

How to LEQ!
AP World History
Kienast

Continuity and Change over Time (CCOT)

Paragraph 1:

Discuss historical context that applies to the subject of the essay. What was going on historically?
Thesis that identifies ONE continuity or ONE change.

Paragraph 2:

Identify ONE continuity or ONE change.

Provide at least two pieces of specific evidence that proves that something stayed the same throughout the time period in question or specific evidence that shows what the situation was like before change and after change.

Explain WHY the concept existed continuously throughout the time period or changed during the time period.

Paragraph 3: (OPTIONAL)

Identify the opposite of the change or continuity above. This paragraph should be written as a “despite” paragraph, arguing for example that while change occurred, some things stayed the same.

Evidence of continuity or change

Explain WHY the change or continuity occurred.

Paragraph 4:

Restate thesis and explain the connection of your continuity and/or change to one of the following:

Explain BOTH continuity and change (done in paragraph 3)

How continuity or change impacted a development in the period immediately after.

How continuity or change impacted a subject not covered in the topic.

Comparative (COMP)

Paragraph 1:

Discuss historical context that applies to the subject of the essay. What was going on historically?
Thesis that identifies ONE similarity or ONE difference.

Paragraph 2:

Identify ONE similarity or ONE difference

Explain why BOTH societies had that characteristic or why they were different

Provide specific evidence for BOTH societies (two pieces of evidence).

Paragraph 3: (OPTIONAL)

Identify ONE similarity OR difference.

Explain why the difference occurred.

Provide specific evidence that shows how each society was different (two pieces of evidence).

Paragraph 4:

Restate thesis and explain the connection of your similarity and/ or difference to one of the following:

Argue BOTH a similarity AND a difference. (Done in paragraph 3)

How a trait impacted a development in the period immediately after.

How trait impacted a subject not covered in the topic.

How a subject not covered in the topic impacted the subject in question.

Causation

Paragraph 1:

Discuss historical context that applies to the subject of the essay. What was going on historically?
Thesis that identifies the causes and/or effects of a particular development.

Paragraph 2:

Identify three causes for why something happened or identify three situations where a cause applies, depending on the question. These identifications can be in one paragraph or three.
Explain WHY the causes and/or effects occurred.

Paragraph 3:

Restate thesis and explain the connection of your causes to one of the following:

- How an effect impacted a development in the period immediately after.
- How effect impacted a subject not covered in the topic.
- How a subject not covered in the topic impacted the subject in question

One important note to remember: the essay prompts will allow you to write different types of essays. If the question says something to the effect of “identify the causes of...in one or more societies”, then the writer can choose either a causation essay or choose to compare two societies. While the sample CCOT essay below was written as a CCOT, the writer could have written a causation essay and identified three reasons why Chinese philosophy changed.

Sample essays (with bracketed notations that should NOT be used when writing essays)

CCOT Sample Question and Response

In the period to 200 BCE, states and empires increased in size and contacts between regions intensified. Along with these new contacts, human communities transformed their religious and ideological beliefs and practices.

Explain how Chinese philosophical thought changed between 700 BCE and 200 BCE.

The period in Chinese history between 700 BCE and 200 BCE was a period of civil war. A rebellion against the Zhou Dynasty created a massive civil war that led scholars to propose new philosophies. Despite the changes, the Zhou continued to use legalist philosophy as the basis of their government due to the ease of enforcing rule through legalism. Despite the continued use of legalism, new philosophies such as Confucianism began to be popular among the people as the war continued. [Thesis paragraph shows historical context and clearly identifies ONE continuity and ONE change]

Legalist philosophy was used throughout the period from 700-200 BCE. Legalistic practices of rule were being used by the Zhou as early as 700 BCE, at the start of the Warring States Period. [evidence of legalism from early in the period] The Zhou used harsh punishments and strict enforcement of law in order to keep China from rebelling against their rule. Despite resistance to legalism and the rise of both Confucianism and Daoism around 500 BCE, the Zhou continued to use legalism until their overthrow by the Qin around 220 BCE. [evidence of legalism in the middle of the period] The Qin also used legalism when they came to power, crushing their enemies with brutal force. [evidence of legalism from late in the period] The reason why many leaders turned to legalism was its ease of use. It was easier for a leader to

simply employ harsh methods because people often respond to fear with obedience, at least in the short-term. [reason for continuity]

The rise of Confucianism around 500 BCE was a change in Chinese political philosophy. Before the rise of Confucianism, legalism was the only philosophy popularly used in China. [evidence of the way philosophy was before change] *Many Chinese citizens became dissatisfied with the harsh legalism used by the Zhou and turned to a philosophy that preached respect in hopes that the civil war might end.* [reason for change] *While Confucianism became popular, it was not adopted by a Chinese government until around 200 BCE when the Han synthesized Confucianism and legalism together.* [evidence of change]

China between the years 700 and 200 BCE saw continuous use of legalistic philosophy while Confucianism grew in popularity during the same period. Confucianism had an impact on both Chinese culture and the cultures of other nations that surrounded them. Respect for one's relatives and ancestors was a part of Confucian filial piety and impacted Chinese culture in the period immediately following the rise of Confucianism. [connection between the time period and a later time period] *Other countries around China also saw the strength of China's State Confucianism, which led nations such as Korea and Japan to adopt China's philosophies.* [connection between a development in China and a development in another country]

COMP Sample Question and Response

In the period to 600 C.E., the first urban societies shared several significant social, political, and economic characteristics.

Develop an argument that explains the reasons for the rise of governments in one or more early civilizations.

Early in the period which saw the rise of the first great civilizations, leaders struggled to unite their people together and form the first governments. Leaders wanted to form stable governments in order to promote agriculture, build projects, and promote long distance trade. [Thesis paragraph shows historical context] *In order to solidify their status, the leaders of the governments of Egypt and Mesopotamia both used the concept of divine right to rule. Despite that similarity, the two governments were different in that Egypt had an extensive bureaucratic system while the bureaucracies in Mesopotamian city-states were much smaller.* [thesis clearly identifies one similarity and one difference]

The leaders of both Egypt and the Mesopotamian city-states used divine right to rule their civilizations. Egypt's pharaohs were believed to be actual gods, which certainly shows divine right to rule. [evidence] *Some of the Mesopotamian kings, such as Gilgamesh of Uruk, were said to be descended from the gods, but even if they were not descended from the gods, Mesopotamian leaders believed that the gods gave them the right to rule.* [evidence] *Both the Egyptian and Mesopotamian leaders believed in divine right because it gave them unquestioned authority. People in their two civilizations were highly unlikely to rebel against someone who they thought received their power from the gods.* [reason for similarity]

While Egypt and the Mesopotamian city-states were similar in the use of divine right, they were different in the level of bureaucracy that they used. Egypt had an extensive bureaucratic system, with the pharaoh using regional governors and prime ministers to help him or her rule. [evidence] *Mesopotamian city-states such as Ur, Uruk, and Babylon* [evidence] *were not nearly as bureaucratic due to the fact that they were much smaller and easier for a select group of people to rule. There was simply no need for the deep bureaucracy that Egypt needed to rule such a vast area.* [reason for difference]

Egyptian and Mesopotamian leaders shared the concept of divine right but differed in the level of bureaucracy the government employed. Geography may have played a role in shaping Egypt differently than Mesopotamia. The Egyptian government controlled a much larger civilization because the Nile naturally kept cities closer together. Deserts existed on either side of the Nile, preventing the spread of the society. [connection between another subject, in this case, geography, to the subject in the question, politics.] In that way, Egypt became much larger unified civilization while Mesopotamia was harder to unify. The lack of unification in Mesopotamia led to the lack of an extensive bureaucracy.

Causation Sample Question and Response

During the period to 600 BCE, patriarchal forms of social organization developed in both pastoralist and agrarian societies.

Develop an argument that identifies why women suffered discrimination in one or more societies during the period from 600 BCE-600 CE.

The period 600 BCE to 600 CE witnessed a number of governmental changes that help explain increased discrimination against women. Empires were expanding and promoting long distance trade. One problem that empires had was trying to unite their people together and often rebellion was the result. One method that many empires employed in order to keep their societies obedient is to establish the leader as a father figure and promoted patriarchy within the society. [Thesis paragraph shows historical context] Most women during the period from 600 BCE-600 CE suffered discrimination due to the rise of patriarchal empires during the period. [thesis identifies one cause of discrimination; three empires will be used as specific evidence. The writer could also have identified three sources of discrimination and used different societies or even one society as examples]

The treatment of most women throughout the world went from bad to worse as empires rose into power. Empire such as the Roman, Han, and Gupta Empires all used some form of patriarchy to lessen powers of women. Citizens of the Roman Empire were taught to view the emperor as a father-figure whom they should obey without question. As a result, the head of the household was male and was to be obeyed as a model of how all should obey their political leader. [evidence showing empire connection to discrimination] Han Chinese were part of a government system called State Confucianism, under which they were expected to obey the leader much like they learned to obey their father. In order to keep order in society, a strict hierarchy under which people would obey their fathers and wives would obey the male household leader was established. [evidence showing empire connection to discrimination] Gupta leaders adopted Hinduism as their hierarchal system, which discriminated against women because a person had to be a male Brahman to become one with the universal spirit. [evidence showing empire connection to discrimination] All of these societies used political systems to create order in society and part of that order was to keep the aspirations of women in check. Obedience was expected of someone lower in social status than you. [explanation of cause and effect]

Women in the period from 600 BCE-600 CE suffered through discrimination due to the rise of empires such as Rome and Han China. One reason why patriarchy existed in the first place was due to the rise of agriculture throughout the world. Agriculture led to discrimination of women because farming families needed to be larger and as a result, women were pregnant more often. Large numbers of children meant that women could not help out in the fields, leading toward a perceived lack of work by men. The father became the head of the household and emperors encouraged the symbolism of themselves as the leader, much like a father was the head of the household. This patriarchal view of the household was started by agriculture. [connection between a development in an earlier time period to the time period in question. Also shows connection between social history and economic history]