AP WORLD HISTORY

Continuity and Change Over Time Essays

A CCOT question is similar to a comparative one, the key difference being instead of comparing between two *places* during the same *time*, one is comparing between two *times*, often in the same *place*.

The structure for a CCOT thesis is simpler than for a comparative thesis, but shares the following elements:

1. It is clear – it clearly responds to the question and is on topic.

2. It is comprehensive – it addresses the whole prompt, and

3. It is analytical – it establishes clear categories of “continuity” versus “change”.

Compositionally, a CCOT essay is *simpler* than that of a comparative essay. Your overall structure will look something like this:

I. **Thesis** that identifies continuities versus changes

II. Topic sentence (sub-argument) that identifies a CHANGE

III. Topic sentence (sub-argument) that identifies another CHANGE

IV. Topic sentence (sub-argument) that identifies a CONTINUITY.

V. Conclusion the identifies the global context and patterns of the changes in your thesis.

You will, of course, offer **evidence** within each evidentiary paragraph.

Evidentiary paragraphs should be structured as follows:

I. Topic Sentence arguing for a Continuity or Change

II. Evidence supporting the continuity or change (specific example)

III. Evidence supporting the continuity or change (specific example)

IV. Commentary/Analysis that addresses **causes** of change.

V. Commentary/Analysis that addresses **effects** of change.

An example of a CCOT prompt is:

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Directions: You are to answer the following question. You should spend 5 minutes organizing or outlining your essay.

Write an essay that:

* Has a relevant thesis and supports that thesis with appropriate historical evidence.
* Addresses all parts of the question.
* Uses world historical context to show change-over-time and/or continuities.
* Analyzes the process of change over time and/or continuity

**Analyze the cultural and political changes and continuities in ONE of the following civilizations during the last centuries of the classical era.**

**Chinese, 100CE – 600CE**

**Roman, 100CE – 600CE**

**Indian, 300CE to 600 CE**

Here is a graphic organizer to use when pre-writing for a CCOT essay:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Change 1 | Change2 | Continuity |
| Possible Evidence? | Possible Evidence? | Possible Evidence? |
| Causes  Effects | Causes  Effects | Global context:  Similar example: |