

SAQ Review

Strategy

When answering a SAQ, follow this strategy:

- Fully answer the question with specific evidence.
- Provide analysis that supports/explains your argument and evidence.
- This should be done in around 3 sentences

Think of ACE

- **A**nswer the question: Provide an answer
- **C**ite evidence: Provide evidence to support
- **E**xplain: Provide an explanation

Following the above strategy should allow you to fully answer the question. In addition, you should ensure you also do the following:

- As you read the question, ensure you understand the task you are being required to complete. Underline or circle key words in the question. Examine the sourcing information if it has stimulus material. Write notes and underline as you read (if there is a selection).
- You should be able to fully and completely answer each SAQ with some time left over. Since you have roughly 12 minutes per question, take around 1-2 minutes to plan out your response to each question. Organization is always helpful.
- Ensure you directly and fully answer the question. The big idea is to both identify and explain. If you do not explain how your answer connects to the question or answers it, it will not count. Always analyze and explain.
- **If the question asks you to refer to the passage, image, graph, map, etc. in your response, you must identify something in the passage, visual, graph, table, etc. that supports your answer. The first and second SAQs on the AP exam WILL have a source of some kind. You have to refer to that source in your response.**
- Ensure you answer within the provided space only.
- Answer in complete sentences/paragraph form. Never do a bulleted list.

Essay Review

General Structure:

Proper organization is crucial. It assists in demonstrating analysis and is very helpful in terms of answering the question correctly. Follow the guidelines below.

Introduction

- For the very first sentence, provide a solid, broad topic sentence that hooks the reader into the essay. Basically, introduce time and place (1 sentence).
- Provide around 3 sentences of historical context. What is going on during this time that influences the topic? This needs to connect to the topic specifically.
- End with your thesis statement.
- It may be helpful to think of this as a funnel. You go from broad to specific in your introduction. You are constructing a map for the reader in terms of what you are writing

Thesis:

- Your thesis must address the prompt without rephrasing or copying it.
- Your thesis should make an argument that can be defended and that responds to all parts of the question. While a one sentence is preferable, a two sentence thesis is acceptable. It should **contain at least three main points** you will address in your body paragraphs
- You must qualify. To qualify is to answer what it is about with specifics or quantities. Take a position or judgement.
- Examples:
 - Prompt: "Develop an argument that explains the most significant causes of the French Revolution."
 - Thesis: "The French Revolution was primarily caused by an economic crisis for the lower classes, a famine for the lower classes, and widespread anger at the privileges of upper class life."
 - Prompt: "Evaluate the extent to which women's rights in Europe changed from 1450-1900."
 - "Between 1450-1900 women's rights in Europe mostly changed since women had more access to education and received fairer treatment under the law by 1900, but the fact that women could not vote remained as a major obstacle to women's rights until after 1914."
 - Prompt: "Evaluate the extent to which the causes of the French (1789) and Russian (1917) Revolutions were similar."
 - "While the French and Russian Revolutions did differ in the ideological background for the revolts, they had remarkable similarities in concern to the plight of the lower classes and their progressions from a moderate to radical stage."

Body:

- Arrange your body paragraphs around the three points in your thesis.
- You need to use as much evidence as you can to prove your argument. It does not matter what you know. What matters is how you can use what you know to prove your thesis/argument.
- Each body paragraph should follow this structure:
 - A topic sentence to start each body paragraph out. It summarizes one of the major points of your thesis/layout sentence.
 - Your body paragraphs should match your thesis; otherwise, you are not supporting your thesis.
 - It should match the historical skill of the prompt. For example, if the essay is about change and continuity over time, your topic sentence should introduce a key change or continuity.
 - Example: One major change in women's rights from 1450-1900 was the increased access to education that many women enjoyed by 1900.
 - Include specific, factual information and examples to support your topic sentence.
 - Analyze the information. Draw conclusions from the information. Interpret why something happened, why a similarity existed, why things changed, etc.
 - What is the bigger picture that led to a cause or effect? (think contextualization)
 - Why are they similar or different?
 - Why did something change or stay the same?
 - Must analyze both parts of a question (similarity AND difference, change AND continuity)
 - Analyze is different than summarize
 - Summarize=what happened
 - Analyze=why it happened
 - Always provided examples to support your analysis
 - Be sure you are accurate. Do not simply make up information if you are unsure. It is better to leave something out entirely than to include potentially inaccurate information.
 - Include transitional phrases (however, first, in addition, moreover, etc.) where appropriate.

Conclusion:

- Have a topic sentence/transition sentence
- Connect the information to other events in history or illustrate why the topic was important.

Specific Tips for CCOT Essays

The structure of a CCOT essay is, for the most part, exactly the same as other essay types. However, there are a couple of things you should ensure you do to have strong, analytical essays.

CCOT

- I. Introduction
 - a. Strong, broad topic sentence that relates to the question. (1 sentence)
 - b. Background information and historical context to build to a thesis (3 sentences)
 - c. Thesis statement
 - i. Like any other prompt, your thesis statement must make an argument of some kind. Specifically, you need to do the following:
 - Clearly state the extent to which the prompt was a change or continuity.
 - Address all parts of the question
 - The thesis must be specific to the question
 - ii. Sample thesis:
 - Prompt: “Evaluate the extent to which the Treaty of Westphalia (1648) changed European politics.”
 - Example thesis:
 - “Although England’s dominance over naval affairs continued, the Treaty of Westphalia greatly changed politics in Europe by allowing France to rise as a major power and creating a new focus on a balance power approach to diplomacy.”
 - Big picture:
 - Answer the prompt with three examples.
 - Ensure you qualify the degree to which the event was a change or continuity. The same applies for any other essay prompt with “evaluate the extent to which...”
- II. Body
 - a. The body paragraphs for a CCOT essay should follow the same format as any other essay.
 - b. Point 1 that supports your argument
 - i. Topic sentence that links back to the thesis
 - ii. Evidence
 - The evidence in your body paragraph should cover most of the time period.
 - Your evidence should illustrate how things were the same or how things changed over the time period.
 - As a result, you will want evidence from throughout the time period to illustrate this.

iii. Analysis

- You need to explain why things changed and why things stayed the same.

- c. Point 2 that supports your argument (follows the same structure as point 1)
- d. Point 3 that supports your argument (follows the same structure as point 1)
- e. Point 4 or counter-argument if necessary

III. Conclusion

- a. Topic sentence of transition sentence
- b. Link to other events or illustrate importance.