

# Chronological Reasoning and Continuity/Change over Time

## From the 2015 Revised Framework:

### **Patterns of Continuity and Change over Time**

Historical thinking involves the ability to recognize, analyze, and evaluate the dynamics of historical continuity and change over periods of time of varying length, as well as the ability to relate these patterns to larger historical processes or themes.

#### **Students will ...**

- Identify patterns of continuity and change over time and explain the significance of such patterns.
- Explain how patterns of continuity and change over time relate to larger historical processes or themes.

## From the 2012 Framework:

### **Chronological Reasoning**

Historical thinking involves the ability to identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationships among multiple historical causes and effects, distinguishing between those that are long-term and proximate, and among coincidence, causation, and correlation.

### **Patterns of Continuity and Change over Time**

Historical thinking involves the ability to recognize, analyze, and evaluate the dynamics of historical continuity and change over periods of time of varying lengths, as well as the ability to relate these patterns to larger historical processes or themes.

#### **Proficient students should be able to**

- Analyze and evaluate historical patterns of continuity and change over time.
- Connect patterns of continuity and change over time to larger historical processes or themes

## From the Revised Long Essay Rubric (2 of 6 points)

**1 Point** - Describes historical continuity AND change over time.

**1 Point** - Explains the reasons for historical continuity AND change over time.

Understanding chronology is essential to understanding history. It doesn't necessarily mean that names & dates must be memorized, but it does mean that we must understand what happened first: relative not absolute chronology. For example, it is not imperative that we know the years each of the 13 colonies were founded. It is essential that we understand that Jamestown was the first that the colonies developed in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, etc. We must know that the Colonial Era came before the Revolutionary Era, and so on. Without understanding of chronology, analyzing history becomes over-simplified fluff. Consider this class a no-fluff zone!

In order to recognize and explain continuity and change over time in U.S. history, we need to remember our thematic learning objectives: MAGPIES. Using the themes to categorize patterns will yield higher level analysis and writing. It is about seeing the big picture of an era, analyzing how that big picture changed or stayed the same, and then comparing that big picture to other eras.

For example, the concept of religious freedom to early colonists meant something very different than it did to the founding fathers at the end of the era. Puritans (Congregational Church) in New England persecuted and even executed non-Puritans. In the south, where the Anglican Church dominated, colonies had established supported by the colony. There were other large groups of Protestants in the colonies including Presbyterians, Baptists, Dutch Reformed, Quakers, and Lutherans. Very few of these populations respected Catholics. Eventually, however, separating Church and State and respecting religious freedom began to develop while religion remained important to most people's identity. Therefore, the Society and Culture (regarding beliefs on religious freedom and tolerance) changed over time while the importance of religion continued to influence the developing American identity.

Once you recognize a pattern or change, the next step is to connect it to other contexts. How do the change in society and culture concerning religion in the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries compare to the same theme of another era? How is it similar to or different from today? Making such connections will communicate a broader understanding of history, while also earning precious points on short answer and essay questions. ☺

## MAGPIES

- M**igration and Settlement
- A**merica in the World
- G**eography and the Environment
- P**olitics and Power
- I**dentify; American and National
- E**conomy; Work, Exchange, & Technology
- S**ociety and Culture



**M**igration and Settlement - This theme focuses on why and how the various people who moved to and within the United States both adapted to and transformed their new social and physical environments.

**A**merica in the World - This theme focuses on the interactions between nations that affected North American history in the colonial period, and on the influence of the United States on world affairs.

**G**eography and the Environment - This theme focuses on the role of geography and both the natural and human-made environments on social and political developments in what would become the United States.

**P**olitics and Power - This theme focuses on how different social and political groups have influenced society and government in the United States, as well as how political beliefs and institutions have changed over time.

**A**merican and National **I**dentify - This theme focuses on how and why definitions of American and national identity and values have developed, as well as on related topics such as citizenship, constitutionalism, foreign policy, assimilation, and American exceptionalism.

**W**ork, **E**xchange, and Technology - This theme focuses on the factors behind the development of systems of economic exchange, particularly the role of technology, economic markets, and government.

**C**ulture and **S**ociety - This theme focuses on the roles that ideas, beliefs, social mores, and creative expression have played in shaping the United States, as well as how various identities, cultures, and values have been preserved or changed in different contexts of U.S. history.

**When analyzing continuity  
and change over time, think in  
terms of historical theme.**

