

AP U.S. Review Guide Features (2015 versions and beyond)

1. Midwinter break: Obtain a Review Guide and take one or more practice exams; plan & start review based on results.
2. Week after midwinter break: Create and follow your own review schedule.
3. Spring break: Take at least one full practice exam; review content using Era Kits and commercial review guide.
4. Last week of April & first week of May: Use to supplement in-class review sessions.

Crash Course (Seems best suited for those who want a quick and minimalist review).

- Very concise content review (thus the name!) organized by the 9 AP periods.
- Includes key facts/themes for several topics such as females, labor, legal, and so on
- Short section on strategies for different types of AP exam questions
- Has 1 online practice exam

Barron's (Seems suited for those who prefer basic and efficient review.)

- Follows the AP U.S. concept outline step-by-step for each of the 9 periods.
- Relatively concise.
- Has 2 practice exams (and access to one more online) with explanations for multiple-choice questions.

Kaplan (Seems suited for those who prefer meticulous preparation.)

- Organized by the 9 AP U.S. periods.
- Each of the periods has multiple chapters of review info.
- Has sample questions and answers (multiple-choice, short-answer, DBQ/essay) at the end of each of the 9 period sections.
- Has 5 practice exams.
- Has extensive sections on understanding and succeeding on exam.
- Includes pull-out 2-sided review card (8.5" x 11").

5 Steps to a 5 (Seems suited for those who want to focus on the types of AP questions)

- Strong section on the types of questions on AP exam.
- Has app to diagnose where you are and guide your preparation.
- Organized by authors' choices into 25 relatively-concise content review sections.
- Has section on key themes.
- Has 3 practice exams.

Princeton (Seems suited for those wanting balance between exam prep and content review)

- Extensive section on understanding and approaching the exam.
- Content review organized into 8 sections according to author's choice.
- Each content review section has review questions and answer explanations.
- Has 2 practice exams.

Reviewing content:

- Barron's is good for quick explanations of specific concepts/events/individuals that you might refer to specifically as evidence in an essay.
- Kaplan has more lengthy explanations of specific concepts/events/individuals.
- Princeton Review has longer sections focusing on general trends. Now organized by AP units.
- 5 Steps to a 5 now has 30 chapters that do not align directly with AP units. Warning: Had weak/misleading section on short-answers in 2015 edition.

AP U.S. History Exam Preparation Schedule

Sample activities (Of course, customize or add as you see fit.)

1. Take one or more practice tests, and use results to guide further preparation.
2. Memorize three different items from each Era kit that you could use for virtually any essay relating to that era (an event, a document, an image, a court case, or any combo).
3. Review just tables of contents for Era kits all in a row to get the “big picture.”
4. Review just timelines of Era kits all in a row to get the “big picture..
5. Review just key terms of Era kits all in a row to get the “big picture..
6. Review just images of all Era kits in a row to get the “big picture.
7. Go through each Era Kit, one at a time.
8. Use the GilderLehrman.org online study guide for each era.
9. Brainstorm possible essay questions with other students, develop a thesis, and for each one develop three main points, and decide at least three specific events, people, documents, or other sources that you would refer to as part of the support.
10. Quiz each other on various elements randomly selected from Era kits to see if significance of each is understood.

Broad goals

Spring break:

April 20-26 (learning Era 9 also):

April 28-May 3

May 4-7 (4 days)

If you wish to do a Day-by-Day Schedule, you may utilize your APUSH Spring Calendar