
AP World History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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AP[®] WORLD HISTORY 2017 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3 — Long Essay Question

Maximum Possible Points: 6

“Describe and explain a significant continuity and a significant change in the global balance of political power in the period 1900 C.E. to the present.” (*Historical thinking skill: Continuity and Change*)

Please note:

- Each point of the rubric is earned independently, e.g., a student could earn the point for synthesis without earning the point for thesis.
- Unique evidence from the student response is required to earn each point, e.g., evidence in the student response that qualifies for either of the targeted skill points could not be used to earn the point for thesis.

| Points | Scoring Criteria | Notes |
|---|--|---|
| A: Thesis 0-1 | <p>Thesis: Presents a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim and responds to all parts of the question. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion. (1 point)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must address at least one continuity <u>and</u> at least one change in the global balance of power 1900-present <u>and</u> have some explanatory element for each. • Does NOT have to mention specific states but must be defensible with reference to political power across more than one region. • <i>Sample: Throughout the 20th century, the global balance of power continuously relied on alliances and coalitions in global conflicts; however, there was a change over the 20th century from power resting primarily within Western Europe to the Cold War balancing between the United States and the Soviet Union.</i> |
| B: Argument Development: Using the Historical Thinking Skill 0-2 | <p>Argument Development — Describes: Describes a historical continuity AND a change. (1 point)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must <u>describe/identify</u> at least one relevant example of continuity <u>and</u> one example of change in global balance of political power in the period 1900-present. • <i>Samples: role of the nation-state, Western power centers, rise of former colonies, hegemonic stability, impact of anti-imperialist movements.</i> |
| | <p>Argument Development — Explains: Explains the reasons for a historical continuity AND a change. (1 point)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must <u>explain a cause</u> for at least one relevant example of continuity <u>and</u> a cause for one relevant example of change in the global balance of political power in the period 1900–present and connect them back to the argument. |

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Question 3 — Long Essay Question (continued)

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| C: Argument Development: Using Evidence 0-2 | <p>Using Evidence — Examples: Addresses the topic of the question with specific examples of relevant evidence. (1 point)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must <u>address</u> the topic of the question by referring to at least TWO <u>specific</u> examples or pieces of relevant evidence reflecting global balance of political power. Essays can earn this point without having a stated thesis or a relevant argument. • <i>Samples: colonial empires, decolonization movements, alliances, fluctuations in state power tied to the world wars, Cold War interactions.</i> |
| | <p>Using Evidence — Effective Substantiation: Utilizes specific examples of evidence to fully and effectively substantiate the stated thesis or a relevant argument. (1 point)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must <u>both</u> present a significant amount of relevant evidence <u>and</u> clearly and consistently link that evidence to an argument about continuity <u>or</u> change in global balance of political power in the period 1900–present. |
| D: Synthesis 0-1 | <p>Synthesis: Extends the argument by explaining the connection between the argument and either a development in a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • different historical period • geographical area • a course theme and/or approach that is not the focus of the essay or • a different discipline. (1 point) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Period) may offer a relevant connection between the in-period continuity and/or change in global balance of political power and developments in other periods, e.g., during 1750–1900 C.E. or 1450–1750 C.E. • (Geography) not allowable because prompt is global. • (Theme) may connect the continuity and/or change in global balance of political power in this period to a course theme or approach that is NOT political history. Examples might include use of economic factors or cultural changes or environmental interactions. • (Discipline) may connect the argument to a different discipline, such as sociology, economics, or demography, to extend a discussion of the continuity and/or change in global balance of political power in the period 1900–present. |
| <p>If response is completely blank, enter - - for all four score categories A, B, C, and D.</p> | | |

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page.

3A

Mandatory

1

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2 or 3

1 OF 3

From 1900 CE. to present, there have been significant changes in the world of geopolitics, but there have also been ~~extensive~~ prolonged continuities, both of which have profound affect on the world as it is today. Some of the greatest continuities that have persisted into the twentieth century are the Western traditions of democracy, the continued use of imperialism, and the importance of Europe to the world powers. The greatest changes in geopolitics are the rise of Eastern Communism, the massive influence of America, and the development of nuclear weapons.

The twentieth century was a period of rapid technological and scientific discovery which changed the world for ever but among all these changes a few constants have remained significant. The first continuity is that of the Western Democratic Traditions. Although fascism, communism, and dictatorships rose in Central Europe and the East, Western Europe and North America maintained democratic governments through the twentieth century to this very day. This is because of the long traditions of representative, democratic governments in the West that were established in the 18th and 19th centuries. These institutions are relatively stable and were able to resist communism through propaganda and constitutional governments. The second continuity is ~~neo-imperialism~~ imperialism. Although imperialism in its 19th century form ceased to exist in the mid twentieth century, neo-imperialism that is imperialism through direct or influential control of a countries economy and government ~~is~~ is still in play to this day. The proxy wars and spheres of influence

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3A

Mandatory

1

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2 OF 3

The Cold War created turned into a form of Empire for the United States and Soviet Union that could bolster the superpowers economically and politically. An example of this is the Korean War that was essentially a proxy war between the USSR and the US. This war split the nation in half and to this day South Korea is under American influence while North Korea is under Russia's influence. The last continuity in the twentieth century is the importance of Europe in world affairs. Although Europe was devastated by the Second World War it maintained a key point of interest between the Soviet Union and the United States. Just as in the 19th century Europe held a significant portion of the world's wealth and influence and anyone who controlled Europe, essentially, won the Cold War, ^{an example} of this is the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The twentieth century was a period of massive change for geopolitics. The first ~~and arguably most drastic~~ change that occurred was the rise of Eastern Communism, Russia in 1918 and China in 1949 being the two most prevalent examples. These countries both revolted against corrupt and ineffective Emperors to establish communist dictators. This was able to occur effectively because both nations had a large and disgruntled class of peasant that wanted ~~the~~ opportunity to improve their living ~~and~~ conditions, and because the ~~the~~ opposition government at the time was at war with a dangerous enemy. This rise in Eastern Communism led to the Cold War and massive ~~industrialization~~ industrialization of China which made it an economic powerhouse. The second change that occurred was the rise of America as the strongest global power. This occurred gradually after World War Two and

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3A

3 OF 3

extended into the Cold War eventually reaching its fruition in the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989. America was able to do this through its massive economy after the Second World War and the fall of European powers that occurred around the same time. The fall of Europe created a power vacuum that was eagerly filled by the American superpower. The last change to geopolitics that occurred in the twentieth century was the development of nuclear weapons and the creation of Mutually Assured Destruction or M.A.D. The development of nuclear weapons in the Second World War and Cold War meant that for the first time in history if a diplomatic issue was not resolved ~~there~~ it was very possible all life on Earth might be destroyed. This development emphasized the use of ~~diplomacy~~ diplomatic solutions rather than violent ones and created the precedent for conflict resolution that is used today.

A change that occurred in art and philosophy was a movement from La Belle Époque or the beautiful age of the 19th century to the cynicism and ~~for~~ depression that is apparent in current art and culture. Science fiction books of the 19th century talk of wonderful utopias and beautiful futures while 20th century novels spoke of dystopias and apocalypses. This movement is due in part to the horrible realities of the Second World War and Cold War when it became evident that humanity could indeed be ~~evil~~ evil.

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3B
1 OF 3

In the period of 1900 to the present, there were changes and continuities in the global balance of political power. ~~It is the~~ Many countries emerged and became powerhouses while others emerged and fell. In this time, the United States continued to be a global powerhouse while Germany emerged and fell multiple times in this period.

The United States remained on top with political power throughout this time. In the early 1900s, they remained leaders in industrialization and began holding major political influence in this time. With their multiple territories, such as Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, they had power all around the world. Even today, they hold military bases in different countries in Europe, and Asia. The U.S. faced many wars, such as WWI, WWII, Vietnam, and the Korean War; however, they managed to remain on top with power. Due to the U.S.'s large military and technological advances in the 20th and 21st century, they have been able

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3B
2 OF 3

to remain influential in the world even
until today.

The change in political power occurred with Germany. While the country was never ~~itself~~ than others, it still rose to power during the World Wars. However, after World War I, Germany was impacted with debt and physical damage. The country decreased significantly in its' influence worldwide because they were financially and physically unstable. Once World War II started in 1939, Germany rose back again. With Adolf Hitler leading Nazi Germany, they were able to take over countries like ~~Spain~~ France and Italy and Russia. During this time, they were the biggest threat to the Allies ^{Powers} and United Nation. However, once they were defeated by the Allies at the end of the war, Germany went right back down and lost the major influence it once had in the world. This shows there was a massive change in Germany's influence in the world throughout the 20th & 21st century.

This is similar to the Roman Empire

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3B
3 OF 3

which held major power in the world at the time. The United States ~~was~~^{is} a major power house and has a massive military while the Romans held a lot of influence in the world during the early centuries. The Chinese in the early centuries were constantly rising to power and ~~being~~ having that taken away due to being conquered by nomads and invaders, just like Germany was constantly rising and falling with power in the world.

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3C
1 OF 2

At the start of the twentieth century, the practice of foreign policy changed throughout the world. Extreme nationalism fueled alliances against ideologies. However the balance of political power in the world continued to derive off military might. From the year 1900 C.E. to the present, the global balance of political power remained with whoever had the strongest military, but as technology improved, it was lied in the hands of those with the bigger bomb with the introduction of the nuke.

Throughout the twentieth century, war grew to be a regular occurrence. The first and second world wars came into fruition, followed by the Korean and Von Kipper war to the war on terrorism seen today. For the most part, the state of war remained the same as countries would allocate all resources at home to the war effort. Propaganda fueled nationalist and ideological divides. Warfare continued to be fought with massive man power, as war tactics evolved. This would remain the state of global political balance in the world but changed greatly after World War II.

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3C
2 of 2

The creation of the nuclear warhead had great ramifications for the world as a world. Nations practiced limited war, striking down targets of interest with great meticulousness. Countries who had nukes often influence those who did not, while ~~non-pow~~ countries with nukes often gave support to groups abroad that supported their ideologies. Whenever two countries with nukes would butt heads, the concept of mutually assured destruction decided how conflict would be addressed—in a very cunning, cat and mouse form of approach.

In essence, the global balance of power remained in whoever had the strongest military, but changed with the nuke.

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Long Essay Question 3

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' knowledge of continuities and changes in the global balance of political power in the period from 1900 C.E. to the present. This content is part of Key Concepts 6.2 and 6.3 of the AP World History Curriculum Framework (Global Conflicts and Their Consequences and New Conceptualizations of Global Economy, Society, and Culture). The question covered a broad scope of course content and allowed students to demonstrate their knowledge of twentieth-century political history in relationship to the concept of global balance of power. To succeed in the question, students had to clearly identify both a continuity and a change. Successful answers had to address at least one continuity across most of the century (for example, reliance on alliances and coalitions, continued dominance of the West, continued disparities in economic and military power between developed and developing areas, etc.) and at least one significant change in the period (for example, the rise and fall of the Soviet Union, the collapse of European colonial empires, the rise and fall of Nazi Germany, etc.) Some historical developments during the period, for instance, the role of the United States in the global balance of power, could be presented as either continuities or changes, depending on the direction of the student's argument. Students had to present a historically defensible thesis, describe both a historical continuity and a historical change in the global balance of power during this period, explain the reasons for the historical continuity and the reasons for the historical change, address the topic with specific examples of relevant evidence, deploy the evidence to fully and effectively substantiate the thesis or a relevant argument, and extend the argument by either connecting it to a different course theme or another discipline or by comparing it to developments in other time periods.

Sample: 3A

Score: 6

The essay earned the thesis point for explaining the persistence of European power (continuity) in the context of imperialism and the rise of new powers because of the nuclear weapon (change).

The essay earned the first argument development point by describing the continuity of the presence of European power in the world and the change of the advent of communism and nuclear weapons.

The essay earned the second argument development point by explaining the continuity of European power in terms of long democratic traditions and continuing power through imperialism/neo-imperialism. It explains change through economic power and the possession of nuclear weapons.

There are multiple pieces of evidence for both change and continuity in the essay that earned the first using evidence point for addressing the topic with specific examples of relevant evidence.

The essay substantiates evidence well in the discussion of the Cold War at the bottom of page two and the top of page three, which earned the second using evidence point for effective substantiation.

The essay earned the synthesis point for its explanation of art and philosophy in parallel with the political themes discussed in the essay. The synthesis is located in the last paragraph.

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Long Essay Question 3 (continued)

Sample: 3B

Score: 4

The essay attempts the thesis by describing the change and continuity, but it provides no explanatory element and did not earn the thesis point.

The essay earned the first argument development point by describing a continuity (United States remained a major power) and a change (the rise and fall of Germany) as global political effects.

The essay earned the second argument development point for explaining the role of military power and industry in the U.S.'s maintenance of global political power and for explaining the change in Germany's global power through the defeat in the Second World War.

The essay earned the first using evidence point for discussing multiple U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines and for victories in major twentieth-century wars.

The essay earned the second using evidence point for effective substantiation by discussing U.S. global power around the world in terms of military bases and victories in war and suggesting that this military reach, along with industrialization, helped keep the United States in power globally.

The synthesis attempts in the last paragraph were not successful. The attempt to connect the Roman Empire and the United States as major powers does not earn the synthesis point because the connection is not sufficiently explained. Many states possessed lots of power at various points in history. In addition, the attempt to connect the experiences of Germany in the twentieth century to early Chinese dynasties does not earn the synthesis point because the statements are too broad and do not sufficiently explain the connection.

Sample: 3C

Score: 2

The essay did not earn the thesis point because the attempted thesis in the first paragraph concerning military might does not directly support an argument related to the global balance of political power.

The essay earned the first argument development point by describing the continuous importance of military might in maintaining a favorable balance of power and by addressing change through the development of nuclear capacity. The essay ties these military changes to the global balance of power.

The essay does not contain a viable attempt at argument explanation tied to the global balance of political power, and so it did not earn the second argument development point.

The essay earned the first using evidence point because it includes two specific pieces of evidence that provide examples of Cold War concepts ("mutually assured destruction") and strategies (nuclear powers supporting groups with acceptable ideological stances) related to global balance of political power.

The essay does not substantiate evidence and could not earn the using evidence effective substantiation point.

The essay does not address synthesis and did not earn the synthesis point.