

Tips for Paper 2 and Paper 3 responses

- Approach questions thematically, think about how a question might have various related subtopics that can allow you to organize a response into separate paragraphs.
- Once you have themes or subtopics in mind, think about your essay's arguments concerning them. Make sure that you briefly list them in an essay outline before beginning to write.
- Think and note down any counterarguments that people may have in response to your arguments. Write whether they may hold merit or aren't as valid as your arguments. Make sure you elaborate on your evaluation of these counterarguments or perspectives.
- You do not need to know specific historians' arguments for the previously mentioned point, but it might still be useful to explore their works.
- In your introduction, briefly explain the historical context of the question and outline the arguments your essays will be making.
- In your conclusion, restate the thesis statement in the introduction while briefly going over the evidence and arguments you might have brought up to back up your overarching point. Briefly go over alternate perspectives and why they might be considered or refuted.
- Nuance is everything. It is rare that any question has a straightforward answer so it's important to make your arguments with nuance in mind. You might for example say that "this may have led to x" instead of stating that "y definitely led to x".
- One of the best ways to practice for your tests and exams is through the use of essay outlines. Practicing making essay outlines in a timed manner allows you to practice key skills such as argument without expending a significant amount of time and energy,