

Thematic Learning Objectives

There are seven themes in APUSH which are threaded throughout the entire course. These themes will be the main parts of the multiple choice questions, short-answer responses, DBQs, and long-response essays. According to the College Board: "all questions on the AP United States History Exam will measure student understanding the specified thematic learning objectives."

Learning Objectives by Theme:

Identity (ID)

Overreaching questions:

How and why have national debates over American national identity changed over time?

How have gender, class, ethnic, religious, regional, and other group identities changed in different eras?

Work, Exchange, and Technology (WXT)

Overreaching questions:

How have changes in markets, transportation, and technology affected American society from colonial times to the present day?

Why have different labor systems developed in British North American and the United States, and how have they affected the U.S. today?

How have debates over economic values and the role of government in the U.S. economy affected politics, society, the economy, and the environment?

Peopling (PEO)

Overreaching questions:

Why have people migrated to, from and within North America?

How have changes in migration and population patterns affected American life?

Politics and Power (POL)

Overreaching questions:

How and why have different political and social groups competed for influence over society and government in what would become the United States?

How have Americans agreed on or argued over the values that guide the political system as well as who is a part of the political process?

America in the World (WOR)

Overreaching questions:

How have events in North America and the United States related to contemporary developments in the rest of the world?

How have different factors influenced U.S. military, diplomatic, and economic involvement in international affairs and foreign conflicts, both in North America and overseas?

Environment and Geography - Physical and Human (ENV)

Overreaching questions:

How did interactions with the natural environment shape the institutions and values of various groups living on the North American continent?

How did economic and demographic changes affect the environment and lead to debates over use and control of the environment and natural resources?

Ideas, Beliefs, and Culture (CUL)

Overreaching questions:

How and why have moral, philosophical, and cultural values changed in what would become the United States?

How and why have changes in moral, philosophical, and cultural values affected U.S. history?