

AP U.S. History Score Standards: 2016 and 2017

The standards for earning each AP score of 5, 4, 3, and 2 were established through a rigorous Standard Setting process following the 2015 inaugural administration of the redesigned exam. The Standard Setting Panel's recommended cut scores would have resulted in distributions of 5s, 4s, and 3s that would have unfairly penalized students in this transition year. Accordingly, the cut scores were set such that the distributions more reasonably reflected achievement rates of previous years. The standards set in 2015 will be carried forward for 2016, but for the May 2017 exam, students will need to meet point requirements similar to those identified by the Standard Setting Panel in the fourth column of Tables 1 and 2 below. These standards align well with the recommendations of AP U.S. History teachers who responded to the June 2015 survey eliciting their input.

TABLE 1: AP U.S. History points required to earn a 5, effective in May 2017

	Raw points possible	AP U.S. History Teacher Survey: unweighted points to earn a 5	Standard Setting Panel: unweighted points to earn a 5
Multiple-Choice	49		39
Short Answer 1	3	2.7	2.5
Short Answer 2	3	2.3	2.5
Short Answer 3	3	2.6	2.5
DBQ	7	5.3	5.0
Long Essay	6	4.7	4.5

TABLE 2: AP U.S. History points required to earn a 3, effective in May 2017

	Raw points possible	AP U.S. History Teacher Survey: unweighted points to earn a 3	Standard Setting Panel: unweighted points to earn a 3
Multiple-Choice	49		27
Short Answer 1	3	1.5	1.5
Short Answer 2	3	1.2	1.5
Short Answer 3	3	1.5	1.5
DBQ	7	3.2	3.0
Long Essay	6	2.9	3.0