

AP U.S. History LEQ Expanded Student Guide (PA Test Ready)

LEQ Overview

The Long Essay Question (LEQ) requires a clear historical argument supported by specific outside evidence. There are no documents provided. Organization and analysis matter more than length.

LEQ Planning Template (5-Minute Plan)

Prompt & Time Period	_____
Thesis (1–2 sentences)	_____
Context (Before/During)	_____
Body Paragraph 1 Evidence	_____
Body Paragraph 2 Evidence	_____
Counterargument / Complexity	_____

Sample Thesis Starters by Task Word

- Evaluate: Although ____, the most significant factor was ____ because ____.
- Compare: While both ____ and ____ shared ____, ____ differed because ____.
- Assess the extent: ____ was successful to a moderate/large extent due to ____, but limited by ____.
- Explain: ____ occurred primarily because ____, which led to ____.
- Analyze change/continuity: Between ____ and ____, ____ changed as seen in ____, while ____ remained consistent.

Student-Friendly LEQ Scoring Rubric (6 Points)

- Thesis (1 pt): Clear, defensible claim that answers the question.
- Context (1 pt): Explains broader historical background related to the topic.
- Evidence (2 pts): Uses multiple specific historical examples to support the argument.
- Analysis & Reasoning (2 pts): Explains how evidence supports the argument using causation, comparison, or change over time.

Final Exam Tips

Aim for 4–5 well-developed paragraphs. Avoid listing facts without explanation. Every example should clearly support your thesis.