

Introduction to Short Answer Questions

On the AP exam, you will have 40 minutes to answer three of four short answer questions. Most will include a stimulus and each will include 3 parts.

Required Question 1: periods 3–8 (with primary or secondary source)

Required Question 2: periods 3–8 (with text excerpt or visual source)

Choose between w Question 3: periods 1–5 OR Question 4: periods 6–9 (no stimulus)

This type of question does not require a thesis statement... it is not an essay. Good quality answers can be one or two sentences each. Short answer questions test content knowledge, understanding of themes, and – of course – the historical thinking skills!

Sample SAQ

Directions:

Read each question carefully and write your responses in the box provided.

You are not required to use the entire box, and anything outside of the box will not be graded.

Use complete sentences. No credit will be earned for incomplete sentences.

Answer the questions in order.

Each answer should stand alone, not be an extension of another answer (think of it as three answers rather than one paragraph), and ATFP! (address the full prompt)

Using your knowledge of U.S. history answer parts a., b., and c.

- Briefly explain how ONE of the following impacted the development of social equality during the Civil Rights Era: *Brown vs Board of Education*, *Feminine Mystique*, *United Farm Workers*
- Briefly explain ONE way that the federal government increased social equality in the Civil Rights Era.
- Briefly explain ONE way the American people reacted negatively to the changes in the Civil Rights Era.

Sample Answer:

- Betty Friedan's Feminine Mystique impacted the modern feminist movement which led to increased social equality increasing rights for women. She effectively communicated both unfair sexism in American society but also revealed general unhappiness of many women trapped in traditional roles.*
- President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act which removed many discriminatory practices that had reduced African American rights to vote, increasing social equality for minorities at the federal level.*
- Many schools reacted negatively to changes in civil rights policies including Little Rock High School which refused to integrate following Brown vs Board of Education, and the National Guard was sent by President Eisenhower to force desegregation.*

Hints:

No fluff! Get to the point and move on.

Read the question carefully! Follow directions!

Include specific evidence! One piece per answer is all you need!

Clearly answer question! Pay attention to the verbs!

Label your answers a.-b.-c.!

Remember COMPLETE sentences and no thesis!

Your Turn!

Using your knowledge of U.S. history and the map provided answer parts a., b., and c.

- Choose ONE of the regions illustrated in the map and briefly explain how American Indians adapted to their environment prior to European settlement.
- Choose ONE other region illustrated on the map and briefly explain how American Indians adapted to their environment prior to European settlement in a similar way to your answer in part a.
- Choose ONE additional region illustrated on the map and briefly explain how American Indians adapted to their environment prior to European settlement differently from your answer in part a.



Key Concept 1.1: As native populations migrated and settled across the vast expanse of North America over time, they developed distinct and increasingly complex societies by adapting to and transforming their diverse environments.

- I. Different native societies adapted to and transformed their environments through innovations in agriculture, resource use, and social structure.
 - A) The spread of **maize cultivation** from present-day **Mexico** northward into the present-day **American Southwest** and beyond supported economic development, settlement, advanced irrigation, and social diversification among societies.
 - B) Societies responded to the aridity of the **Great Basin** and the grasslands of the western **Great Plains** by developing largely mobile lifestyles.
 - C) In the **Northeast**, the **Mississippi River Valley**, and along the **Atlantic seaboard** some societies developed mixed agricultural and hunter-gatherer economies that favored the development of permanent villages.
 - D) Societies in the **Northwest** and present-day **California** supported themselves by hunting and gathering, and in some areas developed settled communities supported by the vast resources of the ocean.



Identify one group for each of the regions illustrated in your SAQ practice question.

Source: North American Continent; Western Hemisphere Indian Culture Map, <http://lochgarry.wordpress.com/2011/11/27/ancient-winds-and-memories-of-a-time-long-ago/>