

## TEST TAKING SKILLS FREE RESPONSE ESSAY

1. Read the question carefully & analytically.
2. Choose the question you feel most competent to answer. There is no time to change questions once you have begun.
3. Free response essay should be a minimum of 3 pages.
4. Write legibly.
5. Marking questions may be helpful
  - A. Underline operative words: define, assess, compose, etc.
  - B. Circle time frame specified. i.e. since 1790 or prior to 1880.
6. One or two specific focused, relevant examples are better than a laundry list of names, cases etc. without comment.
7. Be sure your thesis is consistent with your conclusion.
8. Use correct terminology & vocabulary.
9. Do not preach or moralize in your essay. This is an essay not an editorial.
10. Using authors' names is not an advantage unless you can adequately state the gist of the authors' stance.
11. Underline key names & phrases so they stand out to the AP reader.
12. Your introductory paragraph is the most important. You do not get a second chance to make a good first impression. Your opening paragraph should contain:
  - A) A restatement of the question
  - B) Your thesis
  - C) Outline of supporting points