AP World History Themes

1: Interaction Between Humans & the Environment
2: Development & Interaction of Cultures
3: State Building, Expansion, Conflict
4: Creation, Expansion, Interaction of Economic Systems
5: Development & transformation of Social Structures
Themes: not only used for FRQ Questions.

**Theme 1: INTERACTION** Between Humans & the Environment
★ Demography & Disease
★ Migration
★ Patterns of Settlement
★ Technology

**Theme 2: Development and Interaction of CULTURES**
★ Religions
★ Belief systems, philosophies, & ideologies
★ Science & Technology

**Theme 3: State Building, Expansion, Conflict (POLITICS)**
★ Political structures & forms of governance
★ Empires
★ Nations & nationalism
★ Revolts & revolutions
★ Regional, transregional & global structures & organizations

**Theme 4: Creation, Expansion, Interaction of ECONOMIC SYSTEMS**
★ Agricultural & pastoral production
★ Trade & commerce
★ Labor systems
★ Capitalism & socialism

**Theme 5: Development and transformation of SOCIAL STRUCTURES**
★ Gender roles & relations
★ Family & kinship
★ Racial & ethnic constructions
Theme #1: Human-Environment Interaction

Demography and disease
Demographic shifts - (e.g. fertility, birth rate, infant mortality, life expectancy)
Birth control
disease pathogens
epidemic diseases (e.g. tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, ebola, HIV/AIDS, influenza pandemic)
diseases associated with changing lifestyles (diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer’s disease)

Migration
Coerced and semi-coerced labor migration:
Push and pull factors
Manual laborers
Internal and external migrants

Patterns of settlement
Geography—desert, savanna, tropics, tundra, estuaries, steppes, fragile grasslands
Flora and fauna
Water control systems
Environmental diversity
Urbanization - Urban revival and growth
Nomadic, Pastoral, & Agricultural peoples rural urban

Environment
Agricultural/Neolithic Revolution
Pollutants
Atmosphere
Environmental Damage—Deforestation, Desertification, Silted rivers, Soil erosion, soil depletion
Rates of extinction

Technology
Pottery
Farming Technology - Plows, Yokes, qanat system
Woven textiles
Metallurgy—bronze, iron, steel
Transportation technology—Wheels and wheeled vehicles, Chariots, Saddles, Stirrups
Maritime technology—Cartography, Compass, astrolabe, Revised maps, Lateen sail, Caravels, Junk & Dhow ships, longships
Military technology—gunpowder / cannons, Compound bows, Iron weapons, Tanks, Airplanes, atomic bomb
Technological innovations (Champa rice varieties, chinampa field systems, Waru waru agricultural techniques in the Andean areas, improved terracing techniques, horse collar)
Theme #2: Culture (Development & Interaction of …)

Religions
Monotheism
Polytheism
Buddhism
Christianity
Hinduism(s) / Vedic religion
Islam
Judaism
semitic, anti-semitic

Belief Systems, Philosophies, & Ideologies
Confucianism & Neoconfucianism
Daoism
Greco-Roman philosophy
revelation
deity / divine
atheism
dharma
karma
asceticism
clergy
doctrine
reincarnation
secular
shaman
syncretic / syncretism

Science and Technology
Energy technologies
oil and nuclear power
Reason
empirical observation

The Arts and Architecture
Monumental architecture and urban planning (e.g. Pyramids, Ziggurats, Temples, defensive walls, streets and road, Sewage and water systems)
Arts and artisanship (Elaborate weaving, Painting, Sculpture, Wall decorations, Courtly literature, Miniature paintings, Renaissance art, Wood-block prints)

Cultural
Languages—Turkic, Arabic
Sports—Cricket
Music and film - Reggae, Bollywood
Literature - *Book of the Dead*, *Rig Veda*, *Epic of Gilgamesh*, *Popul Vuh*, *Confucius’ Analects*, Kabuki, codices
Systems of Record Keeping—Hieroglyphs, Pictographs, *Quipu* Alphabets, Cuneiform

globalization
**Political Structures and Forms of Governance**
- bureaucracy
- Political/state authority and autonomy - centralized control/governments
- state consolidation, legitimization and expansion of power
- military professionals
- political ideologies
- bureaucracies/administrative institutions
- Collection of revenue
- Warfare—casualties, tactics

**Characteristics of Gov’t Forms & Leadership**—
- absolutism, communism, conservative,
- constitutional monarchy, democracy,
- dictatorship, empire, fascism, feudalism,
- liberal, moderate, monarchy, radical, socialism, totalitarian,

**Diplomacy**
- appeasement

**Empires**
- Trading-post empires (Name 5 of each of these!)
- Land empires
- Maritime empires
- Transoceanic empires
- Diplomacy
- Imperial conquests/Expansion
- Indigenous homelands

**Military**
- conscript/-ion
- coup d’état

**Nations and nationalism**
- nation-states
- nationalist ideologies
- national aspirations
- (imagined) national communities
- Nation Building/State Building

**Revolts and revolutions**
- Political and social discontent
- Rebellions and protests
- Dissent and resistance
- movements of political reform

**Regional, Transregional, and Global Structures and Organizations**
- transregional political organization
- institutions of global governance
- New international organizations (e.g. United Nations, League of Nations, International Criminal Court)
- Humanitarian organizations (e.g. UNICEF, Red Cross, Amnesty International, Doctors Without Borders, World Health Organization (WHO))

**Internal factors and external factors**
Theme #4: Economic Systems (Creation, Expansion & Interaction of ...)

Agricultural and Pastoral Production
- American Foods—Potatoes, Maize, Manioc
- Staple crops—wheat, rice, sorghum,
- Cash crops—Sugar, Tobacco
- Foods brought by African slaves—Okra, Rice agrarian

Trade and Commerce
- Commercialization
- Commercial entrepreneurs and
- Luxury goods (Silk and cotton textiles, Porcelain, Spices, Slaves, Exotic animals)
- Commercial entrepreneurs
- Trade routes: Trans-Saharan caravan routes,
  Indian Ocean sea lanes, Mediterranean sea lanes, Silk Roads
- Caravan organization (Caravanserai, Camel saddles)
- Forms of credit and Monetization (Minting of coins, Use of paper money, Bills of exchange, Checks, Banking houses)
- Transoceanic shipping services
- Piracy
- Global integration - World economic network / world system
- blockade
- boycott
- cartel
- commodity
- credit / debit
- currency
- globalization
- guild
- mercantilism

Labor systems
- Specialized professionals—merchants, artisans and warriors
- Free peasant labor or Peasant communities
- Craft production or guild organization
- Government-imposed labor taxes
- Family and household production
- Coerced labor - Indentured servitude, Corvée Unfree labor—Slavery, Convict labor, Chattel slavery
- Slave systems / slave trade abolition
- emancipation

Industrialization
- Coal, iron and timber
- Steam engines / internal combustion engine / fossil fuels / coal and oil
- Steel / chemicals / electricity / precision machinery
- Developments in transportation and communication (Railroads, Steamships, Telegraphs, Canals)
- Increased Economic Productive Capacity corporation
- monopoly
- “Third” World

“-isms”—Capitalism, socialism, communism
- proletariat / bourgeoisie
- capital / -ist
- entrepreneur
- laissez-faire / free market
- tariff / protectionism
- Keynesian economics / deficit spending
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<td><strong>Social and economic classes</strong></td>
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<td><em>brahmin, kshatriya, vaishya, shudra, dalit</em></td>
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<td>clearly stratified social hierarchies</td>
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