

DBQ Rubric - 2016 Update

Needs Improvement	Meets Expectations	Above and Beyond
	<p>Presents a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim and responds to all parts of the question. Must be located in the introduction or conclusion.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">points ____/5</p>	
	<p>Develops and supports a cohesive argument that recognizes and accounts for historical complexity by explicitly illustrating relationships among historical evidence (for example, evidence supports, contradicts or qualifies other evidence.).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">points ____/10</p>	
	<p>Uses the content of at least SIX of the documents to support the stated thesis or a relevant argument.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">points ____/12</p>	
	<p>Explains the significance of author’s point of view, context, audience, and/or purpose for at least FOUR documents.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">points ____/8</p>	
	<p>Situates the argument by explaining the broader historical events, developments, or processes immediately relevant to the question. Must be more than a phrase or reference – use multiple sentences.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">points ____/5</p>	
	<p>Provides an example or additional piece of specific evidence beyond those found in the documents to support or qualify the argument. Must be distinct from evidence used to earn other points and more than a mere phrase or reference.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">points ____/5</p>	
	<p>Extends the argument by explaining the connections between the argument and: A development in a different historical period, situation, era, or geographical area OR A course theme and/or approach to history that is not the focus of the essay (political, economic, social, cultural, intellectual)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">points ____/5</p>	
	<p>Total points ____/50</p>	

Notes:

On the AP Exam, each of the above categories is worth 1 point. So in other words, **you did it, or you didn't**. To put yourself in contention for a 5 on the exam (not considering your performance on other areas of the exam), you need to get a 5 out of 7. I've revised the rubric so that you can get "partial credit" for each category.

Though not stated explicitly on the rubric, the historical information you include should be **accurate**. On the AP exam, scorers allow historical errors that do not detract from the "overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate." In other words, no major historical errors that would undermine your argument.

When writing on the AP exam, your essay is considered a first draft, so **spelling and grammatical errors are not penalized**. Errors should not interfere with the reader's ability to understand your argument.