

AP U.S. History Questions

1. What is A.P.?

A.P. stands for Advanced Placement. It is a program developed by the College Board (CB) to offer college level courses in high school. AP courses are universally recognized as being significantly more difficult and demanding than regular U.S. History. APUSH uses a college textbook and is taught as a college level class. To succeed, students must be highly motivated and capable of higher level thinking. As in any college course, the responsibility for learning rests on the student, not the instructor.

2. What is the AP exam?

The AP US History exam is a 3.5 hour timed exam given in early May. Part I consists of 55 stimulus based multiple choice questions (SBMC) (40%), with three short answer questions (20%), Part II is a Document Based Question (DBQ) essay (25%), with a Long Essay Question (LEQ) essay (15%). The cost for the AP exam is \$97. Fee waivers are available to those who demonstrate financial hardship.

3. What supplies will I need to start class?

If you have not checked out the textbook, *Fabric of a Nation*, please do so. Students like to keep a **spiral notebook** for lecture notes and chapter terms. I recommend a **3 ring binder** for worksheets. I usually require everything to be hand written. If you are able to, **4 different colors of highlighters** will be helpful for essay practice. I highly recommend getting an **APUSH review book** early, they help make sense of the chapter readings. I have 30+ review books in the Mesa library for check out. The most popular review books among students are: Crash Course APUSH, Princeton Review, and Barron's. You can also ask previous students for their review book. Be sure it's an edition from 2016 or newer.

4. Do all colleges give AP credit?

Each college is free to set their own policy regarding AP scores. In general, most public colleges accept AP scores of 3 or higher (1-5 scale) and most private colleges accept AP scores of 4 or higher. Most students will receive credit for two college U.S. History classes if they pass the APUSH exam. For those colleges that do not accept AP scores for credit, they still recommend students to take AP classes in high school and to take the AP exam. Start looking at colleges you are interested in attending and see what their AP policies are.

5. How much homework is involved?

Homework will be given regularly, but the amount of time needed to complete it depends on the nature of the work and the speed at which a student reads. Students are responsible for reading weekly in the textbook. Module terms are available on the website as a study guide. Students can take handwritten notes on the modules using the terms as their guide, and are able to use those notes on the in class reading quiz. The reason for this fast, and sometimes grueling pace, is to ensure that we cover all the topics, and to allow students plenty of time to review before the AP exam in May.

6. What is class like? How is it taught? Is it hard?

APUSH is a college level class taught in a high school environment. Frequent lectures, key terms, quizzes, SBMC exams, short answer questions, and essays are combined with discussion, research and analysis of primary source documents, and occasional projects. ALL of American history is covered in this class from pre-Columbian exploration to the 2000s. Students are expected to be self-motivated, take the initiative, and are ultimately responsible for their success. According to students, APUSH is one of the most challenging and time consuming AP classes they have taken, but also one of the most interesting.