

**FIRST TIME FREE-RESPONSE ESSAY (FRQ) ASSIGNMENT
AP UNITED STATES HISTORY
INSTRUCTIONS AND GRADING RUBRIC**

Instructions:

For this assignment, you will respond to an AP essay question on a separate sheet of paper (as if it was conducted in class). **Do not type this assignment.**

The normal procedure for “free response essay questions” includes:

- 5 minute reading period
- 30 minute writing period (suggested)
- Usually 5-6 substantial paragraphs (including an introduction with a clear thesis)
- Usually 3-4 handwritten pages (larger spacing in AP exam booklet, similar to wide ruled paper)

For this assignment, you may choose to spend more time as it is your first experience writing an essay of this kind. **However, do not spend more than forty-five minutes writing.** The way to avoid writing for more than this is to effectively plan your essay.

Follow the rubric instructions carefully (attached). The official AP rubric, which is the format that will be used for all future essays of this kind, is attached.

The “FRQ” Options:

SELECT ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ESSAY TOPICS:

Option 1:

Compare the ways in which TWO of the following reflected tensions in colonial society:

- ***Bacon’s Rebellion (1676)***
- ***Pueblo Revolt (1680)***
- ***Salem witchcraft trials (1692)***
- ***Stono Rebellion (1739)***

Option 2:

Evaluate the influence of religion in the development of colonial society in TWO of the following regions:

- ***The Spanish Southwest***
- ***New England***
- ***New France***

**SAVE THIS PACKET! YOU WILL STAPLE IT
TO THE BACK OF YOUR HANDWRITTEN
ESSAY.**

Rubric/Steps to Success: ***This detailed rubric is designed to help you write an effective essay now, and effective essays later!***

<p>Essay Outline Satisfactory?</p> <p>Unsatisfactory? -1 to -4 of Percentage score</p>	<p>Step 1. Read the question carefully and choose which two sub-topics you wish to analyze.</p> <p>Step 2. Reflect on the question and the two topics. Make a list of what you know of these events, especially how they relate to the main idea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Option 1</u>: How do the events you chose directly reflect tensions in colonial society? What are those “tensions”? (i.e. Indians vs. whites; whites vs. slaves; etc.) • <u>Option 2</u>: How did religion directly influence society in the regions you chose (i.e. Jesuits in New France, dealing with Indians, etc; Puritans in New England, etc.) <p>Step 3. Write an outline for your essay, using the following example (your outline will be checked this time only):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Introduction and a clear thesis (see description in Step 4) Supporting paragraphs with evidence and analysis <u>Evidence</u>: events, facts, etc. to support main argument (your thesis) <u>Analysis</u>: how the evidence above relates to the thesis or main idea – cause/effect, significance, etc. Conclusion to argument (and is not simply repetitive)</p> <p>An outline for a “first draft” essay such as this should be a simple list to help you plan and write the essay. Make it helpful to you! (You do not have to be formal with it, i.e. I, II, III, A, B, etc... keep it simple so that in the future, you can easily plan and write timed essays)</p> <p>***Now you are ready to begin your essay*** The rest of the rubric and instructions are contained on the next page.</p>
<p>Thesis/Intro statement assessed by AP rubric</p>	<p>Step 4. Write an introductory paragraph that contains a clear thesis. This thesis should be well-developed and should discuss the two topics well in a manner that connects the topics directly to the main idea. Hit me over the head with a good thesis - I’ll tell you why ☺</p> <p>An effective thesis statement must make a clear argument (your point of view).</p> <p>Broach Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Option 1</u>: Your thesis should reflect a good understanding of both events and how they reflect specific colonial tensions. This means that you must decide <u>how</u> the two events you chose reflected social tensions (and what those tensions were). An introduction and thesis can also demonstrate “change over time.” • <u>Option 2</u>: Since this essay asks you to “evaluate the influence of religion,” your thesis must present a clear argument as to how much religion (specifically which denominations) directly influenced the development of colonial society in the two regions you chose. Set up a clear argument that can be proved throughout the essay on how religion directly shaped society.

Effective essay paragraphs must contain:

Substantial and specific historical evidence

Effective analysis

Balance

(assessed by AP rubric)

Step 5. Write supporting paragraphs that include:

- Topic sentences that support your main thesis. A topic sentence serves as a “mini-thesis” that is connected to the main idea. It contains a decisive argument that blends evidence and analysis.
- Substantial relevant, but specific information (**evidence**) that supports the thesis.
- Analysis:
 - Option 1: Effective **analysis** of the connection between the events and social tensions (i.e. cause/effect, significance, groups involved in conflict or type of conflict: religions, cultural, racial, political, etc.). Effective analysis is extremely important. **Anyone can make a sixth-grade level “report” on Bacon’s Rebellion, but an advanced thinker (like yourself) should be able to describe how/why Bacon’s Rebellion is critically important to understanding the developing tensions in the Virginia colony and tensions in all British North American colonies – and, of course, the significance of those tensions.**
 - Option 2: Effective **analysis** of how religious practices and beliefs specifically shaped the development of society. You must directly connect religion to specific social developments (i.e. class structure, social customs and practices, dealings with Indians, outsiders, dissenters and others).
- Good **balance** of the two topics
- Good writing (only well-written essays are considered for good scores)

Step 6. Proofread your essay. Make corrections as necessary. On the AP exam, you may cross out wording and replace with other prose. However, you want to avoid looking disorganized.
Write neatly!!!

The actual AP scoring rubric is attached. As this is your first FRQ essay assignment, a modified scoring translation will be used, as follows:

9 or 8 = 100 7 = 95 6 = 90 5 = 85 4 = 82 3 = 80 2 = 75 1 = 68 0 = 62

The normal translation for all future essays is:

9 = 100; 8 = 94; 7 = 88; 6 = 82; 5 = 76; 4 = 70; 3 = 64; 2 = 58; 1 = 52; 0 = 0

OPTION 1 RUBRIC

Compare the ways in which TWO of the following reflected tensions in colonial society: Bacon 's Rebellion (1676), Pueblo Revolt (1680), Salem Witchcraft trials (1692), Stono Rebellion (1739).

The 8-9 Essay

- Has a well-developed thesis that discusses two of the events in a manner that indicates a good understanding of each event and how it reflected colonial tensions.
- Supports the thesis with substantial relevant information.
- Has effective analysis of the connection between the events and social tensions
- Shows good balance in treatment of the two events
- Supports thesis with substantial and relevant outside information
- May contain minor errors.
- Well-organized and well written

The 5-7 Essay

- Discusses two of the events in a manner that indicates an understanding of the event and how it reflected colonial tensions
- Supports thesis with some relevant information
- May have limited analysis of the connection between the events and social tensions
- May have some imbalance in the treatment of the two events
- Has acceptable organization and writing
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.

The 2-4 Essay

- Has a limited or unfocused thesis that presents a superficial discussion of the events with little understanding of the underlying tensions
- Supports the thesis with few relevant facts
- Contains little or no analysis
- Shows significant imbalance in the treatment of the two events
- May contain major errors
- May be poorly organized and/or written

The 0-1 Essay

- Lacks a thesis or simply restates the question.
- Demonstrates an incompetent or inappropriate response.
- Contains substantial factual errors.
- Is poorly organized and/or written.

OPTION 2 RUBRIC

Evaluate the influence of religion in the development of colonial society in TWO of the following regions: The Spanish Southwest; New England; New France

The 8-9 Essay

- Has a well-developed thesis that evaluates the influence of religion on the social development of two regions
- Supports the thesis with substantial relevant information.
- Has effective analysis of the connection between religious beliefs and practices and the development of colonial society.
- Shows good balance in treatment of the two regions
- Supports thesis with substantial and relevant outside information.
- May contain minor errors.
- Well-organized and well written.

The 5-7 Essay

- Discusses two of the regions in a manner that indicates an understanding of the role of religion and society
- Supports thesis with some relevant information
- May have limited analysis of the influence of religion and/or the development of society
- May have some imbalance between the two regions
- Has acceptable organization and writing
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.

The 2-4 Essay

- Has a limited or unfocused thesis that presents a superficial discussion of the regions with little understanding of the connection between religion and society
- Supports the thesis with few relevant facts
- Contains little or no analysis
- Shows significant imbalance in the treatment of the two events
- May contain major errors
- May be poorly organized and/or written

The 0-1 Essay

- Lacks a thesis or simply restates the question.
- Demonstrates an incompetent or inappropriate response.
- Contains substantial factual errors.
- Is poorly organized and/or written.