

The essay rubrics reward precise use of the historical reasoning vocabulary, and the course turns on a handful of recurring concepts that students use loosely. These are the terms that cost points. 世界史的评分表要求准确使用史学推理术语, 以下是易被含糊使用的概念。

Historical reasoning

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

Continuity and change over time 延续与变迁 — asking what persisted as well as what altered; an essay naming only change answers half the prompt

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

Contextualisation 情境化 — situating the argument in the broader circumstances of the period – a separate rubric point from the thesis

Sourcing 史料辨析 — explaining how a document’s purpose, audience, point of view or situation affects what it can be evidence for

States and empires

State 国家 — a political organisation with defined territory, a permanent population and a government exercising authority over both

Empire 帝国 — a state extending its rule over other peoples and territories, usually extracting tribute, labour or revenue from them

Tributary system 朝贡体系 — a hierarchy in which lesser states acknowledged a dominant one with gifts and ritual, receiving trade access and legitimacy in return

Bureaucracy 官僚制 — administration by appointed officials following written rules, which allows a state to govern beyond the reach of personal loyalty

Legitimacy 合法性 — the accepted right to rule, claimed through religion, descent, conquest, law or consent

Economies and networks

Columbian Exchange 哥伦布交换 — the transfer of crops, animals, people and diseases between the Americas and Afro-Eurasia after 1492, whose demographic effect was the largest

Mercantilism 重商主义 — the doctrine that a state’s wealth is measured by bullion and secured by a trade surplus, requiring colonies to supply raw materials and buy manufactures

Cash crop 经济作物 — a crop grown for sale rather than subsistence, which ties a region’s food security to distant markets

Industrialisation 工业化 — the shift to mechanised, factory-based production using inanimate power, which reorganised where goods were made and who supplied their inputs

Economic imperialism 经济帝国主义 — control exerted through investment, debt and trade terms rather than formal annexation

Societies and change

Diaspora 侨民社群 — a dispersed population maintaining ties to a homeland, often forming merchant communities that carried goods and ideas

Syncretism 融合 — the blending of belief systems or practices into a new form, common where religions spread along trade routes

Nationalism 民族主义 — the belief that a people sharing culture and history should govern itself, which both built states and broke empires apart

Decolonisation 去殖民化 — the process by which colonies achieved political independence, by negotiation or by war, chiefly after 1945

Globalisation 全球化 — the intensifying integration of economies, communications and cultures, distinguished from earlier trade by its speed and scale