

## Comparative Essay Scoring Guide

### Basic Core (0-7 points)

Historical and literary skills required to show competence

1. Has a clear, analytical and comprehensive thesis with a strong argument and framework that organizes the paper.  
(Addresses comparison of the issues or themes specified)  
1pt
2. Addresses BOTH comparisons and differences using effective and appropriate historical and literary evidence. Grammar and language used enhances the argument.  
(Addresses most parts of the question: for example, deals with differences but not similarities OR uses poor grammar and language -1pt)  
2pts
3. Substantiates thesis with appropriate historical and literary evidence. Grammar and language used enhances the argument.  
(Partially substantiates thesis with appropriate historical and literary evidence OR uses poor grammar and language -1pt)  
2pts
4. Makes as many relevant, direct comparisons between or among societies as necessary to prove thesis. Grammar and language used enhances the argument.  
\*(AP requires at least three comparisons)  
1pt
5. Analyzes as many reasons for similarities or differences used in the direct comparisons as necessary. Grammar and language used enhances the argument.  
\*(AP requires at least two analytical pieces)  
1pt

### Expanded Core (excellence)

Historical and literary skills required to show excellence

Expands beyond basic core of 1-7 points. A student MUST earn all 7 points in the basic core area before earning points in the expanded core area.

Examples:

- Addresses all parts of the question (as relevant): comparisons, chronology, causation, connections, themes, interactions, content
- Provides ample historical evidence to substantiate thesis
- Relates comparisons to larger global context
- Makes several direct comparisons consistently between or among societies
- Consistently analyzes the causes and effects of relevant similarities and differences