AP DBQ & FRQ Essay Rubric

8 - 9
- Has a clear well-developed thesis that "answers" the prompt and which guides the essay throughout.
- Demonstrates understanding of the complexity of the topic.
- Effectively uses all or a substantial number of documents and interprets them correctly (DBQ); uses many accurate facts and details from the time period (FR).
- Effectively *analyzes, interprets*, and *makes inferences* from the information.
- Supports thesis with many relevant facts and interprets that information correctly.
- May contain insignificant errors that do not hinder argument or organization.

5 - 7
- Has a thesis which addresses the essay prompt.
- Clearly explains the differences or similarities of the issue; some imbalance is acceptable.
- Effectively uses *some* of the documents (DBQ) or uses *some* facts to support interpretation (FR).
- Includes *some* outside facts with little or superficial interpretation.
- May contain minor errors that do not interfere with comprehension.

2 - 4
- Has a limited, confused, or poorly developed thesis, may restate the prompt, or has weak organization and writing.
- Describes differences or similarities in a general or simplistic manner; may cover only part of the topic.
- Briefly cites documents (sometimes in a "laundry list") or quotes documents (DBQ), interprets documents or outside facts incorrectly (DBQ & FR), simply mentions facts without interpretation (FR).
- Contains few facts or contains facts that are irrelevant or inaccurate.
- May contain major historical errors.

0 - 1
- Has no thesis or a thesis that does not address the topic.
- Shows inadequate or inaccurate understanding of the question.
- Contains little or no understanding of the documents or ignores them completely.
- Contains inappropriate facts or no outside facts.
- Includes numerous errors, both major and minor.

The following are the grade equivalents for these scores. To "pass" the AP test, you must write essays that score a 6 or higher. Always aim for the highest score possible.

Free Response essays				**DBQs**		
9	100%	100 pts.		**9**	100%	200 pts.
8	92%	92 pts.		**8**	92%	184 pts.
7	86%	86 pts.		**7**	86%	172 pts.
6	82%	82 pts.		**6**	82%	164 pts.
5	76%	76 pts.		**5**	76%	152 pts.
4	72%	72 pts.		**4**	72%	144 pts.
3	66%	66 pts.		**3**	66%	132 pts.
2	62%	62 pts.		**2**	62%	124 pts.
1	56%	56 pts.		**1**	56%	112 pts.
0	0%	0 pts.		**0**	0%	0 pts.

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