

AP EURO OPEN FORUM NOTES

June 4, 2017
Kansas City, MO



I recently attended a College Board Open Forum for AP European History Readers where upcoming changes to the exam (taking effect immediately for the 2017-2018 academic year) were discussed. I have organized my notes into this outline, which I hope will be helpful to AP Euro teachers who were not in attendance.

1. There will be more time for students to write their essays.

- a. There will be an additional ten minutes added to the DBQ/LEQ portion of the exam.
- b. This will not add to the overall length of the exam, as students will only answer THREE SAQ items rather than four, reducing the time required for the SAQ portion.

2. There will be more sample questions available.

- a. Expect a new secure practice exam soon – perhaps before school starts.
- b. A new public practice exam is also allegedly going to be released.

3. The changes to course content will be *minimal*.

- a. NEW THEME: National and European Identity
 - i. This is something we're already teaching, anyway, so it is not going to make a major difference in the way that most teachers teach their courses.
 - ii. Other than this new theme, the modifications to the concept outline and course description are largely organizational, with 69 learning objectives being consolidated into 31 learning objectives.

4. New DBQ and LEQ Rubrics are expected to be released in August.

And yes, I will modify my rubrics as soon as these changes are announced!

- a. Synthesis and periodization will no longer be formally assessed on the exam, although these skills will still be present when other skills are assessed (my guess is that synthesis may count as evidence beyond the documents or something like that), so teachers will still be rewarded for emphasizing turning points and larger historical trends.
- b. There will be ONE LEQ RUBRIC as opposed to the four rubrics for the current exam.
- c. The guidelines for a thesis will be consistent for the DBQ and LEQ and other attempts are being made to make the guidelines for the two essays more consistent.
- d. The rubrics are still being tested and piloted with focus groups.
- e. The new changes to the rubrics should not shock anyone. My impression was to expect tweaks rather than fundamental revisions.

5. DBQ topics will be selected from 1600-Present (we did not get clarification on what exactly is meant by "present").

- a. This should not prompt teachers to de-emphasize pre-1600 content, as it will still carry the same (or greater) weight in other portions of the exam.

- 6. There will be THREE LEQs to choose from and the LEQ prompts will be distributed across time periods in the following manner:**
- a. Period 1 (1450-1648)
 - b. Period 2 or 3 (1648-1914)
 - c. Period 3 or 4 (1815-Present)
 - i. Period 3 will not be assessed twice so the LEQ combinations will either be:
 1. 1, 2, 3
 2. 1, 2, 4
 3. 1, 3, 4
 - ii. Note that Period 1 will ALWAYS appear on the LEQ section, which will balance the DBQ and the LEQ prompts between periods.
- 7. I asked whether there would be greater diversity in the LEQ prompts (e.g., will students encounter three prompts about the same topic [e.g., women in 2016]?) and was told that efforts will be made to provide for more topical diversity in the prompts although the same thinking skill will continue to be assessed on all prompts as with the current exam.**
- 8. The new SAQ format will only require students to respond to THREE of four SAQ prompts:**
- a. Secondary Source Analysis (MANDATORY)
 - b. Visual or Primary Source Analysis (MANDATORY)
 - c. Causation (Student's Choice)
 - d. Continuity and Change Over Time (Student's Choice)
- 9. A new simplified version of the Course Framework designed for administrators and the public will be made available to show off the "guts" of the course in a way that should make sense to people who don't have to teach the course. This version of the Course Framework will include a FULL practice exam.**
- 10. There was discussion about whether the APUSH and AP Euro exams will continue to be administered on different days.** While there was no guarantee, we were told that inertia is generally the rule and that this change should be in place for the foreseeable future as long as it does not create new problems that were previously unanticipated.