

THEMES OF WORLD HISTORY

These are the five themes around which we will base our study of world history this semester. They are based on those chosen by the College Board. Following a brief description of each theme is a list of learning objectives which describe, in more detail, what a student must demonstrate to earn credit. In each unit we study, we will address each of the themes multiple times; however, not every objective will be assessed in each unit.

You will undoubtedly notice that there are many overlapping concepts amongst the themes. Most of the things we talk about in history classes can, and should, be viewed through multiple lenses.

➤ **Interaction Between Humans and the Environment (ENV):**

How has the environment affected humans, and how have humans affected their environment, throughout history?

1. Explain how have societies adapted to, and affected, their environments.
2. Explain how environmental factors have influenced patterns of human migration and settlement.
3. Evaluate to what extent, and in what ways, migration and urbanization have affected the environment.
4. Evaluate the extent to which environmental factors have influenced human technology, communication, transportation, exchange and settlement?

➤ **Development and Interaction of Cultures (CUL)**

What has been the impact of the origin, use, spread, and adaptation of belief systems (religions, philosophies, ideologies, etc.) and knowledge within and between societies?

1. Explain how belief systems (religions, philosophies, ideologies, etc.) originated, developed, and spread.
2. Explain how belief systems (religions, philosophies, ideologies, etc.) affected political, economic, and social developments.
3. Explain how cross-cultural interactions resulted in the diffusion of culture, technology, and scientific knowledge.
4. Explain how technological and scientific innovations affected belief systems (religions, philosophies, ideologies, etc.) over time.
5. Explain how the arts are shaped by and reflect innovation, adaptation, and creativity of specific societies over time.
6. Explain how expanding exchange networks created new forms of transregional culture (music, literature, art, etc.).

➤ **State Building, Expansion, and Conflict (SB)**

How have systems of rule and governance been constructed, maintained, and changed over time?

1. Explain how different forms of governance have been constructed, maintained, and changed over time.
2. Explain how and why economic, social, cultural, and geographic factors have influenced the way states were built, maintained, and dissolved.
3. Explain how and why internal and external factors have influenced the process of state building, maintenance, and dissolution.
4. Evaluate the impact of interactions between states, or between states and non-state actors.

➤ **Creation, Expansion, Interaction, and Decline of Economic Systems (ECON)**

How have human societies produced, distributed, and consumed desired goods and services across time and place?

1. Explain how technology shaped economic production and globalization.
2. Explain the causes and effects of different economic strategies in various communities and states.
3. Explain how different modes and locations of production and commerce have changed over time.
4. Explain the causes and effects of labor reform movements.
5. Explain how and why labor systems have changed over time.
6. Explain how economic systems and belief systems (religions, philosophies, ideologies, etc.) have influenced each other.
7. Explain how local, regional, and global economic systems and exchange networks have influenced each other over time.

➤ **Development and Transformation of Social Structures (SOC)**

How do human beings group themselves, as well as others, and how do these groupings govern the interactions between individuals, groups of individuals, or societies?

1. Explain how distinctions based on kinship, ethnicity, class, gender and the perception of “race” influenced the creation, maintenance, and change of social hierarchies.
2. Evaluate the extent to which belief systems (religions, philosophies, ideologies, etc.) affected social hierarchies.
3. Evaluate the extent to which legal systems, colonialism, nationalism and independence movements have sustained or challenged social hierarchies.
4. Explain how political, economic, cultural, and demographic factors have affected social structures over time.
5. Explain how social categories, roles, and practices have been maintained or challenged over time.