year war (1899–1902) to pacify the Filipino people. The Spanish-American War accelerated policies promoting overseas investments, later referred to as “dollar diplomacy” under President Taft (1909-13). Before that, this expanded policy could be seen in the Open Door policy regarding China (1899–1900). It could also be seen in President Theodore Roosevelt's engineering a revolt in Panama against the Colombian government (1903) and then negotiating for the Panama Canal Zone and construction of the Panama Canal (completed in 1914).
- These events were stepping stones to Theodore's Roosevelt's Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine and the United States assertion of a sphere of influence over the Caribbean for strategic reasons (1904). Following from that policy position came United States intervention in Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Mexico, and the purchase of the Danish West Indies (renamed the Virgin Islands) to keep German influence out of the region (1906-17).
- Roosevelt was impacted by Alfred Thayer Mahan's “Influence of Sea Power on America,” which called for a large navy, control of the Caribbean, and construction of an interocean canal in Central America.
- Roosevelt's decision to send the Great White Fleet (much of the United States Navy) around the world (1907-09), and especially to Japan, was a bold step to assert United States claims to the role of a major player in international diplomacy, as had been his mediation of the Russo-Japanese War two year earlier (1905).
- The culmination of two decades of policy changes came with President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points and assertion of leadership on the world stage following the First World War (1918). Yet the outcome was the general ineffectiveness of the United States at the Versailles negotiations after the war (1919). The subsequent United States retreat to a neoisolationism, a consequence of Americans' disillusionment with its aggressive foreign policies, can be seen as the end of the first phase of the United States major changes in foreign policy as a result of the Spanish-American War.

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**Question 4 Information List (continued)**

- Students may or may not extend the argument into the Second World War and postwar era but must deal with the above issues first; they must carry their analysis at least through the end of Theodore Roosevelt's administration.

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

4A

Mandatory <b>1</b>	Part B — Circle one <b>2 or 3</b>	Part C — Circle one <b>4 or 5</b>
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1 of 4

The Spanish-American War happened ~~at~~ under McKinley's term around the turn of the 20th century and ushered in a period of imperialism and expansionism. To a large extent the Spanish-American War was a turning point in American foreign policy, because while America was very isolationist during the Gilded Age and post-Civil War Era, it was imperialistic and Expansionist after the Spanish American War. After the Civil War and during the age of industrialization, the US was too preoccupied in issues inside the country such as reconstructing the Union and Manifest Destiny to care about the rest of the world. Therefore US foreign policy during this time was <sup>very</sup> isolationist. ~~Isolationism~~ Isolationism had in fact been the dominant foreign policy since George Washington had warned against entangling Alliances. Apart from the War of 1812, US stayed out of European Affairs and only fought to fulfill Manifest Destiny, like the Mexican American war, where the US acquired the Mexican Cession meaning the US stretched from "Sea to Shining Sea". Manifest Destiny was the belief that Americans, as a superior race, had the right and duty to stretch ~~apart~~ across the Continent. However when Frederick Jackson Turner proclaimed that the frontier was closed in the late 19th century,

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

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2 of 4

the US could no longer be preoccupied ~~by~~ by expanding West. Therefore <sup>during</sup> the period before the Spanish American War, the foreign policy was isolationism as a result of being preoccupied by Reconstruction, the building of railroads and industrialization, and Manifest Destiny.

After the Spanish-American War, US foreign policy entered a stage of expansionism and imperialism, contrasting to isolation. The Spanish-American War was caused by the yellow press and the reaction to the sinking and <sup>alleged</sup> "attack" on the USS Maine, <sup>while</sup> ~~where~~ the fighting took place in Cuba, the Philippines and the Caribbean. Coming out of the "Splendid Little War" the US had acquired Philippines (later released by the Tydings-McDuffie Act), numerous islands, like Hawaii, and virtually controlled Cuban affairs with the Platt Amendment. The Imperialistic Spanish-American war not only ended isolationism but it brought in a period of US dominance of the Americas, ~~which~~ with leaders like Theodore Roosevelt and Taft coming in, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

When McKinley was assassinated by an anarchist in 1901, the vice president, Theodore Roosevelt, famous for his "Rough Riders" <sup>41</sup> during the Battle on San Juan Hill, became President. TR's foreign policy is

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

4A

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commonly known as his "Big Stick" Policy, where he would use his power to interfere in ~~the~~ foreign countries for America's benefit. His "Big Stick" Policy can be seen in his building ~~of~~ of the Panama Canal, where he set up a revolution in Panama so he could build the ~~prote~~ Canal, which was highly profitable to Americans. During TR's presidency, TR continued to use his ~~Big~~ ~~Stick~~ aggressive foreign Policy to turn the Caribbean into a "Yankee Lake". Also TR was involved in Asian affairs, when he negotiated the Portsmouth Treaty between Japan and Russia over Manchuria, which he later ~~won~~ won the Nobel Peace Prize for. ~~His~~ William Taft, the next president adopted TR's aggressive foreign policy, ~~what~~ ~~was~~ and he is famous for "Dollar Diplomacy" which means that the US government will interfere in Latin American Countries, commonly known as "Banana Republics", to promote & protect American Economic Interests. An example of the Dollar Diplomacy is in Nicaragua, where US organized a rebellion to put Diaz in power, who liked the American Companies.

The Spanish American War is a turning point in foreign policy because

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

Mandatory <b>1</b>	Part B — Circle one <b>2 or 3</b>	Part C — Circle one <b>4 or 5</b>
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4A  
4 of 4

while before US practiced isolationism,  
US became expansionist.

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

4B

Mandatory <b>1</b>	Part B — Circle one <b>2 or 3</b>	Part C — Circle one <b>4 or 5</b>
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19/2

~~19/2~~ "Speak softly and carry a Big Stick; you will go far." These famous words, spoken by Teddy Roosevelt, summarized the US's sudden intervention throughout the world directly following the Spanish-American War. The Spanish-American War turned ~~the~~ America's foreign policy upside-down with Roosevelt's Big Stick policy, the increase in intervention, and ~~the~~ reduction of isolationism.

Since the War of 1812 the US had remained very neutral in European affairs, due to Washington's Farewell address. They had <sup>(America)</sup> essentially built a wall ~~to~~ separating themselves from the rest of the world, especially the European continent. However, following reconstruction, the US gained more confidence in itself, and decided to test itself with a war against Spain that raged in two continents. By freeing Cuba and the Philippines, as well as annexing <sup>Puerto Rico</sup> ~~Cuba~~, the US pretty much dropped a lot of its neutrality. Although it wasn't signing treaties, which is what Washington advocated against, America was coming out from hiding and showing ~~to~~ that it had a say in international affairs as well. This first step at dropping ~~is~~ neutrality was a <sup>building</sup> ~~block~~ block in the US eventually joining World War I. Because the US had already taken the first step they felt more comfortable in joining in <sup>(which still wasn't very comfortable)</sup> ~~the~~ world war. The:

The US then began an interventionist policy throughout the Americas. Theodore Roosevelt was a big advocate of this with his 'Big Stick' policy that smashed all previous policies out of the ballpark. The US started helping in places it would have never dreamed of before, such as helping Panamanians overthrow <sup>the</sup> Colombian government so that they could get a better deal with the Panama Canal. Roosevelt also published the Roosevelt



Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

4B  
2 of 2

Mandatory <b>1</b>	Part B — Circle one <b>2 or 3</b>	Part C — Circle one <b>4 or 5</b>
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Contrary to the Monroe Doctrine which said that it was OK for the US to interfere with other American the countries. The Monroe Doctrine had ~~not~~ been passed about 75 years earlier and stated that no country could come and try to colonize the Americas. The US also became more imperialistic as they took over many small Pacific islands, the most famous being American Samoa, which they reached and agreement with Germany on. Just before the Spanish-American war the US had annexed Hawaii, causing complaints from the Japanese. Hawaii was the first country to experience the imperialism of the US and soon others were to follow. Roosevelt's intervention in the Caribbean would set the stage for the US constant intervention in Latin America, until the Good Neighbor Policy which still didn't completely stop the US in its interventionist means. To this day America continues to meddle in areas it has no real right to be there, such as Iraq or earlier Vietnam. The interventionism of the States was definitely a turning point in their ~~foreign~~ foreign policy.

The events directly after the Spanish-American War clearly point out that there had been some dramatic changes in the foreign policy of the United States. Roosevelt's Big Stick, and the imperialism and intervention of America definitely differed than ~~the~~ the policies the US used to have. This change really influence history, especially in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

Mandatory <b>1</b>	Part B — Circle one <b>2 or 3</b>	Part C — Circle one <b>4 or 5</b>
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4C  
192

~~After~~ After America's second war with Britain, the War of 1812, the U.S. ~~remained~~ ~~secluded~~ secluded itself from foreign affairs until the Progressive era came along. Americans seldom thought of involving itself in conflicts and desired a ~~quiet~~ quiet life <sup>away</sup> from the "barbaric" Europeans. ~~but~~ ~~the~~ The eruption of the Spanish-American war transformed American history and its policies regarding other countries. The quick victory, the growing military, and the Spanish-American War staged the U.S. as a world power.

The conflict between ~~the~~ the Spanish began as news spread that the Cuban rebels sought US help to overthrow the occupation of the Spanish. ~~Yellow~~ ~~journalism~~ Yellow journalism contributed to brew anger for the "intolerable acts" the Spanish committed to the innocent Cubans. ~~Yellow~~ Yellow Journalism, <sup>which</sup> ~~was~~ was introduced by Hearst and Pulitzer, affect American's to become intolerant of monarchy and ~~communism~~ ~~and~~ ~~when~~ ~~the~~ ~~European~~ ~~war~~ ~~was~~ ~~beginning~~ and the sentiment to protect and ~~just~~ justice was lit. The quick victory lit patriotism and pride for their military power. ~~Confidence~~ The Spanish-American war showed potential to be great, enabled <sup>to have</sup> confidence, and the manifest destiny to liberate all countries with democracy.

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

4-C  
272

Mandatory <b>1</b>	Part B — Circle one <b>2 or 3</b>	Part C — Circle one <b>4</b> or <b>5</b>
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The sequence of events, such as the sinking of Lusitania and the Sussex, <sup>intervention of the</sup> the Zimmerman Telegram, pushed America in World War I. ~~Despite the~~ Under the leadership of General John J. Pershing, the fledgling American army advanced the ~~long~~ <sup>long</sup> dreadful trench warfare into a success. The victory America had achieved in World War I against the Germans brought America's status up to World power.

Even after the first World War, America's continual intervention in Europe (WW II), the Caribbean, ~~Asia~~ <sup>Asia</sup> gave immense power that was feared by all.

Hence, if America did not get involved in the Spanish-American War, that eventually led up to ~~the~~ ~~the~~ World War I, America would have been in a different power status. Even though the recent involvement in Vietnam and Middle Eastern countries, <sup>intervention of the U.S.</sup> the ~~U.S.~~ <sup>country</sup> continues the legacy of the power attained in the roaring 20s.

**AP<sup>®</sup> UNITED STATES HISTORY**  
**2008 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)**

**Question 4**

**Sample: 4A**

**Score: 9**

This essay contains a tightly developed thesis (marking the transition from isolationism to expansionism), excellent analysis, and considerable evidence. It was scored a 9 in spite of minor flaws: The evolution and extent of Theodore Roosevelt's policies are not fully explained in terms of the thesis (the Roosevelt Corollary is not mentioned by name), and the essay makes an overstatement that the 1898 war "was caused by the yellow press." The essay makes valuable points regarding the pre-1898 era and Manifest Destiny, Roosevelt's role in the Russo-Japanese War, and William Howard Taft's Dollar Diplomacy. Good organization and writing are hallmarks of the essay.

**Sample: 4B**

**Score: 6**

This essay begins with a reasonably good thesis that is adequately developed, though its arguments and presentation of evidence are unsophisticated. It provides some evidence but also some awkward claims, such as the assertion that the United States "decided to test itself with a war against Spain." There is some analysis. The organization is satisfactory, and the writing is adequate.

**Sample: 4C**

**Score: 4**

This essay has a clear thesis with sufficient evidence and analysis of United States policy prior to the Spanish-American War to identify it as a turning point, along with a muddled reference to communism. However, the second part of the essay jumps to World War I, leaving the years immediately following the 1898 war untouched; the result is weak analysis. This keeps the essay at the top of the low 2–4 score category. The writing is adequate, but the organization is problematic.