

APUSH-Historical Thinking Skills

Skill Type	Historical Thinking Skills	Proficient students should be able to...
I. Chronological Reasoning	1. Historical Causation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Compare causes and/or effects, including between short- and long-term effects. ★ Analyze and evaluate the interaction of multiple causes and/or effects. ★ Assess historical contingency by distinguishing among coincidence, causation, and correlation, as well as critiquing existing interpretations of cause and effect.
	2. Patterns of Continuity and Change over Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Analyze and evaluate historical patterns of continuity and change over time. ★ Connect patterns of continuity and change over time to larger historical processes or themes.
	3. Periodization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Explain ways that historical events and processes can be organized within blocks of time. ★ Analyze and evaluate competing models of periodization of U.S. history.
II. Comparison and Contextualization	4. Comparison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Compare related historical developments and processes across place, time, and/or different societies or within one society. ★ Explain and evaluate multiple and differing perspectives on a given historical phenomenon.
	5. Contextualization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Explain and evaluate ways in which specific historical phenomena, events, or processes connect to broader regional, national, or global processes occurring at the same time. ★ Explain and evaluate ways in which a phenomenon, event, or process connects to other, similar historical phenomena across time and place.

III. Crafting Historical Arguments from Historical Evidence	6. Historical Argumentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Analyze commonly accepted historical arguments and explain how an argument has been constructed from historical evidence. ★ Construct convincing interpretations through analysis of disparate, relevant historical evidence. ★ Evaluate and synthesize conflicting historical evidence to construct persuasive historical arguments.
	7. Appropriate Use of Relevant Historical Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Analyze features of historical evidence such as audience, purpose, point of view, format, argument, limitations, and context germane to the evidence considered. ★ Based on analysis and evaluation of historical evidence, make supportable inferences and draw appropriate conclusions.
IV. Historical Interpretation and Synthesis	8. Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Analyze diverse historical interpretations. ★ Evaluate how historians' perspectives influence their interpretations and how models of historical interpretation change over time.
	9. Synthesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Combine disparate, sometimes contradictory evidence from primary sources and secondary works in order to create a persuasive understanding of the past. ★ Apply insights about the past to other historical contexts or circumstances, including the present.