

**The SAQ - Short Answer Question  
Section 1 Part B  
of the Examination.**

**The attached four pages are an extract from the  
Free Response Questions on last year's examination (2025).**

**Read the Directions carefully.**

**Look at the four questions noting that questions 3 and 4 are on  
the same page and it states**

**“Answer either Question 3 or Question 4”**

**If you somehow answer both questions 3 and 4  
only the first response will be scored.**

**Your second response will be ignored!**

**You have to answer three (3) Short Answer Questions on the examination**

**They immediately follow the 55 Multiple Choice Questions**

**You have a total of 40 minutes for the three questions, and they are 20% of the total grade**

**All four historical periods are represented among the four short-answer questions.**

**Question 1 will be a Secondary Source – usually a reading passage**

**Question 2 will be a Primary Source – most often a reading or a picture, chart, or a graph**

**Questions 3 and 4 will NOT have a stimulus**

**You get to choose between Question 3 or Question 4**

**Short-answer question 1 is required and includes a secondary source stimulus.**

**The topic of the question will include historical developments or processes between the years 1200 and the present (usually not after 2001).**

**Short-answer question 2 is required and includes a primary source stimulus.**

**The topic of the question will include historical developments or processes between the years 1200 and the present (usually not after 2001).**

**Students may select short-answer questions 3 or 4,  
neither of which includes a stimulus.**

**Short-answer question 3 will focus on historical  
developments or processes between  
the years 1200 and 1750.**

**Short-answer question 4 will focus on historical  
developments or processes between the years 1750  
and the present (usually not after 2001).**

Your SAQ questions will use the following three key words: **Identify, Describe, and Explain**

**Identify:** to recognize someone or something and say or prove who or what that person or object is

**Describe:** to give an account in words of (someone or something), including all the relevant characteristics, qualities, or events.

**Explain:** to make (an idea, situation, or problem) clear to someone by describing it in more detail or revealing relevant facts or ideas.

**Identify can be one or two sentences.**

**Describe must be at least two or three sentences.**

**Explain must be three or more sentences.**

**When you answer the SAQ it is strongly suggested that you indicate which section of the questions that you are answering, A., B., or C.**

**It helps the grader identify your response.**

**The easier it is for the grader to read your answer, the easier it is to score all three points!**

**Another suggestion is: as you are typing your response, **leave a space between sections A, B, and C** so that your answer appears to be well organized and planned.**

**Here is a Practice Question (#3 with no stimulus) from a past AP exam:**

**Respond to parts A, B, and C**

**A. Identify one way in which African states or societies changed as a result of the spread of Islam in the period 1200 to 1450 C.E.**

**B. Describe how one specific African region was affected by the spread of Islam in the period circa 1200 to 1450 C.E.**

**C. Explain one way in which existing African religious or cultural traditions influenced the practice of Islam in the period 1200 to 1450 C.E.**