

AP World History FAQ

1. How is an AP class different from an Honors class?

- a. *The fundamental difference between an AP class and any honors course is that an AP class is college level class, with college level curriculum/expectations being taught on a high school campus. Honors classes are still high school level classes with a moderately accelerated curriculum.*

2. How much homework can I expect my child to have in AP World?

- a. *I only assign two homework assignments every week. The first is their chapter outline for the week, and this assignment is always due on your child's block period day. The second is their weekly notecards/key terms. This assignment is always due on the day they take their test (which 99% of the time is Friday). How long these assignments take to complete can vary from student to student. Keep in mind that your student has never been asked to use a college textbook as their primary text at any time prior to this. I have given them tools on how to navigate this level of text (breaking the chapter down by section, read before outline, etc...). Ultimately they get better at completing these assignments as the year goes on. In the beginning they may struggle and they may take considerably longer to complete than you have ever witnessed prior. This is normal and part of the acclimation to AP.*

3. How can I help my student study for AP World?

- a. *It is very important that students get work done on the weekends. I have advised that students complete their outlines for the week by Sunday. This way, they can spend the remainder of the week studying and completing their notecards. Make sure they take the vocabulary seriously. This is a vocabulary driven course; with places, names, and events that are completely unfamiliar to them, they need to know them to be successful. Help them with time management. This is often the single most difficult aspect for students to master. If you witness your child staying up to early morning hours midweek, chances are they are procrastinating in completing the work.*

4. What is the pass rate for AP World?

- a. *I try not to take too much credit for this as I have been blessed with students who were willing to work hard and did what I asked of them. With that said, over the past 4 years the pass rate for AP World has varied from about 70% passing with a 3 or better on the AP test (out of a possible score of 5) to approximately 80% passing with a 3 or better.*

5. My child has a B/C, is it time to panic?

- a. *Definitely not. Please try and keep the following in perspective: Your 14/15 year old child is getting a passing grade in a course that is designed for 20/21 year olds. That accomplishment should be celebrated and is no cause for worry.*

6. How do colleges view grades of B or C in AP courses?

- a. *Colleges would much rather see a B or C in an AP level course than an A in the “regular” class. All other things being equal, two students apply to college one has straight A’s with no AP’s, the other has the occasional B or C but carried AP classes. The student with the AP classes will usually get in first. Colleges want to see that a student pursued “the most rigorous course of study”.*

7. What extra credit is offered in AP World?

- a. *I offer extra credit every week. Students are only required to complete 10 notecards from their word list in any given week. I will give them ¼ point of extra credit for every card they complete above the required 10. There is also the opportunity for a 2% grade bump for completing a history day project and competing in the county History Day competition. More information on this opportunity will be coming.*

8. Do you offer a grade bump if a student earns a certain score on the AP Test?

- a. *There is no grade bump offered for passing the AP test in AP World History.*

9. When does my child order his/her AP test?

- a. *Registration for the AP test is done through an online system. Announcements will be made in class and on my website (www.mrkislingsclasses.com) as to when the portal will be available.*

10. What have been the most successful practices of former AP World students?

- a. *One of the biggest determining factors for whether or not a student is successful in this class or not is how seriously they take the vocabulary. It is impossible to answer any question (multiple choice or essay) about Qin Shihuangdi if you do not know who he was in the first place. Also, the most successful students studied the material. I know that this sounds obvious, but a common misconception that many students have is that by just completing their work for the week, they have studied. They need to go back through the work they created, study the notecards, look at their outline, and reread the chapter. Those are the behaviors that count as studying, not just completing the work assigned.*

11. What are you looking for in the notecard assignment?

- a. *They are required to present 3 pieces of information on their notecards:*
 - i. *Definition – simple definition. This can be from the back of the book or taken from contextual clues in the text*
 - ii. *Importance – Why is this thing important?*
 - iii. *Analysis – Analyze the significance. This is often the one that students miss as the answer does not come verbatim from the book, but rather from their own thoughts and understanding of the term. I have often told them to try and build the following verbs into the analysis statements (SHOW, CREATE, REPRESENT, EXEMPLIFY, PERSONIFY, CONSTITUTE, SET UP, or REVEAL).*

12. What are you looking for in the outline assignment?

- a. *There are basically two parts to the outline assignment: the outline and the method questions. The outline is pretty straight forward. How to do this was explained to the students on the first week of class. I will never grade them for the length of the outline. I want them to start figuring out what they need to include to be create a meaningful chapter outline. However, if they come to me and they are struggling, the outlines are going to be the first thing we examine. The second part is the method questions. They are to find examples of each of the 5 methods of historical study (big picture, diffusion, syncretism, comparison, and common phenomena) and present them IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION OR PROMPT.*

13. What is the best way to study for your tests and quizzes?

- a. *Again: vocab, vocab, vocab. Also, it helps if they try to break the reading up. Most students find it difficult to remember all the information in the chapter if they attempt to read it all in one sitting. Break it up by section, review the section and then move on. Also, there are practice quizzes for the text online at http://highered.mheducation.com/sites/0024122010/student_view0/index.html. Many students have found these helpful in preparing.*

14. Should my child buy a commercial AP World test/prep review book?

- a. *Not yet. We will not start reviewing until mid-spring. Although if one waits too long they run the risk of the only bookstore here in Fresno running out of them. We will not actually use them in class, but the practice tests are good preparation for the exam.*