

Course Overview

AP European History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university European history course. In AP European History students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in four historical periods from approximately 1450 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing historical evidence; contextualization; comparison; causation; change and continuity over time; and argument development. The course also provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction of Europe and the world; poverty and prosperity; objective knowledge and subjective visions; states and other institutions of power; individual and society; and national and European identity.

Exam Format

Section I: Part A

Multiple Choice— 55 Questions | 55 Minutes | 40% of Exam Score

- Questions appear in sets of 2 to 5.
- Students analyze historical texts, interpretations, and evidence.
- Primary and secondary sources, images, graphs, and maps are included.

Section I: Part B

Short Answer — 3 Questions | 40 Minutes | 20% of Exam Score

- Analyze historians' interpretations, historical sources, and propositions about history.
- Questions provide opportunities for students to demonstrate what they know best.
- Some questions include texts, images, graphs, or maps.
- **Update for 2017-18:** The number of required short-answer questions has been reduced to three, and the time allotted has been decreased to 40 minutes. Students will be given a choice between two options for the final required short-answer question, each one focusing on a different time period.
 - Question 1 (required): 1600–2001
 - Question 2 (required): 1600–2001
 - Students choose between Question 3, periods 1-2, and Question 4, periods 3-4

Section II: Part A

Document Based – 1 Question | 60 Minutes (includes 15-minute reading period) | 25% of Exam Score

- Assess written, quantitative, or visual materials as historical evidence.
- Develop an argument supported by an analysis of historical evidence.
- **Update for 2017-18:** Five minutes have been added to the time allotted for the document-based question, which will now focus on topics from 1600-2001.

Section II: Part B

Long Essay – 1 Question | 40 Minutes | 15% of Exam Score

- Explain and analyze significant issues in European history.
- Develop an argument supported by an analysis of historical evidence.
- **Updates for 2017-18:** Five minutes have been added to the time allotted for the long essay. The question choices will continue to focus on the same theme and skill but will now allow students to select among three options, each focusing on a different range of time periods:
 - Option 1: period 1
 - Option 2: periods 2-3
 - Option 3: periods 3-4