APUSH Themes

Identity (ID)
How and why have debated over American national identity changed over time?
How have gender, class, religious, regional, and other group identities changed in different eras?

ID 1 Analyze how competing conceptions of national identity were expressed in the development of political institutions and cultural values from the late colonial through the antebellum periods
ID 2 Assess the impact of Manifest Destiny, territorial expansion, the Civil War, and industrialization on popular beliefs about progress and the national destiny of the U.S. in the 19th century
ID 3 Analyze how U.S. involvement in international crises such as the Spanish American War, World Wars I and II, the Great Depression, and the Cold War influenced public debates about American national identity in the 20th century
ID 4 Explain how conceptions of group identity and autonomy emerged out of cultural interactions between colonizing groups, Africans, American Indians in the colonial era
ID 5 Analyze the role of economic, political, social, and ethnic factors on the formation of regional identities in what would become the United States from the colonial period through the 19th century
ID 6 Analyze how migration patterns to, and migration within, the United States have influenced the growth of racial and ethnic identities and conflicts over ethnic assimilation and distinctiveness
ID 7 Analyze how changes in class identity and gender role have related to economic, social, and cultural transformations since the late 19th century
ID 8 Explain how civil rights activism in the 20th century affected the growth of African American and other identity-based political and social movements

Work, Exchange, and Technology (WXT)
How have changes in markets, transportation, and technology affected American society from colonial times to the present day?
Why have different systems developed in British North America and the United States, and how have they affected U.S. society?
How have debates over economic values and the role of government in the U.S. economy affected politics, society, the economy, and the environment?

WXT-1 Explain how patterns of exchanging commodities, peoples, diseases, and ideas around the Atlantic World developed after European contact and shaped North American colonial-era societies
WXT-2 Analyze how innovations in markets, transportation, and technology affected the economy and the different regions of North America from the colonial period through the end of the Civil War
WXT-3 Explain how changes in transportation, technology, and the integration of the U.S. economy into world markets have influenced U.S. society since the Gilded Age
WXT-4 Explain the development of labor systems such as slavery, indentured servitude, free labor, and sharecropping from the colonial period through the end of the 18th century
WXT-5 Explain the development of labor systems that accompanied industrialization since the 19th century and how industrialization shaped U.S. society and workers’ lives
WXT-6 Explain how arguments about market capitalism, the growth of corporate power, and government policies influenced economic policies from the late 18th century through the early 20th century
WXT-7 Compare the beliefs and strategies of movements advocating changes to the U.S. economic system since industrialization, particularly the organized labor, Populist, and Progressive movements
WXT-8 Explain how and why the role of the federal government in regulating economic life and the environment has changed since the end of the 19th century

Peopling (PEO)
Why have people migrated to, from, and within North America?
How have changes in migration and population patterns affected American life?

PEO-1 Explain how and why people moved within the Americas (before contact) and to and within the Americas (after contact and colonization)
PEO-2 Explain how changes in the numbers and sources of international migrants in the 19th and 20th centuries altered the ethnic and social makeup of the U.S. population
PEO-3 Analyze the causes and effects of major internal migration patterns such as urbanization, suburbanization, westward movement, and the Great Migration in the 19th and 20th centuries
PEO-4 Analyze the effects that migration, disease, and warfare had on the American Indian population after contact with Europeans
PEO-5  Explain how free and forced migration to and within different parts of North America caused regional development, cultural diversity and blending, and political and social conflicts through the 19th century

PEO-6  Analyze the role of both internal and international migration on changes to urban life, cultural developments, labor issues, and reform movements from the mid-19th century through the mid-20th century

PEO-7  Explain how and why debates over immigration to the United States have changed since the turn of the 20th century

Politics and Power (POL)
How and why have different political and social groups competed for influence over society and government in what would become the United States?
How have Americans agreed on or argued over the values that guide the political system, as well as who is a part of the political process?

POL-1  Analyze the factors behind competition, cooperation, and conflict among different societies and social groups in North America during the colonial period

POL-2  Explain how and why major party systems and political alignments arose and have changed from the early Republic through the end of the 20th century

POL-3  Explain how activist groups and reform movements, such as antebellum reformers, civil rights activists, and social conservatives, have caused changes to state institutions and U.S. society

POL-4  Analyze how and why the New Deal, the Great Society, and the modern conservative movement all sought to change the federal government’s role in U.S. political, social, and economic life

POL-5  Analyze how arguments over the meaning and interpretation of the Constitution have affected U.S. politics since 1787

POL-6  Analyze how debates over political values (such as democracy, freedom, and citizenship) and the extension of American ideals abroad contributed to the ideological clashes and military conflicts of the 19th century and the early 20th century

POL-7  Analyze how debates over civil rights and civil liberties have influenced political life from the early 20th century through the early 21st century

America and the World (WOR)
How have events in North America and the United States related to contemporary developments in the rest of the world?
How have different factors influenced U.S. military, diplomatic, and economic involvement in international affairs and foreign conflicts, both in North America and overseas?

WOR-1  Explain how imperial competition and the exchange of commodities across both sides of the Atlantic Ocean influenced the origins and patterns of development of North American societies in the colonial period

WOR-2  Explain how the exchange of ideas among different parts of the Atlantic World shaped belief systems and independence movements into the early 19th century

WOR-3  Explain how the growing interconnection of the U.S. with worldwide economic, labor, and migration systems affected U.S. society since the late 19th century

WOR-4  Explain how the U.S. involvement in global conflicts in the 20th century set the stage for domestic social changes

WOR-5  Analyze the motives behind, and results of, economic, military, and diplomatic initiatives aimed at expanding U.S. power and territory in the Western Hemisphere in the years between independence and the Civil War

WOR-6  Analyze the major aspects of domestic debates over U.S. expansionism in the 19th century and the early 20th century

WOR-7  Analyze the goals of U.S. policymakers in major international conflicts, such as the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, and the Cold War, and explain how U.S. involvement in these conflicts has altered the U.S. role in world affairs

WOR-8  Explain how U.S. military and economic involvement in the developing world and issues such as terrorism and economic globalization have changed U.S. foreign policy goals since the middle of the 20th century
Environment and Geography Physical and Human (ENV)
How did interactions with the natural environment shape the institutions and values of various groups living on the North American continent?
How did economic and demographic changes affect the environment and lead to debates over use and control of the environment and natural resources?

ENV-1 Explain how the introduction of new plants, animals, and technologies altered the natural environment of North America and affected interactions among various groups in the colonial period
ENV-2 Explain how the natural environment contributed to the development of distinct regional group identities, institutions, and conflicts in the precontact period through the independence period
ENV-3 Analyze the role of environmental factors in contributing to regional economic and political identities in the 19th century, and how they affected conflicts such as the American Revolution and the Civil War
ENV-4 Analyze how the search for economic resources affected social and political developments from the colonial period through Reconstruction
ENV-5 Explain how and why debates about and policies concerning the use of natural resources and the environment more generally have changed since the late 19th century

Ideas, Beliefs, and Culture (CUL)
How and why have moral, philosophical, and cultural values changed in what would become the United States?
How and why have changes in moral, philosophical, and cultural values affected U.S. history?

CUL-1 Compare the cultural values and attitudes of different European, African American, and native peoples in the colonial period and explain how contact affected intergroup relationships and conflicts
CUL-2 Analyze how emerging conceptions of national identity and democratic ideals shaped value systems, gender roles, and cultural movements in the late 18th century and the 19th century
CUL-3 Explain how cultural values and artistic expression changed in response to the Civil War and the postwar industrialization of the United States
CUL-4 Analyze how changing religious ideals, Enlightenment beliefs, and republican thought shaped the politics, culture, and society of the colonial era through the early Republic
CUL-5 Analyze ways that philosophical, moral, and scientific ideas were used to defend and challenge the dominant economic and social order in the 19th and 20th centuries
CUL-6 Analyze the role of culture and the arts in 19th- and 20th-century movements for social and political change
CUL-7 Explain how and why “modern” cultural values and popular culture have grown since the early 20th century and how they have affected American politics and society