How to Tackle the 3 Short Answer Questions in 40 minutes

For each of the four Short Answer Questions, there are 3 parts: a, b, and c.  Each part is worth 1 point. Label your answers a) (your response only to a); b) (your response only to b); and c) (your response only to c).  You don’t need a thesis statement, just answer EXACTLY the questions a, b, c.  And you must write ONLY INSIDE THE BOX that is provided for that question.  Graders are not allowed to read anything outside the box.  You don’t have to fill in the whole box, but remember, like the DBQ and Long Essay, the Short Answer Questions are scored based on what you get right, and the wrong stuff is ignored.

**Usually the SAQ will ask you to EXPLAIN. EXPLAIN means tell WHY what you just wrote is IMPORTANT.**

**Another way of saying it---What is the SIGNIFICANCE OF the information you just wrote?**

Sample Short Answer Question:

Use the excerpt below and your knowledge of world history to answer all parts of the question that follows.

“[The soldier] stood upon a little mound,

Cast his lethargic eyes around,

And said beneath his breath:

‘Whatever happens we have got

The Maxim Gun, and they have not.’

He marked them in their rude advance,

He hushed their rebel cheers;

With one extremely vulgar glance

He broke the Mutineers….

We shot and hanged a few, and then

The rest became devoted men….

While they support us, we should lend

Our every effort to defend,

And from a higher point of view

To give the full direction due

To all the native races.”

---Hilaire Belloc, British author and politician, *The Modern Traveler*, 1898

1. Briefly explain the historical context of this poem.
2. Explain ONE specific example of native resistance in Africa to the events depicted in this poem.
3. Explain ONE specific example of native resistance in Asia to the events depicted in this poem

**Sample Response**

1. The historical context of this poem is 19th century European imperialism of Africa and Asia. This is important because Europeans believed themselves to be superior to “natives” and had a right to conquer them. Social Darwinism and strong nationalism fueled this attitude.
2. One example from Africa was when the Zulu warriors attacked British outposts in southern Africa. This shows that the Zulus had great concern for their culture. Even though the Africans won a major battle, the British were not forced to leave the region.
3. One example from Asia was the Indian Mutiny, or Sepoy Rebellion, when anti-British Indian soldiers fought pro-British Indians and the British army. This shows that the Indian people were divided over loyalties. Significantly, like in Africa, this rebellion failed to get the British to leave.