



AP HISTORY

Reasoning Processes

Reasoning processes describe the cognitive operations that students will be required to apply when engaging with the historical thinking skills on the AP Exam. The reasoning processes ultimately represent the way practitioners think in the discipline. Specific aspects of the cognitive process are defined under each reasoning process.

Reasoning Process 1	Reasoning Process 2	Reasoning Process 3
<i>Comparison</i>	<i>Causation</i>	<i>Continuity and Change</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1.i: Describe similarities and/or differences between different historical developments or processes.▪ 1.ii: Explain relevant similarities and/or differences between specific historical developments and processes.▪ 1.iii: Explain the relative historical significance of similarities and/or differences between different historical developments or processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 2.i: Describe causes and/or effects of a specific historical development or process.▪ 2.ii: Explain the relationship between causes and effects of a specific historical development or process.▪ 2.iii: Explain the difference between primary and secondary causes and between short- and long-term effects.▪ 2.iv: Explain how a relevant context influenced a specific historical development or process.▪ 2.v: Explain the relative historical significance of different causes and/or effects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 3.i: Describe patterns of continuity and/or change over time.▪ 3.ii: Explain patterns of continuity and/or change over time.▪ 3.iii: Explain the relative historical significance of specific historical developments in relation to a larger pattern of continuity and/or change.