

Table of Contents

PART I: INTRODUCTION

Introducing the Advanced Placement U.S. History Examination	3
Format of the Exam	3
Subject Matter of the Exam	4
How the Exam Is Scored	5
Scoring the Multiple-Choice Section	5
Grading the Essays	6
Questions Commonly Asked about the AP U.S. History Examination	9
General Test-Taking Strategies for the AP U.S. History Examination	13
Hints for the Multiple-Choice Questions	13
Doing the DBQ	14
Answering the Standard Essay Questions	15
Hints on Writing Technique	17
Suggestions on Preparing for the Exam	18
Test Simulations	18
The Limited Research Paper	19
Two Historical Figures	20
Study Groups and Peer Review	20

PART II: ANALYSIS OF EXAM AREAS

Multiple-Choice Question Types	23
“What” Questions	23
The “Reverse” Multiple-Choice Question	26
The “When” Question	29
The “Multiple” Multiple-Choice Question	32
The Quotation Question	35
Tables, Charts, and Graphs	38
Maps	42
Political Cartoons, Photographs, and Artwork	46
Essay Question Types	53
Question Types for the DBQ	53
Assess the Validity DBQ	53
Sample Document-Based Question	54
Analysis of the DBQ Question and Documents	59
First Student DBQ Essay	61
Reader’s Comments on the First Student DBQ Essay	62
Second Student DBQ Essay	62
Reader’s Comments on the Second Student DBQ Essay	63
Question Types for the Standard Essays	64
Identification/Evaluation Questions	64
First Student Essay (Question 1)	65
Reader’s Comments on the First Student Essay for Question 1	66
Second Student Essay (Question 1)	66
Reader’s Comments on the Second Student Essay for Question 1	67

Other Examples of Identification/Evaluation Questions	68
Discuss/Describe Questions	69
First Student Essay (Question 2)	70
Reader's Comments on the First Student Essay for Question 2	71
Second Student Essay (Question 2)	71
Reader's Comments on the Second Student Essay for Question 2	72
Other Examples of Discuss/Describe Questions	73
Compare and Contrast Questions	73
Student Essay (Question 3)	74
Reader's Comments on the Student Essay for Question 3	75
Student Essay (Question 4)	75
Reader's Comments on the Student Essay for Question 4	76
Other Examples of Compare and Contrast Questions	76
Assess the Validity Questions	77
Student Essay (Question 5)	77
Reader's Comments on the Student Essay for Question 5	78
Other Examples of Assess the Validity Questions	78

PART III: STUDYING UNITED STATES HISTORY

Reading United States History	81
The Textbook	81
United States History Survey Textbooks	82
How to Read a History Textbook	83
The Reader	83
Readers in United States History	84
Source Readers	84
Interpretative Readers	84
The Monograph and Historical Series	85
Scholarly Journals	86
Scholarly Journals in United States History	87
Other Regional History Journals	87
Field of Study Journals	87
Audiovisual Sources	88
Reference Sources	89
American History on the Internet	89
Historians and Their Work	90
The Varieties of History	92
Some Prominent American Historians	93
An Overview of United States History	95
Exploration and Colonization, 1492–1763	95
Things to Know	95
Key Terms and Concepts	97
Important Definitions	97
Readings on Exploration and Colonization	98
The American Revolution, 1763–1787	99
Things to Know	99
Key Terms and Concepts	100
Important Definitions	100
Readings on the American Revolution	101

The Constitution and the Federalists, 1787–1800	101
Things to Know	101
The Structure of Government under the Constitution	101
Article I: Legislative Branch (Congress)	101
Article II: Executive Branch (President and Vice President)	102
Article III: Judicial Branch (Supreme Court)	102
Article IV: Relations with States	102
Article V: Amendment Process	102
Article VI: Supremacy Clause	103
Article VII: Ratification of Constitution	103
Amendments to the Constitution	103
Key Terms and Concepts	104
Important Definitions	104
Readings on the Constitution and the Federalists	105
Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Democracy, 1800–1840	106
Things to Know	106
Key Terms and Concepts	106
Important Definitions	107
Readings on Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Democracy	108
Sectionalism and Expansion, 1840–1860	108
Things to Know	108
Key Terms and Concepts	108
Important Definitions	109
Readings on Sectionalism and Expansion	110
Civil War and Reconstruction, 1860–1877	110
Things to Know	110
Key Terms and Concepts	110
Important Definitions	111
Readings on the Civil War and Reconstruction	112
The Gilded Age, 1877–1900	112
Things to Know	112
Key Terms and Concepts	112
Important Definitions	113
Readings on the Gilded Age, 1877–1900	114
The United States at Home and Abroad, 1896–1920	115
Things to Know	115
Key Terms and Concepts	115
Important Definitions	116
Readings on the United States at Home and Abroad, 1896–1920	117
Prosperity and Depression, 1920–1940	117
Things to Know	117
Key Terms and Concepts	118
Important Definitions	119
Readings on Prosperity and Depression, 1920–1940	120
America at War, 1941–1945	120
Things to Know	120
Key Terms and Concepts	120
Important Definitions	121
Readings on America at War, 1941–1945	122
The United States As a Superpower, 1945–Present	122
Things to Know	122
Key Terms and Concepts	122
Important Definitions	123
Readings on the United States as a Superpower, 1945–Present	124

Contemporary America, 1945–Present	124
Things to Know	124
Key Terms and Concepts	125
Important Definitions	125
Readings on Contemporary America, 1945–Present	126

PART IV: FOUR FULL-LENGTH PRACTICE TESTS

Practice Test 1	129
Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions	129
Section II: Essay Questions	145
Answer Key For Practice Test 1	150
Answers and Explanations for Practice Test 1	151
Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions	151
Section II: Essay Questions	159
Practice Test 2	167
Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions	167
Section II: Essay Questions	185
Answer Key For Practice Test 2	191
Answers and Explanations for Practice Test 2	193
Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions	193
Section II: Essay Questions	200
Practice Test 3	207
Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions	207
Section II: Essay Questions	225
Answer Key for Practice Test 3	229
Answers and Explanations for Practice Test 3	231
Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions	231
Section II: Essay Questions	238
Practice Test 4	245
Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions	245
Section II: Essay Questions	261
Answer Key for Practice Test 4	266
Answers and Explanations for Practice Test 4	267
Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions	267
Section II: Essay Questions	274
Final Preparation	281
Before the Exam	281
Taking the Exam	281