

APUSH DBQ Rubric

The Document Based Question is based on a 7 point rubric that breaks down like this:

A. Thesis: 0-1 point

Skill Assessed: Argumentation + targeted skill

States a thesis that directly answers all parts of the question. The thesis must do more than restate the question. (1pt)

B. Analysis of historical evidence and support of argument: (0-4pts)

Skill Assessed: Use of Evidence, Argumentation, + targeted skill (e.g. Comparison)

Analysis of Documents (0-3pts)

Offers plausible analysis of a majority of the documents, explicitly using this analysis to support the stated thesis or a relevant argument (1pt)

Or

Offers plausible analysis of BOTH the content of a majority of the documents, explicitly using this analysis to support the stated thesis or a relevant argument; AND at least one of the following for the majority of the documents:

- intended audience
- purpose
- historical context
- the authors point of view

(2pts)

Or

Offers plausible analysis of BOTH the content of all or all but one of the documents, explicitly using this analysis to support the stated thesis or a relevant argument; AND at least one of the following for the all or all but one of the documents:

- intended audience
- purpose
- historical context
- the authors point of view

(3pts)

AND/OR

Analysis of outside examples to support the thesis/argument (0-1pt)

Offers plausible analysis of historical examples beyond/outside the documents to support the stated thesis or a relevant argument. (1pt)

C. Contextualization: (0-1pt)

Skill Assessed: Contextualization

Accurately and explicitly connects historical phenomena relevant to the argument to broader historical events and/or processes. (1pt)

D. Synthesis (1pt)

Skill Assessed: Synthesis

Response synthesizes the argument, evidence, an analysis of the documents, and context into a coherent and persuasive essay by accomplishing one or more of the following as relevant to the question:

- Appropriately extends or modifies the stated thesis statement or argument (1pt)
- Recognizes and effectively accounts for disparate, sometimes contradictory evidence from primary sources and/or secondary works in crafting a coherent argument (1pt)
- Appropriately connects the topic of the question to other historical time periods, geographical areas, contexts, or circumstances. (1pt)