

AP World History Themes

There are lots of different ways to approach any given topic in world history and begin developing an interpretation of it. A theme in AP World History is nothing more than a category and/or a tool for organizing our thinking and analysis of world history. Early on in the course when you're asked to apply a theme to the historical identifications we'll work with or write a thesis that is categorical, think about themes as lenses for analysis. The analysis you give depends on the lens you're using.

The following is a reference list for the major themes we'll work with. Sometimes they tend to be more general than specific to suit the needs of the analysis you may find yourself doing, so choose what works best for you. Again, it's a tool. Try to use it in way that makes sense to you and helps you accomplish whatever task you've been given.

College Board World History Themes

1. Interaction between humans and the environment
 - Demography and disease
 - Migration
 - Patterns of settlement
 - Technology
2. Development and interaction of cultures
 - Religions
 - Belief systems, philosophies & ideologies
 - Science & technology
 - The arts and architecture
3. State-building, expansion and conflict
 - Political structures and forms of governance
 - Empires
 - Nations and nationalism
 - Revolts and revolutions
 - Regional, transregional and global structures and organizations
4. Creation, expansion and interaction of economic systems
 - Agricultural and pastoral production
 - Trade and commerce
 - Labor systems
 - Industrialization
 - Capitalism and socialism
5. Development and transformation of social structures
 - Gender roles and relations
 - Family and kinship
 - Racial and ethnic constructions
 - Social and economic classes

Course Specific Thematic Framework

- P.E.R.S.I.A (politics, economy, religion, social, intellectual, artistic)
 - Politics
 - hierarchies of power / chain of command
 - relations with neighbors (foreign policy)
 - military organization
 - governmental bodies, systems, & structure
 - branches of govt., department of treasury, etc.
 - Economy
 - trade systems
 - currency systems
 - local industries
 - metallurgy, sericulture, etc.
 - raw materials, chief commodities, imports and exports, etc.
 - labor systems
 - slavery, indentured servitude, serfdom, putting out system, etc.
 - Religion
 - types of religion/sects
 - gods
 - forms of worship

- rituals
- administration of religion
- temples
- holy books
- Social
 - social hierarchy
 - classes (upper, middle, lower)
 - issues of mobility
 - matrilineal vs. patrilineal
 - gender roles/relations
 - role of children
- Intellectual
 - philosophy
 - educational systems
 - schools
 - universities
 - houses of wisdom
 - inventions
- Artistic
 - architecture
 - music
 - literature
 - painting
 - sculpture