

## *AP World History Comparative Essay Generic Rubric Overview*

<b>Basic Core</b> <i>Historical skills and knowledge required to show competence.</i>	<b>Expanded Core</b> <i>Historical skills and knowledge required to show excellence.</i>
<p>1. Has acceptable thesis. <b>1 Point</b> <i>(addresses comparison of the issues or themes specified)</i></p> <p>2. Addresses all parts of the of the question, though not necessarily evenly or thoroughly. <b>2 Points</b>  <i>(Addresses most parts of the question: for example, deals with differences but not similarities)</i> <b>(1)</b></p> <p>3. Substantiates thesis with appropriate evidence. <b>2 Points</b>  <i>(Partially substantiates thesis with appropriate evidence.)</i> <b>(1)</b></p> <p>4. Makes at least three relevant, direct comparisons between or among societies. <b>1 Point</b></p> <p>5. Analyzes at least three reasons for a similarity or difference identified in a direct comparison. <b>1 Point</b></p>	<p>Expands beyond basic core of 1-7 Points. The basic core of a score of <b>7</b> must be achieved before a student can earn expanded core points. <b>0-2 Points</b></p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Has a clear, analytical, and comprehensive thesis</li> <li>▪ Addresses all parts of the question (as relevant): comparisons, chronology, causation, connections, themes, interactions, content.</li> <li>▪ Provides ample historical evidence to substantiate thesis.</li> <li>▪ Relates comparisons to larger global context.</li> <li>▪ Makes several direct comparisons consistently between or among societies.</li> <li>▪ Consistently analyzes the causes and effects of relevant similarities and differences.</li> </ul>
<p>Subtotal <b>7 Points</b></p>	<p>Subtotal <b>2 Points</b></p>

**TOTAL 9 Points**

### Comparative Essay Notes

1. The time allotted for the essay is 40 minutes, 5 minutes of which should be spent planning and/or outlining the answer.

### Sample Comparative Essay

*Unfree labor systems were widely used for agricultural production in the period 1450-1750.*

*Discuss the major similarities and differences between TWO of the following systems:*

- Caribbean slavery
- North American slavery
- West African slavery
- Russian serfdom

## Comparative Structure for Essay

### I Introduction

- Thesis
- Roadmap

II 1<sup>st</sup> Sentence for each body paragraph should be a comparative (a direct comparison sentence)  
2<sup>nd</sup> sentence then explains/analysis the direct comparison in the first sentence

III Then subsequent sentences in the paragraph should provide at least 2 info statements/evidence in each paragraph.

### IV

### V Conclusion

#### Keep in Mind:

- \* the thesis can only be counted as the thesis and not also as a direct comparison
- \* use linking comparative words such as “whereas” to help set up direct comparisons
- \* if in the comparative question there is a parenthetical qualifier such as (political, economic, cultural), it is not required that evidence is given for each. This parenthetical qualifier helps students think about what to write.

#### *Thesis Statement Construction*

A thesis statement must

- Fully address the question asked (not the one you’d prefer to answer)
- Take a position in answering the question asked
- Provide organization categories to support your position (these categories will be the subject of the topic sentences in the main body paragraphs)

Compare urban-based societies with pastoral/nomadic societies: political, social (class, labor, and gender), economic, religious, and cultural needs and organizational patterns.