

APUSH Synthesis

What is SYNTHESIS?

Simply put, synthesis compares the connection between the thesis (or argument) with a similar development in another era, area, or situation. It isn't really a comparison of an event since it deals with a process, development, or position in the thesis.

Example: A thesis dealing with abolition tactics could be connected to radicalization of civil rights tactics in the 1960s.

It can also be explaining a connection to another theme as opposed to the one expressed in the question and/or the thesis.

Let's say we wanted to connect the Great Society to the New Deal...

NO: The Great Society programs did more for people just like the New Deal did in the 1930s.

YES: The Great Society programs expanded entitlement programs designed to combat high poverty rates and provide all Americans the opportunity to share in the national wealth. While not as extensive as the Great Society, the New Deal relief and recovery agencies tackled the problem of returning America to its rightful level of prosperity and economic potential amidst the Great Depression.

Here's another example: Women's rights activists and abolitionists both used religion in support of their cause...

NO: "These strong appeals to religion to further a cause were especially prevalent in the aftermath of the 2001 terror attacks, where the U.S. government appealed especially to Christians to fight the Muslim terror that had done us wrong. This prejudice, created by that message, hangs heavy even today, 15 years later."

YES: "Women appealed to the American public through religion during the 1970s women's movement. Phyllis Schlafly described the role of women as subservient to their husbands and a guardian of family values. Her beliefs helped fuel states to reject the Equal Rights Amendment, but, according to her and others like her, preserve a woman's right to be a moral matriarch."

YES: "The Republican Party appealed to the religious right to expand their electorate and party voting blocs. By supporting issues such as pro-life, the death penalty, and prayer in school, the GOP used religious rhetoric and platforms to secure more congressional and state legislative seats after the 1980s."

Synthesis List

Debates and restrictions over free speech and government power during wartime

Alien and Sedition Acts (Quasi-War)

Hartford Convention (War of 1812)

Thoreau refusing to pay taxes (Mexican-American War)

Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus (Civil War)

Anti-Imperialist League (Spanish-American War)

Sedition Acts, Part II and opposition of Eugene V. Debs and others (WWI)

Internment of West-Coast Japanese (WWII)

1st Red Scare (Palmer Raids - post WWI)

McCarthyism and Red Scares (Cold War)

Draft dodging, rallies, college opposition, Kent State (Vietnam)

Patriot Act after 9-11 ("War on Terror")

Conflict between those on the coast and those on the frontier (class conflict)

Bacon's Rebellion

Leisler's Rebellion

Regulator Movement

Paxton Boys

Pontiac's Rebellion and Proclamation of 1763

Shays' Rebellion

Whiskey Rebellion

Jackson's Bank War

Populists

Grange Movement

Opposition to wars/foreign intervention or entanglements

Washington's Farewell Address

Isolationism between world wars
Charles Lindbergh and America First
American Anti-Imperialist League
Anti-war movement--Vietnam War

Debates over the balance of power between federal and state government

Constitutional Convention (Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists)
Marshall Court decisions
Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions / Nullification Crisis
Hartford Convention
South Carolina Tariff Nullification
Northern Liberty Laws
Secession
Interstate Commerce Commission
Supreme Court striking down New Deal laws based on restrictive view of commerce clause
Arkansas and the Little Rock 9 - Faubus's reaction to Ike's intervention
New Federalism - Nixon/Reagan
Arizona immigration law
DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act)
Medicinal Marijuana

American Exceptionalism

Winthrop's City on a Hill (Puritans; religion)
Declaration of Independence
Monroe Doctrine
Manifest Destiny (John L. O'Sullivan; annexation of Texas)
The New Colossus, by Emma Lazarus
Social Darwinism, New Imperialism, nationalism
Insular cases (imperialism, "Does the Constitution follow the flag?")
Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine
"Make the World Safe for Democracy"/"A War to End All Wars"
FDR's "Four Freedoms" Speech
Containment policy
JFK's Inaugural Address
Ronald Reagan (used City on a Hill imagery in speeches)

Sectional tensions and differences (some affected by environment)

Regional differences between Native American tribes
Regional differences between British North American colonies
Regional differences between states at the Constitutional Convention (slavery)
Hartford Convention
Sectionalism 1848 - 1865
Reconstruction
Great Migration (1910-1930) - growth of racial tensions and race riots
Silent Majority

Rebellion against the established social order

Committees of Correspondence / Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee
The Liberator (Immediatists vs. gradualists) / MLK/non-violent resistance vs. Malcolm X/Black Panthers
Independence Faction vs. Olive Branch Faction / Interventionists vs. America First (isolationists)
Civil War-The Union Must Be Preserved vs. Copperheads/Peace Faction
Imperialism - Imperialists vs. GooGoos (Good Government Types)
Civil Rights Movement
Hippies
Women's Rights Movement

Another document to check out: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ia07lgCQn-ilP9MCiTERBlcqdIqrKK_j5ZDBH-iPuP8/edit