**How to FRQ**

The Basics\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AP Exam: 3 questions in 75 minutes (roughly 25 minutes per FRQ)

Write neatly in **black ink**

Each FRQ is worth 7 points and two will be stimulus-based. They assess course content across multiple scales and units.

Advice from the Expert\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

These helpful tips come from Rick Gindele, self-proclaimed “Geovangelist” and teacher at Aurora

High School in Colorado. He is also a test developer, lead reader, and original designer of the AP

Human Geography course. In other words, he has the final say on how you score on the FRQ portion

of the exam, so listen up!

**1. Answer the question!**

Answer everything. Every part. Every question. ALL of it! Even if you don’t know. There are

*no* negative points.

**2. Write legibly.**

Your work will not be graded if it cannot easily be read. Write in black ink because

readers prefer that.

3. **Label the parts of the question and skip a space between parts of the question.**

This helps the reader and you to see each part clearly. It also gives you room to go back and

make edits in the end.

4. **Write clearly and concisely.**

Use good paragraph writing skills – topic sentence with supporting evidence. Be academic

and formal in your writing. Use transition words. Write in complete sentences. Do not use

bullet points – they will not be graded. Do not draw in the exam book.

**5. Use key terms appropriately.**

Connect as much vocabulary as possible. Show off what you know.

**6. Give a well-known geographic example.**

Use examples to illustrate your answer. DO NOT make references to your personal life or

hypothetical examples. List the number of examples the question asks for. Laundry listing a

bunch of random examples makes you look desperate. (You are.)

Writing Strategy: Outline, Write, Edit\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Read ALL of the questions first. You have about 25 minutes per question. Start with the question that is the easiest. It will require less time, and give you more time on tougher questions.

**Prep: Outline: 4-6 minutes**

Circle the command verb for the prompt. Write down the expected length.

Outline before you write. Use shorthand. Abbreviate.

List the examples you will use (and the exact number called for).

Make a keyword list/brainstorm, next to your outline. Connect as much vocabulary as possible.

**Write: 14-21 minutes**

Label parts (A,B,C)! Reference the wording of the prompt so that it is clear to the reader which part of the question you are answering.

**Edit: 1-3 minutes**

Edit your writing. No need to erase. Cross stuff out; insert words with arrows.

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| --- | --- |
| Identify/ Define/ Name | Write out the definition or location of a term or process. Say why the concept is significant to geographic thinking or why it matters in the real world. Some definitions are simple and others can be complex. |
| Example | Write about a real-world place, process, or situation that captures the essence of the concept that the question addresses. Make sure that the example you give is the most topical. Don’t just use one that you like. Some questions will give you the example and you will have to describe how and why that place fits the concept. |
| Describe | Write out the details or component parts of the concept or issue that the question addresses. Emphasize the most important elements why these are significant. |
| Compare | Take two or more concepts or examples and state their similarities (give more than one). If there are differences, list these as well. State why the similarities or differences are significant and say what impact they have. |
| Contrast | Specifically describe the differences between two or more concepts or examples. Make sure to find at least two differences (unless the question says to give only one or the primary difference). |
| Explain/  Illustrate | Write about a process that is implied in the question. In conceptual terms: A happens, resulting in B, which then leads to C. Say why these things occur. State why the process you describe is a problem or a benefit in the real world. Provide specific details and elaborate on them. Draw connections between terms and examples. |
| Analyze | Write about the relationship between factors and their impacts. Look for cause and effect relationships. State why the process you describe is a problem or a benefit in the real world. |
| Assess | Write about the importance, impact, or effectiveness of a concept or issue. You will need to determine the positives and negatives of the conceptual or real-world situation. It is OK if you state that positives and negatives balance out or that the good outweighs the bad. |

**Response length**

6-8 sentences

1-4 sentences

4-6 sentences

8-10 sentences

Desired length increases with the complexity of the command verb!

**FRQ 1 does not include stimuli**

**FRQ 2 includes one stimulus (data, image, or map)**

**FRQ 3 includes two stimuli.**