

# How Student Learning Is Assessed on the AP Exam

The six historical thinking skills are assessed on the AP Exam as detailed below.

<b>Historical Thinking Skill</b>	<b>Multiple-Choice Questions</b>	<b>Free-Response Questions</b>
<b>Skill 1: Developments and Processes</b>	Multiple-choice questions assess students' ability to identify and explain historical developments and processes.	The short-answer questions, document-based question, and long essay question assess students' ability to identify and explain historical developments and processes.
<b>Skill 2: Sourcing and Situation</b>	Multiple-choice questions assess students' ability to analyze sourcing and situation of primary and secondary sources.  Students will need to identify and explain the point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience of a source including its significance. Additionally, students will need to explain how the sourcing and situation might limit the use(s) of a source.	Short-answer questions 1 and/or 2 assess students' ability to analyze the sourcing or situation in primary or secondary sources. The document-based question assesses students' ability to analyze how the point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument.
<b>Skill 3: Claims and Evidence in Sources</b>	Multiple-choice questions assess students' ability to analyze arguments in primary and secondary sources, including identifying and describing claims and evidence used. Additionally, students will need to compare arguments and explain how claims or evidence support, modify, or refute a source's argument.	Short-answer questions 1 and/or 2 assess students' ability to analyze arguments in primary or secondary sources. The document-based question also provides opportunities for students to analyze arguments in primary sources.
<b>Skill 4: Contextualization</b>	Multiple-choice questions assess students' ability to identify and describe a historical context for a specific historical development or process as well as explain how a specific development or process is situated within a broader historical context.	The document-based question and long essay question assess students' ability to describe a broader historical context relevant to the topic of the question. One or two of the short-answer questions may also assess this skill.
<b>Skill 5: Making Connections</b>	Multiple-choice questions assess students' ability to analyze patterns and connections between and among historical developments and processes, using historical reasoning processes (e.g., comparison, causation, continuity and change).	The document-based question, long essay question, and one or more of the short-answer questions all assess this skill.
<b>Skill 6: Argumentation</b>	No multiple-choice questions explicitly assess the argumentation skill.	The document-based question and long essay question assess argumentation.