

LEQ Guidelines

Break Down Prompt

- Pay attention to the verbs and themes of the prompt. Summarize the focus and the historical reasoning skills that claims will need to specifically address - Comparison, Causation, or Change & Continuity Over Time.

Planning Your Thesis + Argument Development

- Plan up to 2-3 claims based upon the prompt. If something is plural, be sure to have at least two examples.

Claim #1	Claim #2	Claim #3
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Paragraph #1: Introduction – Contextualization + Thesis

Contextualization:

Big “C” contextualization explains a broader historical context and background of events, developments or processes that occur before, during or continue after the time frame of the question and are relevant to the prompt. This can be anywhere in the introduction paragraph, but I suggest your first few sentences. Essentially, big “C” contextualization situates your argument within history.

- This requires **outside** information and at least a **three sentences explanation**.

Example: The broader context of this time period included the emergence and development of early river valley civilizations. The Babylonian civilization was within the area of the Fertile Crescent which was one of many civilizations like those near the Nile, Indus or Yellow River Valleys. All of these civilizations moved towards new government structures, complex social structures, monumental architecture and codifying law codes. Similarly to Hammurabi’s Code, the later development of the Hebrew Ten Commandments also appeared during this time.

Thesis:

1-2 sentence statement that contains your 2-4 claims that you plan to defend and prove.

Thesis Templates:

- Comparison:

While (Civilization A) and (Civilization B) were both similar in that _____, they were distinct in that _____ and _____.

(Civilization A) _____ and (Civilization B) _____ resemble each other in that they both _____ and _____; however, they are contrasting in terms of _____.

- Causation:
 _____(claim)and _____(claim)were both causes of(_____,)another key reason for(_____)is _____(claim).

While _____(causation claim)is a majorcause of(_____),the consequences included _____(effect)and _____(effect).

- Continuity & Change Over Time:
 From(date),changes such as _____and _____occurred in (_____) .
 However, _____continued to occur due to _____.

Paragraph #2-4: Body Paragraphs

Topic Sentence with Claim using Historical Reasoning Skill

- Start paragraph with topic sentence which is a "mini-thesis" that summarizes the claim you are going to argue and support in that paragraph.
- This claim should address the historical reasoning skill identified in the prompt.

Support with Historical Evidence

- Use specific historical examples to directly support and prove your claim in the paragraph.
- Must be a specific noun - person, place, thing, vocabulary term.
- Try to use a minimum of 3+ pieces of evidence in each claim paragraph.

Supports Argument

- The concrete and historical examples that are utilized support the claims asserted associated with the historical reasoning skill of the prompt.
- Three pieces of evidence are good practice to earn the point (total of 6 for two claim paragraphs)
- To earn the complexity point, students demonstrate a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question. Complexity of argument is demonstrated by showing an in-depth understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question. A response may demonstrate a complex understanding in a variety of ways, such as doing in-depth analysis, giving multiple valid claims such a multiple similarities and differences, continuities and changes, or causes and effects. You can also explain relevant and insightful connections within and across periods or by corroborating multiple perspectives across themes.

Paragraph #5 –Conclusion/Synthesis

- Conclusion paragraph should contain a restatement of your thesis and argument. Be clear and specific. Also, make a brief comparison about the topic of your essay to a similar event in another region or time period.

Thesis Killer Words:

Very	I think
Many	In this essay I will
Things	I'm going to tell you about The
Stuff	people
Lots/Alot	Never
Ways	

Synonyms for Similar:

Synonyms for Different:

alike	contrasting
akin	distinct
comparable	divergent
congruent	diverse
correlate	particular
corresponding	peculiar
in agreement	contrary
related	contrasting
much the same	opposing
parallel	unlike
resembling	unequal
parallel	rivaling

Direct Comparison Words:

Whereas	However	Notwithstanding
Although	In comparison	On the contrary
While	In contrast	Not only...but also
As opposed to	In like manner	On the other hand
As well as	In spite of	Rather than
By comparison	In the same way	Regardless
Compared with	In spite of	Same as
Conversely	Instead of	Similarly
Despite	Just as	Unlike
Different from	Likewise	Unless
Either...or	Neither...nor	Whereas
Even though	Nevertheless	While
Equally important	Nonetheless	Yet

Direct Comparison Templates:

While(CivilizationA) _____ had/was/lacked/used/etc _____, (CivilizationB) _____

had/was/lacked/used/etc _____.

Whereas(CivilizationA) _____ was _____, (CivilizationB) _____ differed as they _____.

Both(CivilizationA)and(CivilizationB)werecentered/drew/engaged/soughtafter/etc _____.

Analysis & Cue Words:

Because	Came from
Led to	In order to
Caused by	As a result
Affected	Consequently
Impacted	Therefore