

Short Answer Questions

On Part B of Section 1 of the AP US History exam students are asked to answer four short answer questions each with multiple parts. In addition, Paper 1 of the IB History exam consists of four source based questions that are similar to the short answer questions on the APUSH exam. In order to prepare for these portions of the AP and IB exams, students will be asked to complete a short answer section on both the Fall Midterm and Spring Midterm Exams. Below is an example and a set of guidelines on how to approach these questions.

Example

1. Answer (a), (b), and (c).
 - a) Briefly explain why ONE of the following was the most significant factor in the decline of public confidence in the United States during the 1970s.
 - i. Foreign Policy
 - ii. the Economy
 - iii. Politics
 - b) Provide ONE example of a specific historical event or development that supports your explanation in part (a).
 - c) Provide specific historical evidence why ONE of the other options is less convincing than your choice in part (a) as the most significant factor in the decline of public confidence in the US government during the 1970s.

Guidelines

1. Read through all parts of the question before answering. This will help ensure that you stay on task for each part.
2. Answer in complete sentences. The directions will specifically state that bulleted or outlined answers are unacceptable. Short answer does not mean one-word answers.
3. **Label each part of the response. Start each part on a new line.**
4. Do the tasks in order – there is generally a natural progression.
5. Some questions will ask you to interpret primary or secondary sources. On these types of questions do not quote directly from the excerpts – doing so does not illustrate your understanding of the author’s words or meaning.
6. Be specific. Avoid generalizations.
7. Use the technique of signposting; that is incorporate language from the question into your response.
7. Stay on task.
8. **Your answer must fit within the boundaries of the answer document.**