

Continuity and Change Over Time

One of three essay types that will be on the exam

The time allotted for this essay is 40 minutes, 5 minutes of which should be spent planning and/or outlining the answer.

What is it?

- This essay question deals specifically with analysis of continuities and changes over time and covers at least one of the periods in the concept outline. It can address, for example, any of the course themes, such as technology, trade, culture, migrations, or environment. There may also be some internal choice within the question, so that students are able to choose to draw their evidence from a case that they know better.

The continuity and change-over-time essay questions require students to demonstrate their mastery of this historical thinking skill. Moreover, students are expected to construct an argument that responds directly to the question; doing so should cause them to use several of the other historical thinking skills (argumentation, causation, contextualization, and synthesis).

What is it?

- The Continuity and Change Over Time essay tests your ability to note how civilizations and ideas evolve, yet remain true to what makes them unique.
- The easiest way to begin is to think in this way is to create timelines in your head
- The use the mental timelines to trace changes and reasons for change, as well as to identify continuities.

Another way to look at this

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sb5aq5HcS1A>
- Draw the chart below and write down what things change and what things stays the same. If you can, fill out the Why column while watching or right after the video ends.

CHANGE	SAME	WHY

Next Step:

- Use your notes and compare them with your classmates to see if there is anything that they noted that you may have missed
- Try to figure out **why** there were changes and **why** there were things that stayed the same
- Your assignment is to try to come up with topic sentences and a thesis for *Dani California*.

Some possible answers for *Dani California* by the Red Hot Chili Peppers

CHANGE	SAME	WHY
Black and White to Color	Same song	<i>(remember that why can be for change or for continuity)</i>
Film style: grainy, to psychedelic, concert footage to music video style	Members of the band remained and played the same basic roles	Changes in technology could dictate changes in performance (filming, use of electric/unplugged, way people experience music)
Hairstyles, clothing, overall appearance	Musical performance was not changed	Change in the way in which popular music is consumed by the public (youth culture)
Change from dynamic dancing to melancholy candle-lit		Changes in what is considered popular or in style
Approachable to threatening (some of the punk or metal looking bands?)		Youth culture is always going to have music that it is drawn to and "speaks for them"
		Changes could have been impacted in time periods by political/social factors (periods where music was used to convey deeper meanings to the audience)
		Musicians will perform music at whatever time within their talents

The Thesis

- A possible thesis for this example would need to reflect both continuity and change, give at least one specific point and reflect the period of time that is being examined. One way to do this would be:
- *Youth culture is directly connected to popular music and this interrelation is evident in the example of 'Dani California', by the Red Hot Chili Peppers, who portray the evolution of popular music from the age of Elvis to modern rock and show that though the superfluous aspects of appearance, presentation and performance change to match the conditions of the time and demands of youth; ultimately it is still music which represents the youth of society.*
- This is a very long thesis and it may be broken up into shorter sentences - but what is key is that it meets all of the requirements of a thesis. For those of you that are trying to figure out how to write your thesis - do not fret if it becomes two sentences as long as you are making sure that you are meeting the requirements of change, continuity, why and example.

Example CCOT

- ***Analyze the major political and economic continuities and changes that occurred in Mesopotamia from 8000BCE to 600CE***

Create a chart

	Positive Changes	Negative Changes	Continuities
Political		Although society was more protected because of city walls, etc., a sedentary lifestyle meant that people were more vulnerable in case of attacks	Most people continued a nomadic, and thus clan-based fairly egalitarian lifestyle
	Ruling class had many privileges		Most people – whether they were nomadic or sedentary – never had an opportunity to rule, and were at the mercy of those that did.
Economic	Farming began and there was a division of labor. Trade occurred between city-states and between pastoralists and agriculturalists		Most people continued a nomadic lifestyle. In fact, migration still occurred even when pastoralists became more prevalent than hunter-gatherers.
	Eventually, a surplus of food	In times of war and drought, food could be become very scarce. Many more hours of labor were needed to grow food than to engage in hunting and gathering	Hunting and gathering continued on the periphery. Many people began to domesticate animals in addition to hunting and gathering. People continued to wander.

What would be the possible thesis?

- Mesopotamia changed between 8000BCE and 600CE with the domestication of animals and the invention of agriculture. These innovations led to the creation of city-states ruled by strong leaders and to the beginning of trade. Despite all these changes, most people continued to live in clan-based communities on the periphery of these city-states and continued to hunt and gather for sustenance.

Try one on your own:

- ***Analyze how gender roles in India and China changed from 8000BCE to 600CE.***
- Copy this prompt down on the top of your CCOT chart.

Next step:

- Use the CCOT chart to try and identify positive and negative changes as well as continuities
- You may want to use your PERSIAN-I charts. Not all sections of the chart will apply, but you should look at what aspects of society influence gender roles, such as:
 - Economy
 - Social status
 - Religion
- Then, attempt a thesis statement and some possible topic sentences for the body paragraphs.
- Bring you filled in chart, thesis, & topic sentences to the next tutorial.

Good Luck!