

APUSH does not test definitions directly, but every essay rubric rewards precise use of the historical reasoning vocabulary – and the terms below are the ones students use loosely and lose points on. 美国史不直接考定义，但评分表要求准确使用史学推理术语。

Historical reasoning

Causation 因果关系 — an argument that one development produced another, which requires a stated mechanism rather than mere sequence

Continuity and change over time 延续与变迁 — a reasoning process asking what persisted as well as what altered across a period; an essay that names only change answers half the prompt

Comparison 比较 — an argument about similarity AND difference between developments, with the basis of comparison made explicit

Contextualisation 情境化 — situating an argument in the broader historical circumstances that preceded or surrounded it – a separate rubric point from the thesis

Periodisation 分期 — the choice of dates bounding a period, and the argument that those turning points are the significant ones

Historiography 史学史 — the study of how historians’ interpretations of an event have themselves changed

Sourcing a document

Point of view 立场 — the perspective an author’s position gives them, and how that shapes what the document can be evidence FOR

Purpose 目的 — what the author intended the document to accomplish, which usually explains its selection and emphasis

Audience 受众 — who the document was made for, which constrains what the author could say and how

Historical situation 历史情境 — the circumstances at the moment of creation that bear on the document’s content

Recurring concepts

Republicanism 共和主义 — the ideology holding that legitimate government rests on the consent of a virtuous citizenry rather than on inherited authority

Federalism 联邦制 — the division of sovereignty between a national government and the states, and the recurring dispute over where the line falls

Judicial review 司法审查 — the power of courts to declare a law unconstitutional, established in practice by *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)

Manifest Destiny 天命命运 — the mid-nineteenth-century belief that the United States was destined to expand across the continent, used to justify acquisition and removal

Sectionalism 地域主义 — loyalty to the interests of a region above those of the nation, the organising force of antebellum politics

Nativism 排外主义 — hostility to immigrants and a preference for the established population, recurring in the 1850s, 1920s and later

Progressivism 进步主义 — the early-twentieth-century reform movement seeking to use government expertise to correct the effects of industrialisation

Containment 遏制政策 — the Cold War strategy of preventing the spread of Soviet influence rather than attempting to reverse it