

Survey Results: Changes to AP History Courses and Exams

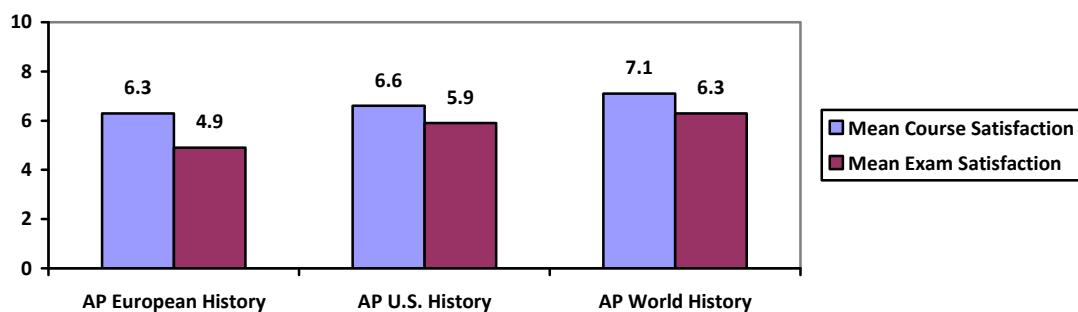
August 2016

In July and August of 2016, the College Board sent AP teachers a survey asking for feedback about potential changes to their courses and exams. **We want to thank all AP teachers who participated in the survey. Committees of AP teachers and college faculty will use these survey results as they consider further improvements to AP History frameworks and exams. Any such changes would be announced in late spring 2017, to take effect for the 2017-18 academic year.**

A total of 3,678 teachers of AP European, United States, and/or World History responded to the survey. Nearly two-thirds of teachers have taught or will be teaching AP U.S. History in 2016-17, while about one-quarter teach AP European or World History.

- Nearly three-quarters of AP World History teachers (74.8%) and almost half of AP European History teachers (47.4%) reported that the majority of their students are in 10th grade, while the majority of AP U.S. History teachers reported teaching mostly 11th graders (80.5%).
- The majority of teachers from all three courses recommended changes be implemented in 2017-18 (77% of European History, 73% of U.S. History, and 58% of World History teachers).
- Overall, both course and exam satisfaction were highest for AP World History, lowest for AP European History.

Chart 1: Overall, how satisfied are you with the AP European/United States/World History course? Overall, how satisfied are you with the AP European/United States/World History Exam? (a score of “10” means “completely satisfied;” a score of “5” means “neutral;” a score of “0” means “not at all satisfied.”)¹



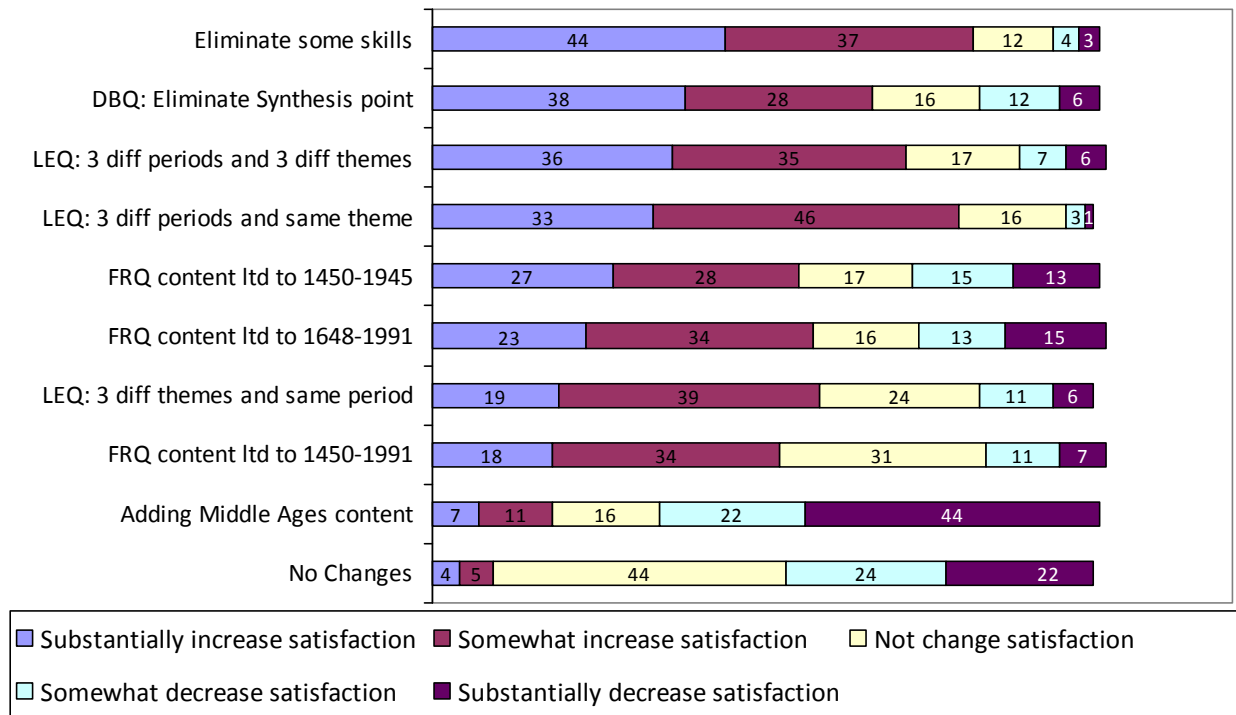
Details for each course are presented below. The survey questions are posted in a companion document on the AP Teacher Community.

¹ N = 707-708 for European History, 1,724-1,725 for U.S. History, 595 for World History

AP European History Findings

- When asked to what extent various resources would increase their satisfaction with the course, teachers' three highest-rated responses were:
 - Additional AP test questions for classroom use (85.1% said this would substantially increase their satisfaction with the course);
 - Additional student samples with scoring commentary (62.2% said this would substantially increase their satisfaction with the course); and
 - Additional online practice scoring with student samples (51.1% said this would substantially increase their satisfaction with the course)
- When presented with different options for the exam, teachers were most favorable toward eliminating several skills from the course, eliminating the synthesis point from the DBQ and replacing it with an additional document analysis point, and focusing on three different time periods for the LEQ.

Chart 2: Perceived Satisfaction with Changes to the AP European History Exam²



² Responses shown as percentages

- While over half of teachers said they would not offer an earlier AP European History course, covering Western civilization from Classical Greece and Rome through 1450 (n = 369, 53.2%), more than one-third said they would offer that course in addition to the current AP European History course, as two years of European History (n = 265, 38.2%).
- After asking about various potential changes, the survey asked teachers how they would feel if no changes were made to content or exam rubrics in future years. More than half of teachers said making no changes would substantially or somewhat decrease their satisfaction with the course.
- Thinking about timing for each section, teachers recommended the following:
 - If there are 3 SAQs
 - MCQ ranged from 0-75 minutes, with a mean of 58 minutes
 - SAQ ranged from 20-65 minutes, with a mean of 42 minutes
 - DBQ ranged from 45-95 minutes, with a mean of 58 minutes
 - LEQ ranged from 20-95 minutes, with a mean of 37 minutes
 - If there are 4 SAQs
 - MCQ ranged from 0-75 minutes, with a mean of 56 minutes
 - SAQ ranged from 25-70 minutes, with a mean of 48 minutes
 - DBQ ranged from 40-90 minutes, with a mean of 55 minutes
 - LEQ ranged from 15-95 minutes, with a mean of 35 minutes

AP U.S. History Findings

- When asked to what extent various resources would increase their satisfaction with the course, teachers' three highest-rated responses were:
 - Additional AP test questions for classroom use (83.0% said this would substantially increase their satisfaction with the course);
 - Additional student samples with scoring commentary (63.5% said this would substantially increase their satisfaction with the course); and
 - Additional online practice scoring with student samples (49.7% said this would substantially increase their satisfaction with the course)

- When presented with different options for the exam, teachers were most favorable toward eliminating several skills from the course, reducing the testable time period range for the SAQ, DBQ, and LEQ to Periods 3 to 7, and focusing on three different time periods for the LEQ.

Chart 3: Perceived Satisfaction with Changes to the AP U.S. History Exam³



- After asking about various potential changes, the survey asked teachers how they would feel if no changes were made to content or exam rubrics in future years. About 45% of teachers said making no changes would substantially or somewhat decrease their satisfaction with the course.
- Thinking about timing for each section, teachers recommended the following:
 - If there are 3 SAQs
 - MCQ ranged from 0-115 minutes, with a mean of 56 minutes
 - SAQ ranged from 0-70 minutes, with a mean of 42 minutes
 - DBQ ranged from 0-90 minutes, with a mean of 59 minutes
 - LEQ ranged from 0-95 minutes, with a mean of 38 minutes

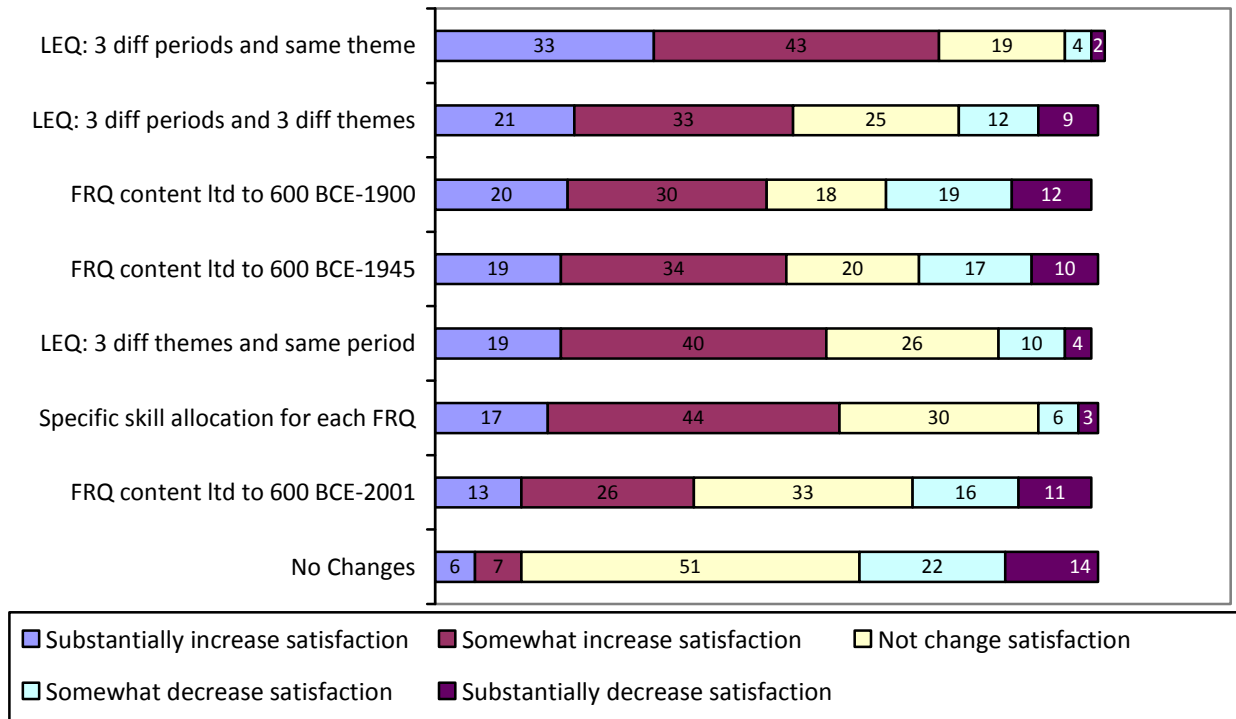
³ Responses shown as percentages

- If there are 4 SAQs
 - MCQ ranged from 0-80 minutes, with a mean of 54 minutes
 - SAQ ranged from 0-80 minutes, with a mean of 48 minutes
 - DBQ ranged from 40-90 minutes, with a mean of 57 minutes
 - LEQ ranged from 0-95 minutes, with a mean of 36 minutes

AP World History Findings

- When asked to what extent various resources would increase their satisfaction with the course, teachers' three highest-rated responses were:
 - Additional AP test questions for classroom use (83.3% said this would substantially increase their satisfaction with the course);
 - Additional student samples with scoring commentary (64.3% said this would substantially increase their satisfaction with the course); and
 - Additional online practice scoring with student samples (62.0% said this would substantially increase their satisfaction with the course)
- When presented with different options for the exam, teachers were most favorable toward focusing on three different time periods for the LEQ, focusing on three different time periods AND three different themes for the LEQ, and reducing the testable time period range for the SAQ, DBQ, and LEQ to 600 BCE-1900.

Chart 4: Perceived Satisfaction with Changes to the AP World History Exam⁴



- After asking about various potential changes, the survey asked teachers how they would feel if no changes were made to content or exam rubrics in future years. Just under one-third of teachers said making no changes would substantially or somewhat decrease their satisfaction with the course.
- Thinking about timing for each section, respondents recommended the following:
 - If there are 3 SAQS
 - MCQ ranged from 45-192 minutes, with a mean of 57 minutes
 - SAQ ranged from 0-135 minutes, with a mean of 44 minutes
 - DBQ ranged from 1-125 minutes, with a mean of 56 minutes
 - LEQ ranged from 0-64 minutes, with a mean of 38 minutes
 - If there are 4 SAQs
 - MCQ ranged from 40-192 minutes, with a mean of 55 minutes

⁴ Responses shown as percentages

- SAQ ranged from 0-75 minutes, with a mean of 50 minutes
- DBQ ranged from 1-125 minutes, with a mean of 54 minutes
- LEQ ranged from 0-64 minutes, with a mean of 36 minutes