**Instructions for Short Answer Section of the AP Test**

1. The Particulars
   1. There are three short answer questions on the exam.
      1. The first two are required.
         1. They will range from 1754-1980.
         2. The first will be based on a secondary source
         3. The second will be based on a primary source (written or visual)
            1. It will also be a comparison or causation question
      2. The third will give you a choice between two questions.
         1. One based on early America (1491-1877)
         2. The other on later America (1865-Present). Select the one you prefer.
         3. These will be comparison or causation questions (whichever was not chosen in question 2)
         4. You pick the question you prefer to answer
   2. Each question has three parts (A,B,C). You must answer all three parts.
   3. Each part is worth one point, so either you get the point for a sufficient response or you do not get it for a weak response. Therefore, the total number of points that you can score on the short answer section is nine.
   4. You have 40 minutes to complete this section giving you an average of 13 1/3 minutes per question.
   5. 20% of the overall exam
2. The Rules
   1. This is not an essay, simply a response to a historical question.
   2. You do not develop a thesis statement.
   3. Write in complete sentences and in paragraph form.
   4. Label the responses on the answer sheet “A”, “B”, and “C” to make life easier for the reader.
   5. Write neatly.
   6. You must confine the writing to the box provided on the answer form. Graders will not acknowledge any writing outside of the box.
   7. Also, they will only read what is on a line. Do not try to write a sentence above a line and another on the line.
   8. Answers can be separate from one another. E.g., the response you give in part B does not need to be related to the response in part A. It can be, but does not have to be.
   9. Do not quote from the documents or the text of cartoons or pictures.
   10. Here’s the key to getting all the points…
       1. For each part of the question (A,B,C) … “**ACE**” it.
       2. First, **A**nswer the question
       3. Second, **C**ite a piece of evidence to support your answer.
       4. Third, **E**xplain your evidence.
3. Tips
   1. If you have a problem and have to rewrite a short answer, you can ask the proctor for a new answer form.
   2. If your question asks for a specific cause, result or event, then be specific
      1. E.g. If you are writing about immigration in the antebellum period, the following would be an insufficient response… “Immigrants came to the US to find jobs.” A better response would be … “Irish immigrants came to the US to escape the potato famine. Many, being unskilled workers, found jobs as laborers in the Northeast.”
      2. Note how you do not need to write about German immigration, too. One example is sufficient.
   3. If you have a political cartoon or picture of some sort, analyze it and tell the reader what you see in the cartoon that applies to the question.
   4. Do not repeat evidence from one part to the next. For example, you don’t want to cite the 15th amendment as evidence for part A and then cite it again as evidence for part B (see the reconstruction short answer for this example)