

A.P. U.S. History Multiple Choice Questions Strategies

Be Careful—Always make sure you are answering the right question. Mark the answer sheet clearly but not so darkly that it cannot be erased. Do not leave any stray marks on the answer sheet.

Use The Process of Elimination—Cross out the obvious wrong answers.

Pace Yourself—Each question is worth the same number of points: one. Don't spend too long on any one question.

Focus on the Big Picture—The A.P. exam is designed to illustrate basic principles of American history. Therefore, keep in mind that correct answers will not contradict the general trends of American history.

Use Common Sense—This strategy is seems obvious but really can help you on the multiple choice.

Be Careful of “Extreme” Wording—Answers that contain “extreme” words such as “always,” “never” and “completely” are much less likely to be correct than answers that more nuanced words such as “usually,” “rarely,” “seldom” or “often.”

Don't Fall For “Distracters”—Some answers are designed to mislead you. Choose the answer that best fits. Remember, not all true statements are correct answers; it depends on what is being asked.

Look For the “Oddball”—If four answers are similar or can be grouped together, consider choosing the remaining answer. However, avoid answers that are ridiculous or do not seem to make sense. – Remember the “Grover Song”

Trust Your Instincts—When choosing between answers pay attention to what your hunch or first guess is. Don't try to outsmart or overanalyze a question. It may be your “right brain” at work. This is particularly important for students with a tendency to change their correct answers to incorrect answers.