TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Advanced Placement Course of Study

Overview Information

Title of Course: **Advanced Placement Course of Study**	
Course Author(s): Ted Brown, Lindsey Kornfeld, Jen Dolan, and David Gutfeld	Schools where the course will be taught: All Comprehensive Sites
Length of Course: 1 year	Subject Area and Discipline: Social Sciences, UC Area A
Grade Levels: 11	Is this course an integrated course? No
Is this course being submitted for possible UC honors designation? Yes, UC "A" AP	Are you seeking UC approval? If so, in what area (A-G)?
Prerequisites (required or recommended): Successful completion of World History	Co-requisites (required or recommended): none
If there are prerequisites for the course, please include a justification as to why they are in place: N/A	
Check all that apply: ✅ UC A-G course ✅ Graduation Requirement (AP US or US required) ☐ Elective ✅ Honors/AP ☐ CTE	

Introduction to the Course

Course Overview: In AP U.S.History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course also provides eight themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures.

In AP US History, students engage in learning that understand the historical developments that have shaped our modern world. Students look at contributions and perspectives of marginalized groups. Students collaborate to discuss and make meaning of complex text while applying critical thinking to analyze the past using historical thinking.

Course Themes:

- **Migration and Settlement**—Push and pull factors shape immigration to and migration within America, and the demographic change as a result of these moves shapes the migrants, society, and the environment.
- **Geography and the Environment**—Geographic and environmental factors, including competition over and debates about natural resources, shape the development of America and foster regional diversity. The development of America impacts the environment and reshapes geography, which leads to debates about environmental and geographic issues.
- **Work, Exchange, and Technology**—The interplay between markets, private enterprise, labor, technology, and government policy shape the American economy. In turn, economic activity shapes society and government policy and drives technological innovation.
- **America in the World**—Diplomatic, economic, cultural, and military interactions between empires, nations, and peoples shape the development of America and America's increasingly important role in the world.
- **Social Structures**—Social categories, roles, and practices are created, maintained, challenged, and transformed throughout American history, shaping government policy, economic systems, culture, and the lives of citizens.
- **American and Regional Culture**—Creative expression,demographic change, philosophy, religious beliefs, scientific ideas, social mores, and technology shape national, regional, and group cultures in America, and these varying cultures often play a role in shaping government policy and developing economic systems.
- **American and National Identity**—The development of and debates about democracy, freedom, citizenship, diversity, and individualism shape American national identity, cultural values, and beliefs about American exceptionalism, and in turn, these ideas shape political institutions and society. Throughout American history, notions of national identity and culture have coexisted with varying degrees of regional and group identities.

Unit 1: ***Period 1: 1491-1607***

Unit Summary:
Unit 1 examines the complex societies that existed in the Americas before European contact and the profound

transformations that followed the arrival of Europeans. Indigenous peoples developed diverse and sophisticated cultures shaped by their environments, from complex civilizations in Mesoamerica to nomadic and agricultural societies in North America. The arrival of Europeans initiated the Columbian Exchange, bringing new crops, animals, peoples, and diseases that reshaped the Atlantic world. Competing European powers—especially Spain, France, and later England—established colonies and trade networks, while Native Americans and Africans adapted to and resisted these changes, setting the stage for early patterns of cultural interaction, conflict, and exchange in the New World.

Essential Questions:

- How did the Columbian Exchange—the mutual transfer of material goods, commodities, animals, and diseases—affect interaction between Europeans and natives and among indigenous peoples in North America?
- Where did different groups settle in the Americas (before contact) and how and why did they move to and within the Americas (after contact)?
- How did Spain's early entry into colonization in the Caribbean, Mexico, and South America shape European and American developments in this period?
- How did European attempts to dominate the Americas shape relations between Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans?
- How did pre-contact populations of North America relate to their environments? How did contact with Europeans and Africans change these relations in North America?
- How did cultural contact challenge the religious and other values systems of peoples from the Americas, Africa, and Europe?

Unit Themes:

1. **American and National Identity**

Examine how Indigenous peoples and early European settlers defined identity, society, and culture.

- Indigenous social, political, and cultural systems before European contact.
- Early European ideas about the "New World" and cultural encounters.
- How early interactions began shaping competing identities in North America.

2. **Work, Exchange, and Technology**

Explore how economic systems, labor, and technology shaped societies and interactions.

- Indigenous agriculture, trade networks, and resource management.
- European introduction of new crops, animals, and technologies.
- Early Atlantic trade networks connecting the Americas, Europe, and Africa.

3. **Geography and the Environment**

Analyze how geography and the environment influenced settlement, society, and culture.

- Adaptation of Indigenous peoples to diverse ecosystems.
- Geographic factors shaping European exploration and colonization.
- Environmental impacts of early European settlement.

4. **Migration and Settlement**

Assess how migration and settlement patterns shaped societies.

- Indigenous migration and settlement across North America.
- European exploration and establishment of colonies.
- Early forced migration of Africans through the Atlantic slave trade.

5. **Politics and Power**

Evaluate how political structures and power dynamics developed.

- Indigenous governance and diplomacy.
  European territorial claims and colonial governments.
- Conflicts over land, resources, and sovereignty.

6. America in the World

Investigate the Americas' interactions with Europe, Africa, and Asia.

- Transatlantic exchanges (Columbian Exchange, trade, disease).
- Early colonization within the context of global exploration and competition.

7. **American and Regional Culture**

Analyze the cultural beliefs, values, and practices of Indigenous peoples and Europeans.

- Indigenous religious, social, and artistic traditions.
- European religious motives for colonization (Catholicism, Protestantism).
- Early cultural syncretism and adaptation in contact zones.

8. Social Structures

Examine hierarchies, social roles, and inequalities.

- Gender, class, and social organization in Native societies.
- European social hierarchies and class systems in colonies.
- Early systems of coerced labor and slavery in the Americas.

Unit Outcomes:

- Explain the context for European encounters in the Americas from 1491 to 1607.
- Explain how and why various native populations in the period before European contact interacted with the natural environment in North America.
- Explain the causes of exploration and conquest of the New World by various European nations.
- Explain causes of the Columbian Exchange and its effect on Europe and the Americas during the period after 1492.
- Explain how the growth of the Spanish Empire in North America shaped the development of social and economic structures over time.
- Explain the effects of the development of transatlantic voyages from 1491 to 1607.
- Assess the interactions among Native American societies, Europeans, and Africans in the period, including systems of labor, slavery, and caste.

Skills: See skills developed throughout Unit 1 in the table below.

Thematic Focus	Topic	Reasoning Process	Suggested Skill	Class Periods ~8 CLASS PERIODS
	1.1 Contextualizing Period 1	Continuity and Change	4.A Identify and describe a historical context for a specific historical development or process.	
GEO	**1.2 Native American Societies Before European Contact**	Comparison	1.A Identify a historical concept, development, or process.	
WOR	**1.3 European Exploration in the Americas**	Causation	1.A Identify a historical concept, development, or process.	
GEO	**1.4 Columbian Exchange, Spanish Exploration, and Conquest**	Causation	3.A Identify and describe a claim and/or argument in a text-based or non-text-based source.	

SOC	**1.5 Labor, Slavery, and Caste in the Spanish Colonial System**	Causation	CLA Identify patterns among or connections between historical developments and processes.	
WOR	**1.6 Cultural Interactions Between Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans**	Comparison	SAQ Identify the evidence used in a source to support an argument.	
	1.7 Causation in Period 1	Causation	CLA Make a historically defensible claim.	

Samples of Unit Assignments:

- Teachers lead class discussions on major topics and essential questions listed above.
- Review summer reading and writing assignments. Class discussions (with exemplars) of summer written work with emphasis on historical argumentation and thesis statements supported by relevant historical evidence.
- Short answer and Multiple Choice question practice in advance of tests.
- Using excerpts from sources like Christopher Columbus's journal, Bartolomé de Las Casas's *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*, and John Smith's writings, students evaluate European motives and attitudes toward Native peoples. Students work in groups to answer sourcing questions (Who wrote this? Why? For whom?) and present findings that compare Spanish, French, and English colonial goals and moral justifications.

Sample Unit Assessment:

- Write a long essay question analyzing the impact of European Colonization.

UNIT 2 – Period 2: 1607–1754

Unit Summary:

Unit 2 explores the development of the British North American colonies and the emergence of distinct regional societies between 1607 and 1754. English colonization efforts led to the establishment of the Chesapeake, New England, Middle, and Southern colonies, each shaped by differing geographic, economic, religious, and social factors. The transatlantic economy—including the Atlantic slave trade and mercantilist policies—linked the colonies to Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean, fostering both opportunity and conflict. Over time, colonial self-government, diverse cultures, and economic independence grew alongside tensions with Native peoples and imperial authorities, laying the foundations for an emerging American identity on the eve of the Revolutionary era.

Essential Questions:

- What were the chief similarities and differences among the development of English, Spanish, Dutch, and French colonies in America?
- How did distinct economic systems, most notably a slavery system based on African labor, develop in British North America? What was their effect on emerging cultural and regional differences?
- Why did various colonists go to the New World? How did the increasing integration of the Atlantic world affect the movement of peoples between its different regions?
- In what ways did the British government seek to exert control over its American colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries?
- How and why did the English North American colonies develop into distinct regions?

- How did the expansion of cultural contact in North America affect intellectual and religious life, the growth of trade, and the shape of political institutions?

Themes:

1. **American and National Identity**

Examine how colonists and Indigenous peoples defined identity, community, and belonging.

- Development of distinct colonial societies with different regional identities (New England, Middle, Southern).
- Formation of social hierarchies and local political structures.
- Early ideas about liberty, rights, and civic participation within colonies.

2. **Work, Exchange, and Technology**

Explore how economic systems, labor, and technology shaped colonial societies.

- Plantation economies in the South and subsistence farming in the North.
- Growth of trade networks (Atlantic trade, triangular trade, mercantilism).
- Labor systems: indentured servitude, slavery, and Native American labor.

3. **Geography and the Environment**

Analyze how geography and the environment influenced settlement, economy, and culture.

- Regional differences shaped by climate, soil, and resources.
- Coastal vs. inland settlement patterns.
- Environmental challenges influencing agriculture, urban growth, and trade.

4. **Migration and Settlement**

Assess how migration and settlement patterns shaped society and regional development.

- European migration to North America (English, Dutch, French, German, Scots-Irish).
- Movement of enslaved Africans and the development of the transatlantic slave trade.
- Displacement and migration of Native American groups.

5. **Politics and Power**

Evaluate how political institutions, authority, and governance developed.

- Colonial governments and the evolution of local assemblies.
- Relationships between colonies and European monarchies.
- Conflicts over land, trade, and authority with Native Americans and between colonies.

6. **America in the World**

Investigate how the colonies interacted with Europe, Africa, and Indigenous peoples.

- European competition for land and resources in North America.
- Integration of colonies into global trade networks (mercantilism).
- Diplomacy, conflict, and alliances with Native American nations.

7. **American and Regional Culture**

Analyze how culture, religion, and ideas shaped colonial life.

- Role of religion in shaping New England Puritan culture and Middle Colonies diversity.
- Development of literacy, education, and print culture.
- Cultural blending and conflict between Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans.

8. **Social Structures**

Examine hierarchies, gender roles, and social organization.

- Class divisions: elites, middle class, indentured servants, and enslaved people.
  Gender roles and family structures within colonies.
- Racial and ethnic hierarchies and the codification of slavery.

Unit Outcomes:

- Explain the context for the colonization of North America from 1607 to 1754.
- Explain how and why various European colonies developed and expanded from 1607 to 1754**.**
- Explain how and why various factors shaped the development and expansion of various British colonies that developed and expanded from 1607 to 1754.
- Explain causes and effects of transatlantic trade over time.
- Explain how and why interactions between various European nations and Native Americans changed over time.
- Explain the causes and effects of slavery in the various British colonial regions.
- Explain how and why the movement of a variety of people and ideas across the Atlantic contributed to the development of American culture in this era.
- Explain how and why the different goals and interests of European leaders and colonists affected how they viewed themselves and their relationship with Britain.

Skills:
See skills developed throughout Unit 2 in the table below.

Thematic Focus	Topic	Reasoning Process	Suggested Skill
	2.1 Contextualizing Period 2	Continuity and Change	4.A Identify and describe a historical context for a specific historical development or process.
MIG	**2.2 European Colonization**	Comparison	1.B Explain a historical concept, development, or process.
GEO	**2.3 The Regions of British Colonies**	Comparison	3.A Identify and describe a claim and/or argument in a text-based or non-text-based source.
WXT	**2.4 Transatlantic Trade**	Causation	5.A Identify patterns among or connections between historical developments and processes.
WOR	**2.5 Interactions Between American Indians and Europeans**	Comparison	2.A Identify a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience.
WXT, SOC	**2.6 Slavery in the British Colonies**	Causation	5.A Identify patterns among or connections between historical developments and processes.
ARC, NAT	**2.7 Colonial Society and Culture**	Comparison	1.A Identify a historical concept, development, or process.
	2.8 Comparison in Period 2	Comparison	6.B Support an argument using specific and relevant evidence. ▪ Describe specific examples of historically relevant evidence. ▪ Explain how specific examples of historically relevant evidence support an argument.

Sample Unit Assignments:

- Students participate in a Socratic Seminar where they will be given several questions covering early European colonization of America. They work with a partner to research each question and prepare notes that they may use in their discussion. On the day of the seminar students will be assigned to participate in a discussion on one of the assigned questions.
- Students work in groups on document analysis activities. They will practice document interpretation, document grouping, extended analysis, and thesis formation.
- Students are divided into groups representing the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies. Each group researches its region's economy, religion, labor systems, and social structure, then presents its findings in a visual format (poster, digital slideshow, or infographic).
- Students examine short primary and secondary excerpts on indentured servitude, the rise of African slavery, and the plantation economy (e.g., excerpts from Bacon's Rebellion documents, slave codes, or Olaudah Equiano's narrative)
- Short Answer Question and multiple choice practice, now with a focus on documents

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Sample Unit Assessment:

- Short Answer question comparing the development and characteristics of different colonial regions.

UNIT 3 – Period 3: 1754-1800

Unit Summary:

This unit covers the French and Indian War (Seven Years' War), the American Revolution, the creation of the new American republic under the Articles of Confederation and later the Constitution, and the early years of the United States as an independent nation

Essential Questions:

- What caused increasing resistance to British rule after 1763? How did economic, political, and cultural factors contribute to independence?
- In what ways did the Revolution emerge from both ideological and practical concerns?
- What were the primary points of contention between the two sides leading up to and following ratification in 1788?
- How did the use of media illuminate the debates that were held at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and connect these to the creation of an American political identity?
- How did debates over the Constitution and Bill of Rights shape the new republic?
- In what ways did political parties emerge, and what issues divided them? How did foreign policy challenges affect early national politics?
- How did Americans define and promote a distinctive "republican culture"?

Themes:

1. **American and National Identity**.

Examine how ideas about American identity and citizenship developed during the Revolution and early republic.

- Colonial identity vs. British identity
- Debates over rights, representation, and the meaning of liberty
- Formation of a new national identity after independence

2. **Work, Exchange, and Technology**.

Explore how economic change, trade, and early industrial developments shaped society.

- Shifts in commerce and trade due to imperial policies and the Revolution
- Early industrial and manufacturing growth in colonies and post-Revolution US
- Development of a national economy and debates over economic policy

3. **Geography and the Environment**.

Analyze how geographic and environmental factors influenced settlement, conflict, and expansion.

- Western frontier settlement and interactions with Native Americans
- Geography shaping military strategies and trade routes during the Revolution
- Environmental constraints on colonial and early U.S. expansion

4. Migration and Settlement

Assess how population movements affected society, land use, and political tensions.

- Expansion into western territories
- Loyalist migration during and after the Revolution
- Displacement of Native American populations

5. Politics and Power

Evaluate the evolution of political institutions, ideas of governance, and the distribution of power.

- Conflicts between colonies and Britain leading to the Revolution
- Articles of Confederation and the creation of the Constitution
- Debates over federal vs. state power in the early republic

6. America in the World

Investigate how US interactions with Britain, France, and other nations influenced domestic development.

- Global alliances and diplomacy during the Revolutionary War
- Postwar trade, treaties, and foreign policy challenges
- U.S. emergence on the international stage as an independent nation

7. American and Regional Culture

Analyze how culture, ideas, and regional differences developed during the Revolution and early republic.

- Revolutionary ideals shaping literature, political thought, and education.
- Emergence of distinct regional identities.
- Cultural debates over citizenship, virtue, and republicanism.

8. Social Structures

Examine how social hierarchies, race, class, and gender were challenged or reinforced.

- Status of women and African Americans during and after the Revolution.
- Changes in social mobility and class structures.
- Persistence of slavery and debates over emancipation.

Unit Outcomes:

- Identify and explain major causes, developments, and consequences of the American Revolution.
- Analyze how the Constitution and Bill of Rights emerged from the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and debates over federal vs. state power.
- Explain how ideas about national identity, citizenship, and economic/political structures evolved in the early republic.
- Develop historical arguments about continuity and change in the formative years of the United States.

Skills:

See skills developed throughout Unit 3 in the table below.

Thematic Focus	Topic	Reasoning Process	Suggested Skill
	3.1 Contextualizing Period 3	Continuity and Change	4.A Identify and describe a historical context for a specific historical development or process.
WOR	**3.2 The Seven Years' War (The French and Indian War)**	Causation	1.B Explain a historical concept, development, or process.
WOR	**3.3 Taxation Without Representation**	Causation	2.A Identify a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience.
NAT	**3.4 Philosophical Foundations of the American Revolution**	Continuity and Change	2.B Explain the point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience of a source.
WOR	**3.5 The American Revolution**	Causation	6.B Support an argument using specific and relevant evidence. ▪ Describe specific examples of historically relevant evidence. ▪ Explain how specific examples of historically relevant evidence support an argument.
SOC, WOR	**3.6 The Influence of Revolutionary Ideals**	Comparison	3.A Identify and describe a claim and/or argument in a text-based or non-text-based source.
PCE	**3.7 The Articles of Confederation**	Causation	3.B Identify the evidence used in a source to support an argument.
PCE	**3.8 The Constitutional Convention and Debates over Ratification**	Comparison	3.A Identify and describe a claim and/or argument in a text-based or non-text-based source.
PCE	**3.9 The Constitution**	Continuity and Change	5.A Identify patterns among or connections between historical developments and processes.

WOR, PCE	**3.10 Shaping a New Republic**	Causation	2.A Identify a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience.
ARC	**3.11 Developing an American Identity**	Continuity and Change	1.B Explain a historical concept, development, or process.
MIG, SOC	**3.12 Movement in the Early Republic**	Continuity and Change	5.A Identify patterns among or connections between historical developments and processes.
	3.13 Continuity and Change in Period 3	Continuity and Change	4.B Support an argument using specific and relevant evidence. ▪ Describe specific examples of historically relevant evidence. ▪ Explain how specific examples of historically relevant evidence support an argument.

Sample Unit Assignments:

- Identify the causes of the Declaration of Independence.
- Make comparisons between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists in ratification of the US Constitution.
- Analyze the patterns of continuity and change in Washington's Farewell Address.

Sample Unit Assessment:

- Document Based Question assessment evaluating the Early Republic and the formation of a national identity.

UNIT 4 – Period 4: 1800–1848

Unit Summary: This unit explores the transformation of American politics (Jeffersonian, Jacksonian eras), economic and technological innovations, reform movements (Second Great Awakening, women's, abolitionist), westward expansion, and debates over federal power and society.

Essential Questions:

- How did Americans define and promote a distinctive "republican culture"?
- What role did religion and social values play in shaping civic life?
- How did new ideas about gender, class, and democracy influence U.S. society?
- How were the 2nd Great Awakening and American republicanism connected? How were they different?
- How did key technological innovations impact the social, economic, and political developments in America from 1800-1848?
- How did migration and geographical expansion influence a growing sense of nationalism and sectionalism?
- How did expanding democracy change U.S. politics in the Jackson Era?

Themes:

1. American and National Identity

Examine how the nation's democratic ideals expanded during the early republic, and how debates over citizenship, rights, and democracy reflected tensions between equality and hierarchy.

- Growth of political parties and sectional identity.
- The impact of reform movements on American identity.

2. **Work, Exchange, and Technology**
Explore how the Market Revolution transformed the U.S. economy and society through new technologies, transportation networks, and regional specialization.

- Shift from subsistence to market-based agriculture.
- Early industrialization and labor changes.

3. **Geography and the Environment**
Analyze how environmental and geographic factors shaped economic and social development during westward expansion and regional growth.

- Transportation routes along rivers and canals.
- Expansion into Native lands and resource use.

4. Migration and Settlement
Assess how migration patterns—both voluntary and forced—shaped regional cultures and national debates.

- Internal migration to western territories.
- Immigration and nativism in the early 19th century.

5. **Politics and Power**
Evaluate how political institutions evolved as Americans debated the meaning of democracy and the proper role of the federal government.

- The rise of Jacksonian Democracy.
- Conflicts over states' rights and federal authority.

6. America in the World
Investigate how the United States sought to define its place in the world through expansion, diplomacy, and emerging foreign policy doctrines.

- The Monroe Doctrine.
- Trade and territorial expansion in the Atlantic and Pacific worlds.

7. American and Regional Culture
Analyze how religious and cultural movements expressed and shaped new national values and identities.

- The Second Great Awakening and reform movements.
- Emergence of distinct regional cultures and artistic expressions.

8. Social Structures
Examine how race, gender, and class influenced social hierarchies and reform efforts.

- Women's activism and early feminism.
- Persistence and defense of slavery alongside abolitionist challenges.

Unit Outcomes:

- Explain how political, economic, and social developments between 1800 and 1848 reshaped the United States, including innovations in transportation, communications, and markets.
- Analyze reform movements of the era, including religious revivalism, abolitionism, temperance, women's rights, and their impact on American society.
- Evaluate the causes and effects of westward expansion and how it affected Native Americans, settlement patterns, and the environment.

Skills:
See skills developed throughout Unit 4 in the table below.

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	4.1 Contextualizing Period 4	Continuity and Change	4.A Identify and describe a historical context for a specific historical development or process.
PCE	**4.2 The Rise of Political Parties and the Era of Jefferson**	Causation	2.A Identify a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience.
PCE	**4.3 Politics and Regional Interests**	Comparison	2.B Explain the point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience of a source.
WOR	**4.4 America on the World Stage**	Causation	2.B Explain the point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience of a source.
WXT	**4.5 Market Revolution: Industrialization**	Causation	6.B Support an argument using specific and relevant evidence. ▪ Describe specific examples of historically relevant evidence. ▪ Explain how specific examples of historically relevant evidence support an argument.
SOC	**4.6 Market Revolution: Society and Culture**	Comparison	5.B Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process.

Thematic Focus	Topic	Reasoning Process	Suggested Skill
PCE	**4.7 Expanding Democracy**	Causation	1.B Explain a historical concept, development, or process.
PCE	**4.8 Jackson and Federal Power**	Continuity and Change	3.D Explain how claims or evidence support, modify, or refute a source's argument.
ARC	**4.9 The Development of an American Culture**	Causation	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
ARC	**4.10 The Second Great Awakening**	Causation	5.B Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process.
ARC	**4.11 An Age of Reform**	Comparison	3.B Identify the evidence used in a source to support an argument.
SOC	**4.12 African Americans in the Early Republic**	Continuity and Change	3.D Explain how claims or evidence support, modify, or refute a source's argument.

GEO	**4.13 The Society of the South in the Early Republic**	Causation	1.B Explain a historical concept, development, or process.
	4.14 Causation in Period 4	Causation	6.C Use historical reasoning to explain relationships among pieces of historical evidence.

Sample Unit Assignments:

- Analyze changes in social class and culture in an SAQ-style question
- Using primary sources, evaluate the impacts of the Market Revolution on a variety of groups within the U.S.
- Apply continuity & change reasoning to assess how the United States changed (and remained the same) during this period.
- Using primary and secondary sources, evaluate the growth and preservation of enslaved culture in the U.S.

Sample Unit Assessment:

- Write a Long Essay question analyzing patterns of continuity and change of Jacksonian Democracy.

UNIT 5 – Period 5: 1844–1877

Unit Summary:

This unit covers the intensification of sectional conflict over slavery and expansion, the Civil War, and Reconstruction, addressing how the nation transformed through war, emancipation, and attempts to redefine citizenship and rights.

Essential Questions:

- How did Manifest Destiny and territorial expansion intensify debates over slavery and a sectional crisis?
- Why did political compromises over slavery ultimately fail?
- What factors contributed to Union and Confederate strengths and weaknesses in the Civil War?
- How did the Civil War affect civilians, enslaved people, and soldiers?
- What were the major goals and challenges of Reconstruction?
- To what extent did Reconstruction expand freedom and rights for formerly enslaved people?
- Why did Reconstruction ultimately fail to achieve lasting equality?

Themes:

1. American and National Identity

Examine how national identity evolved amid territorial expansion, sectional conflict, and the Civil War.

- Debates over slavery, citizenship, and rights.
- The redefinition of freedom and national identity during Reconstruction.

2. Work, Exchange, and Technology

Explore how economic change and technological innovation transformed labor, production, and the American economy.

- Expansion of railroads and telegraph networks.
- Industrialization in the North vs. plantation economy in the South.

3. Geography and the Environment

Analyze how geographic expansion, resource use, and environmental factors shaped social, political, and economic development.

- Westward expansion and territorial acquisitions (e.g., Mexican-American War).
- Environmental impact of plantation agriculture and industrial growth.

4. Migration and Settlement

Assess how population movements, both voluntary and forced, affected regional and national developments.

- Westward migration and the settlement of new territories.
- Forced migration of enslaved African Americans and the movement of freedpeople during Reconstruction.

5. Politics and Power

Evaluate how political institutions and power dynamics evolved amid sectional conflict and post-war Reconstruction.

- Sectional tensions leading to the Civil War.
- The Reconstruction Amendments (13th, 14th, 15th) and federal-state power struggles.

6. America in the World

Investigate the U.S.'s international interactions during this period.

- Diplomatic outcomes of the Mexican-American War.
- Influence of global markets on the American economy, particularly cotton exports.

7. American and Regional Culture

Analyze cultural expressions, reform movements, and regional differences.

- Abolitionist, women's rights, and temperance movements.
- Cultural shifts in the North, South, and West during sectional conflicts.

8. Social Structures

Examine how social hierarchies, race, class, and gender shaped society and were transformed by war and Reconstruction.

- The institution of slavery and its dismantling.
- Challenges to racial, gender, and class hierarchies during Reconstruction.

Skills:

See skills developed throughout Unit 5 in the table below.

Thematic Focus	Topic	Reasoning Process	Suggested Skill
	5.1 Contextualizing Period 5	Continuity and Change	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
GEO	**5.2 Manifest Destiny**	Causation	1.B Explain a historical concept, development, or process.
WOR	**5.3 The Mexican–American War**	Causation	3.C Compare the arguments or main ideas of two sources.
NAT	**5.4 The Compromise of 1850**	Comparison	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
ARC, SOC	**5.5 Sectional Conflict: Regional Differences**	Comparison	2.B Explain the point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience of a source.

PCE	**5.6 Failure of Compromise**	Causation	5.B Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process.
	5.7 Election of 1860 and Secession	Causation	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
WOR	**5.8 Military Conflict in the Civil War**	Comparison	5.A Identify patterns among or connections between historical developments and processes.
NAT	**5.9 Government Policies During the Civil War**	Continuity and Change	2.B Explain the point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience of a source.
PCE	**5.10 Reconstruction**	Causation	3.D Explain how claims or evidence support, modify, or refute a source's argument.
NAT	**5.11 Failure of Reconstruction**	Continuity and Change	3.C Compare the arguments or main ideas of two sources.
	5.12 Comparison in Period 5	Comparison	6.C Use historical reasoning to explain relationships among pieces of historical evidence.

Unit Outcomes:

- Explain how and why the United States expanded territorially (including westward migration, acquisition of lands, and foreign policy) and how this expansion affected politics, economics, culture, and the environment.
- Analyze how the expansion of the U.S. and the accompanying social, economic, and demographic changes intensified sectional differences and fueled conflicts over slavery, leading to civil war.
- Evaluate how the American Civil War and the era of Reconstruction transformed American society and government, including changes in federal-state relations, definitions of citizenship and rights, and unresolved questions about equality.

Sample Unit Assignments:

- Students analyze primary source excerpts (e.g., Polk's war message, Wilmot Proviso, Calhoun's "Slavery a Positive Good," a Free Soil Party platform, a map of the Compromise of 1850, and Uncle Tom's Cabin review) and then write a DBQ in which they contextualize the situation in 1844, identify causes and effects of expansion on sectional divisions, develop a thesis addressing the prompt, and write an introductory paragraph and one body paragraph citing at least three documents with proper sourcing.
- Read quotes and summarize Lincoln's main message in regards to slavery & status of African Americans. Consider the changing political situation facing Lincoln when he wrote each speech.
- Make connections across developments in the period (e.g., how expansion connects to slavery debates, how war links to reconstruction, how migration links to cultural change).

Sample Unit Assessment:

- Write a Document Based Question assessment analyzing the causes of the Civil War.
- Long Essay Question evaluating causes of the failures of Reconstruction.

UNIT 6 – Period 6: 1865–1898

Unit Summary: This unit examines the Gilded Age and early industrial America: massive economic growth, industrial capitalism, immigration and migration, urbanization, the "New South," and the emergence of reform movements responding to the rapid changes.

Essential Questions

- What were the major political and social debates of the Gilded Age?
- How did immigrants and internal migrants adapt to and transform U.S. society?
- How did industrialization and new technologies reshape daily life and culture in the late 19th century?
- What practices, innovations, and ideas did industrial leaders use to modernize the economy and build wealth?
- Why and how did American identities, beliefs, and culture change in the early industrial era?
- How did cultural movements such as consumerism, education reform, and leisure reflect broader social changes?
- How did science, religion, and intellectual thought interact in shaping American identity at the turn of the century?
- What cultural tensions arose between traditional values and new modernist perspectives?
- How did rapid urbanization and immigration change American cities socially, economically, and politically?
- What problems emerged with rapid urbanization, and how did reformers attempt to address them?

Themes:

1. American and National Identity

Examine how notions of American identity and belonging changed as the U.S. became more industrialized, more diverse (through immigration and internal migration), and more powerful.

- The assimilation and exclusion of new immigrant groups and their role in defining "Americanness."
- The changing status of formerly enslaved people and Native American groups as part of national identity.
- How ideas about citizenship, rights, and who counts in the nation evolved.

2. Work, Exchange, and Technology

Explore how the growth of industrial capitalism, transportation networks (railroads, telegraph), large-scale production, and new markets transformed the U.S. economy and society.

- Emergence of big business, trusts/monopolies, and the labor movement.
- Technological & infrastructural change (railroads, steel, telegraph) shifting economic patterns.
- How changing labour systems and markets shaped class, region, and opportunity.

3. Geography and the Environment

Analyze how the physical environment, geographic expansion, and resource use influenced social and economic transformation during this period.

- The settlement of the American West, mining, ranching, farming, and the breaking of the frontier.
- Environmental consequences of industrialization and extraction.
- How geography (e.g., access to railroads, natural resources) influenced regional development.

4. Migration and Settlement

Assess how both voluntary migration (immigrants, internal migrants) and forced/structural movements (displacement of Native Americans, movement of freed people) shaped regions, society, and the nation.

- Large-scale immigration from Europe and elsewhere, and the growth of cities.
- Movement westward by settlers, displacement of Native tribes, and the transformation of frontier societies.
- The rise of urbanization and changes in settlement patterns.

5. Politics and Power

Evaluate how political institutions, power relationships, and debates over the role of government changed amid industrialization, corruption, reform, and shifting demographics.

- The power of business in politics, political machines, and issues of corruption in the Gilded Age.
- Debates over regulation, labor rights, tariffs, monetary policy, and government's role in economy and society.
- Shifts in power among social groups (workers, immigrants, farmers, racial groups) and how they attempted to influence politics.

6. America in the World

Investigate how U.S. interactions with the wider world—through migration, trade, foreign investment, territorial expansion, and global flows—affected domestic developments.

- How immigration connects the U.S. to global migration patterns and influences culture, politics and the economy, including long term impacts like the Chinese Exclusion Act.
- U.S. role in global markets for resources, goods, capital; increasing international economic links.
- Early signs of U.S. overseas economic reach or influence, and how those connect with domestic growth.

7. American and Regional Culture

Analyze how culture, ideas, beliefs, and regional identities evolved in a rapidly changing society.

- The cultural effects of industrialization, urbanization, immigration (e.g., new cultural communities, tensions, adaptation).
- Regional cultural differences (e.g., between industrial North, agrarian South, frontier West).
- Reform movements (educational, social, religious) and how cultural change reflected and shaped societal shifts.

8. Social Structures

Examine how social hierarchies and relations of race, class, gender, immigration status, and region were shaped and reshaped during this period.

- The persistence and transformation of racial hierarchies (post-Reconstruction South, Jim Crow, Native American Dawes Act policy).
- Class divisions created by industrial capitalism: rich industrialists vs. working class vs. farmers; immigrants and urban poor.
- Gender roles and the changing place of women in this society; how social mobility and opportunity differed across groups.

Unit Outcomes:

- Explain how technological advances, business practices, large-scale production, and opening of new markets stimulated the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States.
- Explain the causes and effects of the settlement of the West from 1877 to 1898.
- Analyze how internal migration and international immigration transformed urban and rural areas socially and culturally.
- Explain the various responses to immigration in the period over time
- Explain how various factors contributed to continuity and change in the "New South" from 1877 to 1898.
- Explain the socioeconomic continuities and changes associated with the growth of industrial capitalism from 1865-1898.
- Explain the causes of increased economic opportunity and its effects on society.

- Explain how different reform movements responded to the rise of industrial capitalism in the Gilded Age.
- Explain continuities and changes in the role of the government in the U.S. economy.
- Explain the similarities and differences between the political parties during the Gilded Age.

Skills:
See skills developed throughout Unit 6 in the table below.

Theme Focus	Topic	Reasoning Process	Suggested Skill
	6.1 Contextualizing Period 6	Continuity and Change	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
MIG	**6.2 Westward Expansion: Economic Development**	Causation	1.B Explain a historical concept, development, or process.
MIG	**6.3 Westward Expansion: Social and Cultural Development**	Causation	3.C Compare the arguments or main ideas of two sources.
NAT	**6.4 The "New South"**	Continuity and Change	2.C Explain the significance of a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience, including how these might limit the use(s) of a source.
WXT	**6.5 Technological Innovation**	Causation	5.B Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process.
WXT	**6.6 The Rise of Industrial Capitalism**	Continuity and Change	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
WXT	**6.7 Labor in the Gilded Age**	Continuity and Change	6.C Use historical reasoning to explain relationships among pieces of historical evidence.
MIG	**6.8 Immigration and Migration in the Gilded Age**	Continuity and Change	3.C Compare the arguments or main ideas of two sources.
MIG	**6.9 Responses to Immigration in the Gilded Age**	Comparison	5.B Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process.
SOC	**6.10 Development of the Middle Class**	Causation	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
SOC	**6.11 Reform in the Gilded Age**	Causation	2.C Explain the significance of a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience, including how these might limit the use(s) of a source.

PCE	**6.12 Controversies over the Role of Government in the Gilded Age**	Continuity and Change	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
	6.13 Politics in the Gilded Age	Comparison	3.D Explain how claims or evidence support, modify, or refute a source's argument.
	6.14 Continuity and Change in Period 6	Continuity and Change	6.D Corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument using diverse and alternative evidence in order to develop a complex argument. This argument might: ▪ Explain nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables. ▪ Explain relevant and insightful connections within and across periods. ▪ Explain the relative historical significance of a source's credibility and limitations. ▪ Explain how or why a historical claim or argument is or is not effective.

Sample Unit Assignments:

- Practice analyzing primary sources exploring the labor movement and conflicts in the Gilded Age.
- Practice analyzing patterns of continuity and change in the role of government during the Gilded Age.
- Practice making historical comparisons between immigration and responses to immigration.
- Use historical reasoning (causation, comparison) to analyze continuity and change in the U.S. from the Civil War to the turn of the 20th century.

Sample Unit Assessment:

- Document Based Question assessment making comparisons between Captains of Industry or Robber Barons.

UNIT 7 – Period 7: 1890–1945

Unit Summary: This unit spans American imperialism, the Progressive Era, World War I, the 1920s, the Great Depression and New Deal, and World War II — exploring how the U.S. accelerated its global role, experienced internal transformation, and confronted massive economic and political challenges.

Essential Questions:

- How did reformers respond to the challenges of industrial capitalism?
- What factors shaped America's growing role in world affairs?
- What caused the Great Depression, and how did it impact different groups of Americans?
- How did the Great Depression and New Deal transform American politics and society?
- In what ways did new consumer culture, leisure, and technology reshape American life?
- How did conflicts over immigration, race, gender, and religion reveal divisions within American society?
- How did the New Deal attempt to address the economic crisis and reshape the role of government?

- To what extent did the New Deal succeed in redefining American democracy and capitalism?
- What were the causes and consequences of U.S. involvement in World War II?
- How did the war effort transform the U.S. economy, society, and global position?
- In what ways did the experiences of different groups (women, minorities, soldiers) change during the war?

Themes:

1. American and National Identity

Examine how notions of American identity, freedom, and belonging shifted during industrialization, urbanization, war and reform.

- The impact of new immigrant groups and internal migrations on American identity.
- Debates over citizenship, race, gender, and inclusion in an increasingly pluralistic society.

2. Work, Exchange, and Technology

Explore how technological innovation, industrial economy, and market changes transformed the U.S. economy and society.

- Growth of mass production, consumer cultures, and new forms of labor.
- Economic instability (e.g., the Great Depression) and responses through reform and regulation.

3. Geography and the Environment

Analyze how geographic expansion, resources, urbanization, and environmental change influenced development in this era.

- Urban growth, movement of populations, and the transformation of landscapes.
  Environmental consequences of industrialization, conservation efforts, and changing land use.

4. Migration and Settlement

Assess how both international immigration and internal migration shaped regions, society, and culture.

- Large waves of immigration at the turn of the century; growth of cities.
- Great Migration of African Americans from South to North; settlement changes during and after wars.

5. Politics and Power

Evaluate how political institutions, power relations, and the role of government changed through reform, war, and crisis.

- Progressive reforms, expansion of the federal government's role in society and economy.
  The role of the U.S. in global conflicts, and how power structures changed domestically (rights movements, labor, political realignments).

6. America in the World

Investigate how the United States engaged with the world: diplomacy, war, trade, and international influence.

- Debates about imperialism and the U.S.'s role abroad.
- US role and influence about Japanese wartime atrocities, Nazi concentration camps, and the Holocaust.
- U.S. participation in World Wars I and II, and its emergence as a global power.

7. American and Regional Culture

Analyze how culture, ideas, beliefs, and regional identities evolved in this era of rapid change.

- Cultural movements (e.g., Harlem Renaissance), consumer culture, media, entertainment.
- Regional differences in economy, society, and culture, and how they were shaped by national changes.

8. Social Structures

Examine how social hierarchies, race, class, gender, immigration status, and other structures were challenged and transformed.

- The changing status of women, African Americans, immigrants; reform movements for rights.
- Persistence of inequalities and new forms of activism; how class, labor, and race intersected in the industrial age.

Unit Outcomes:

- Explain the context in which America grew into its role as a world power.
- Explain the similarities and differences in attitudes about the nation's proper role in the world.
- Explain the effects of the Spanish–American War.
- Compare the goals and effects of the Progressive reform movement.
- Explain the causes and consequences of U.S. involvement in World War I.
- Explain the causes and effects of international and internal migration patterns over time.
- Explain the causes and effects of the innovations in communication and technology in the United States over time.
- Explain the causes and effects of developments in popular culture in the United States over time.
- Explain how the Great Depression and the New Deal impacted American political, social, and economic life over time.
- Explain the similarities and differences in attitudes about the nation's proper role in the world.
- Explain how and why U.S. participation in World War II transformed American society.
- Explain the causes and effects of the victory of the United States and its allies over the Axis powers.

Skills:

See skills developed throughout Unit 7 in the table below.

Thematic Focus	Topic	Reasoning Process	Suggested Skill
	7.1 Contextualizing Period 7	Continuity and Change	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
WOR	**7.2 Imperialism: Debates**	Comparison	2.C Explain the significance of a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience, including how these might limit the use(s) of a source.
	7.3 The Spanish–American War	Causation	2.B Explain the point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience of a source.
PCE, GEO	**7.4 The Progressives**	Comparison	2.C Explain the significance of a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience, including how these might limit the use(s) of a source.
WOR	**7.5 World War I: Military and Diplomacy**	Causation	2.C Explain the significance of a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience, including how these might limit the use(s) of a source.
MIG	**7.6 World War I: Home Front**	Causation	3.D Explain how claims or evidence support, modify, or refute a source's argument.
WXT	**7.7 1920s: Innovations in Communication and Technology**	Causation	5.B Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process.

Thematic Focus	Topic	Reasoning Process	Suggested Skill
MIG, ARC	**7.8 1920s: Cultural and Political Controversies**	Causation	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
WXT	**7.9 The Great Depression**	Causation	5.B Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process.
PCE	**7.10 The New Deal**	Continuity and Change	5.B Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process.
WOR	**7.11 Interwar Foreign Policy**	Comparison	1.B Explain a historical concept, development, or process.
SOC	**7.12 World War II: Mobilization**	Causation	1.B Explain a historical concept, development, or process.
WOR	**7.13 World War II: Military**	Causation	6.C Use historical reasoning to explain relationships among pieces of historical evidence.
	7.14 Postwar Diplomacy	Causation	2.B Explain the point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience of a source.
	7.15 Comparison in Period 7	Comparison	6.D Corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument using diverse and alternative evidence in order to develop a complex argument. This argument might: ▪ Explain nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables. ▪ Explain relevant and insightful connections within and across periods. ▪ Explain the relative historical significance of a source's credibility and limitations. ▪ Explain how or why a historical claim or argument is or is not effective.

Sample Unit Assignments:

- Practice analyzing primary sources on the effectiveness of the New Deal.
- Practice analyzing patterns of continuity and change in American foreign policy during the 1930s.
- Practice making historical comparisons between different social and political controversies during the 1920s.
- Compare the relative significance of the major events of the first half of the 20th century in shaping American identity.
- Practice identifying causation patterns of historical events (such as, Spanish and American,World War 1, World War 2).

Sample Unit Assessment:

- Document Based Questions analyzing the lasting impact of the New Deal.
- Long Essay Questions on impacts of WWII on various groups, including an evaluation of their role before and during the war and the impacts of that on the post-war period.

UNIT 8 – Period 8: 1945–1980

Unit Summary: This unit examines the Cold War era: U.S. foreign policy, domestic transformations (civil rights, women's movements), economic and cultural change, technological advances, and the social revolutions of the period.

Essential Questions:

- How did the Cold War shape U.S. foreign and domestic policy?
- In what ways did different groups fight for civil rights and equality?
- How did political, cultural, and social conflicts reflect divisions in postwar America?
- How did postwar prosperity reshape American society, family life, and culture?
- How did suburbanization, consumerism, and cultural change shape American identity?
- How did African Americans and allies challenge segregation and expand democracy during the civil rights movement?
- In what ways did civil rights activism evolve over the course of the movement?
- How did the civil rights struggle influence and inspire other social movements (women, Latinos, Native Americans)?
- How did Lyndon Johnson's Great Society attempt to expand the role of government in promoting social justice?
- Why did divisions over Vietnam, civil rights, and culture lead to backlash against liberal reform?
- How did conservatism reemerge as a major political force by the 1970s?
- How did economic, political, and environmental challenges of the 1970s reshape American life?

Themes:

1. American and National Identity

Examine how understandings of what it means to be "American" shifted during the postwar era, especially in the context of civil rights, gender debates, and global leadership.

- The growth of civil rights movements and challenges to racial segregation and discrimination.
- Questions of citizenship, equality, and identity in a changing society.
- The impact of Cold War ideology on national identity and patriotism

2. Work, Exchange, and Technology

Explore how technological innovation, global economic integration, and changing labor systems reshaped the U.S. economy and society in the mid-20th century.

- Post-WWII economic expansion, rise of the service economy, and consumer society.
- Technological advances (e.g., computers, space race, telecommunications) and their societal effects.
- Shifts in labor patterns, globalization of trade, and economic competition.

3. Geography and the Environment

Analyze how geographic and environmental factors, urbanization, suburbanization, and resource use influenced developments in this period.

- The growth of suburbs, migration to sunbelt states, and shifts in population distribution.
- Environmental awareness and regulation (e.g., the emergence of the environmental movement).

- Impacts of military-industrial complex and Cold War geography (bases abroad, space, etc.).

4. Migration and Settlement

Assess how internal migration, immigration, and demographic changes shaped regions, culture, and society.

- The Great Migration continuation and movement of African Americans from rural South to urban North and West.
- Immigration changes and the reshaping of urban and suburban communities.
- Changing settlement patterns and regional growth, especially in the West and Sunbelt.

5. Politics and Power

Evaluate how political institutions, public policy, and power relations evolved amid war, social movements, reform, and conservatism.

- The federal government's expanded role (e.g., social programs, Great Society) and backlash.
- The interplay of social movements (civil rights, women's rights, anti-war) and political power.
- Cold War politics, détente, domestic surveillance, and shifts toward conservatism.

6. America in the World

Investigate how the U.S. engaged globally during the Cold War, how international dynamics shaped domestic policy and society, and vice versa.

- The U.S. as one of the two superpowers, engaging in proxy wars, diplomacy, and global alliances.
- Foreign policy impacts on domestic economy and culture.
- The interdependence of global markets, U.S. military reach, and cultural influence.

7. American and Regional Culture

Analyze how culture, ideas, beliefs, and regional identities developed in a time of mass media, social change, and generational conflict.

- Youth culture, counterculture, music, media, and shifting cultural norms.
- Regional cultural differences (urban vs rural, North vs South vs West) during social transformation.
- The role of religion, gender, and popular culture in shaping identity and region.

8. Social Structures

Examine how social hierarchies, class, gender, race, and immigration status were challenged and reconfigured during this era.

- The civil rights movement, women's rights movement, and other identity-based activism.
- Class mobility, the decline of certain industrial jobs, rise of service/knowledge economy and its impact on social stratification.
- Ongoing racial inequalities, urban poverty, and debates over welfare, justice, and equality.

Unit Outcomes:

- Explain the context for societal change from 1945 to 1980.
- Explain the continuities and changes in Cold War policies from 1945 to 1980.
- Explain the causes and effects of the Red Scare after World War II.
- Explain the causes of economic growth in the years after World War II.
- Explain the causes and effects of the migration of various groups of Americans after 1945.
- Explain how mass culture has been maintained or challenged over time.
- Explain how and why the civil rights movements developed and expanded from 1945 to 1960.
- Explain the various military and diplomatic responses to international developments over time.
- Explain the causes and effects of the Vietnam War.
- Explain the causes and effects of continuing policy debates about the role of the federal government over time.
- Explain the continuities and changes in immigration patterns over time.

- Explain how and why various groups responded to calls for the expansion of civil rights from 1960 to 1980.
- Explain how and why opposition to existing policies and values developed and changed over the course of the 20th century.
- Explain how and why policies related to the environment developed and changed from 1968 to 1980.
- Explain the causes and effects of continuing policy debates about the role of the federal government over time.
- Explain the extent to which the events of the period from 1945 to 1980 reshaped national identity.

Skills:
See skills developed throughout Unit 8 in the table below.

Thematic Focus	Topic	Reasoning Process	Suggested Skill
	8.1 Contextualizing Period 8	Continuity and Change	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
WOR	**8.2 The Cold War from 1945 to 1980**	Continuity and Change	2.C Explain the significance of a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience, including how these might limit the use(s) of a source.
NAT	**8.3 The Red Scare**	Causation	2.B Explain the point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience of a source.
WXT, MIG	**8.4 Economy after 1945**	Causation	2.C Explain the significance of a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience, including how these might limit the use(s) of a source.
ARC	**8.5 Culture after 1945**	Continuity and Change	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
SOC	**8.6 Early Steps in the Civil Rights Movement (1940s and 1950s)**	Causation	5.A Identify patterns among or connections between historical developments and processes.
WOR	**8.7 America as a World Power**	Comparison	3.C Compare the arguments or main ideas of two sources.
	8.8 The Vietnam War	Causation	1.B Explain a historical concept, development, or process.

Thema Focus	Topic	Reasoning Process	Suggested Skill
PCE, MIG	**8.9 The Great Society**	Continuity and Change	5.B Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process.
SOC, PCE	**8.10 The African American Civil Rights Movement (1960s)**	Comparison	5.B Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process.
SOC	**8.11 The Civil Rights Movement Expands**	Comparison	5.B Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process.
ARC	**8.12 Youth Culture of the 1960s**	Continuity and Change	5.B Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process.
GEO	**8.13 The Environment and Natural Resources from 1968 to 1980**	Causation	5.A Identify patterns among or connections between historical developments and processes.
PCE, ARC	**8.14 Society in Transition**	Causation	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
	8.15 Continuity and Change in Period 8	Continuity and Change	6.D Corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument using diverse and alternative evidence in order to develop a complex argument. This argument might: ▪ Explain nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables. ▪ Explain relevant and insightful connections within and across periods. ▪ Explain the relative historical significance of a source's credibility and limitations. ▪ Explain how or why a historical claim or argument is or is not effective.

Sample Unit Assignments:

- Practice analyzing primary sources around the affluent society.
- Practice analyzing patterns of continuity and change in American culture movements in the 1950s and 1960s.
- Practice making historical comparisons between Civil Rights movements.
- Practice identifying causation patterns of historical events (such as, the Cold War and the Vietnam War).

Sample Unit Assessment:

- Document Based Questions comparing Civil Rights movements.
- Long Essay Questions evaluating the impact of the Vietnam War.

UNIT 9 – Period 9: 1980–Present

Unit Summary:
This unit deals with recent U.S. history: the rise of conservatism in the 1980s, the end of the Cold War, globalization, demographic and economic shifts, technological revolution, and the challenges of the 21st century (terrorism, environment, inequality).

Essential Questions:

- How did the rise of conservatism reshape American politics and society?
- What role did the U.S. play in the world at the end of the Cold War and into the 21st century?
- How have globalization, immigration, and economic change affected American life?
- In what ways did the Watergate scandal and Vietnam War undermine public trust in government?
- How did Americans respond to social and cultural change in this period of crisis?
- Why did conservatism rise to political dominance in the late 20th century?
- To what extent did conservative policies address America's economic and social challenges?
- How did the end of the Cold War reshape U.S. foreign and domestic policy?
- In what ways did globalization, immigration, and technological change transform American society?

Themes:

1. American and National Identity
Examine how definitions of "American" and national identity have shifted in the contemporary era.

- Debates over citizenship, immigration, multiculturalism, and what it means to belong.
- The effect of changing demographics, cultural polarization, and identity politics on national values.

2. Work, Exchange, and Technology
Explore how globalization, digital technology, changing markets, and new labor systems have transformed the U.S. economy and society.

- The rise of the information age, the Internet, digital communications, and their economic impact.
- Shifts in labour (e.g., deindustrialization, service economy), trade policy and economic restructuring.

3. Geography and the Environment
Analyze how geography, environment, and technological change affect regional differences, urbanization, and global environmental issues.

- Rise of Sunbelt growth, suburban sprawl, regional economic shifts.
- Environmental challenges (climate change, resource use) and how American policies respond.

4. Migration and Settlement
Assess how new waves of immigration, internal migration, and settlement patterns shape society and regions.

- Immigration from Latin America, Asia, and demographic change since 1980.
- Movement of populations within the U.S. (to Sunbelt states, urban-to-suburban, etc.) and its effects.

5. Politics and Power
Evaluate how political institutions, public policy, power dynamics, and civic engagement evolve in a modern, interconnected world.

- Conservative resurgence, shifts in political ideology, polarization, and the role of government.
- Global events influencing domestic politics (terrorism, war, economic crises), and debates over federal power, civil liberties, and the role of the state.

6. America in the World
Investigate how the U.S. interacts with the rest of the world through diplomacy, trade, military power, and cultural influence in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

- End of the Cold War, U.S. as sole superpower, global war on terror, and evolving foreign policy.
- Economic globalization, multinational trade agreements, international migration, and the U.S. role in global governance.

7. American and Regional Culture

Analyze how culture, beliefs, popular media, and regional variation evolve in the contemporary era of mass communication.

- Cultural shifts (e.g., media, identity, popular culture, digital culture), regional cultural divides (urban/rural, coastal/inland).
- How religion, gender roles, and social movements continue to influence culture in a modern context.

8. Social Structures

Examine how social hierarchies, race, class, gender, and immigration status continue to shape society and how they are challenged in the modern era.

- Persistent and evolving inequalities (income gap, racial disparities, gender issues, immigration status).
- The impact of movements for rights (women, LGBTQ+, racial minorities) and how class, status and power adapt in a globalized economy.

Unit Outcomes:

- Explain how the ascendancy of a conservative movement in the 1980s affected U.S. politics, policy, and culture.
- Analyze how globalization, technological change, and shifting demographics transformed the U.S. economy and society.
- Evaluate how the end of the Cold War and the post-Cold War world challenged U.S. leadership and affected its role in the world.

Skills

Thematic Focus	Topic	Reasoning Process	Suggested Skill
	9.1 Contextualizing Period 9	Continuity and Change	4.B Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.
PCE	**9.2 Reagan and Conservatism**	Continuity and Change	3.C Compare the arguments or main ideas of two sources.
WOR	**9.3 The End of the Cold War**	Causation	1.B Explain a historical concept, development, or process.
WXT	**9.4 A Changing Economy**	Causation	1.B Explain a historical concept, development, or process.
MIG	**9.5 Migration and Immigration in the 1990s and 2000s**	Causation	2.C Explain the significance of a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience, including how these might limit the use(s) of a source.
WOR	**9.6 Challenges of the 21st Century**	Causation	2.C Explain the significance of a source's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience, including how these might limit the use(s) of a source.

Thematic Focus	Topic	Reasoning Process	Suggested Skill
	9.7 Causation in Period 9	Causation	6.D Corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument using diverse and alternative evidence in order to develop a complex argument. This argument might: ▪ Explain nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables. ▪ Explain relevant and insightful connections within and across periods. ▪ Explain the relative historical significance of a source's credibility and limitations. ▪ Explain how or why a historical claim or argument is or is not effective.

Sample Unit Assignments:

- Practice analyzing primary sources on the rise of Conservatism.
- Practice identifying causation patterns of historical events (such as, the End of the Cold War and the Changing economy of the 1990s).

Sample Unit Assessment:

- Document Based Questions analyzing the causes of the changing economy and its technological innovation.
- Long Essay Question analyzing the rise of the conservative movement as a reaction to the perceived liberal nature of the 1960s and 1970s.

Recommended Texts: Adopted Text *America's History for the AP Course* by Henretta, Edwards, Hinderaker, and Self, 11th Edition, 2025

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