

HOW TO ANSWER HISTORICAL QUESTIONS – Question Breakdown

BREAKING DOWN THE QUESTION

- Underline words you do not know or understand or unfamiliar with.
 - Use dictionary.com to define underlined words and use thesaurus.com and exchange words for the ones you are familiar with.
 - Reread the question with the substituted words.
- What is the main idea of the question? What is the question focusing on? What is the question **REALLY** asking?
- Decide how many questions the question is asking. Circle the word(s) that make the sentence ask for multiple answers. ○
 - If the question has the word "OR" with only TWO options, the sentence is asking only one question.*
 - The question is asking multiple questions when the word "and"," each" (normally more than 2 questions and or examples are expected).*
 - Are there any plural words, phrases, and or commas used to require multiple answers?*
 - Is the question questioning a process? If it is discussing a process, multiple examples are required. Minimum of 3.*
 - Is the question asking for an example or multiple examples?*
- How many examples is the question looking for?
 - Identify how many examples are needed to reach a Level 4 answer.
- Rephrase the question into a statement (sentence starter) to answer the question. Make the statement grammatically correct. Sentence Starters will be identified as the color **ORANGE** in the examples.
- If more than one question, idea, or example is being asked, create a statement (sentence starter) to answer each question, idea, or example.
- The correct number of examples should be applied for each sentence starter used.
 - Make an underline (_____) for each possible example.
 - Example - Slavery developed in America because of _____, _____, and _____.
- Complete the statement by answering the question
 - Example - Slavery developed in America because of wealth, mercantilism, and race.

EXAMPLE OF A QUESTION ASKING TWO QUESTIONS

What are the advantages **and** disadvantages of the agricultural revolution?

- What is the main idea or what is the question focusing on?
- How many questions are being asked within the question?
 - This answer requires two answers since **AND** was used.
- How many questions are required in order to answer the question completely?
 - This answer requires multiple examples for **BOTH** advantages and disadvantages since advantages and disadvantages are both plural.
 - Use the **BEST EXAMPLES** when an amount is NOT specified. The amount will vary per question but choosing the best choices will reduce how much you will have to write.
 - *KEY TIP** - The **BEST EXAMPLES** connect multiple examples and the **BEST ANSWERS** connect multiple answers.

CREATE MULTIPLE SENTENCE STARTERS – ELIMINATE THE QUESTION AND MAKE THE SENTENCE STARTERS

- Make the question into two individual statements.
 - Statement number # 1
 - What are the **advantageS and disadvantageS of the agricultural revolution** are _____.
 - Statement number # 2
 - What are the **advantageS and disadvantageS of the agricultural revolution** are _____.

MAKE SENTENCE STARTERS AND ADD MULTIPLE ANSWERS WITH THE SENTENCE STARTERS

- Create Sentence Starter # 1.
 - The advantages of the agricultural revolution were _____ and _____.**
 - Rephrase the question into a statement to answer the question.
 - Make points but Do **NOT** explain. Step 2 is when you explain your answer with examples.
 - Advantages is plural so there needs to be at least two examples to complete the answer correctly. The more examples the more you **SHOW UNDERSTANDING**.
- Create Sentence Starter # 2.
 - The disadvantages of the agricultural revolution were _____ and _____.**
 - Rephrase the question into a statement to answer the question.
 - Make points but Do **NOT** explain. Step 2 is when you explain your answer with examples.
 - Disadvantages is plural so there needs to be at least two examples to complete the answer correctly. The more examples the more you **SHOW UNDERSTANDING**.

EXAMPLE OF MULTIPLE QUESTIONS BEING ASKED - CAN BE MORE THAN TWO QUESTIONS BEING ASKED

How did **each religion** deal with their specific challenges in colonial America?

- How many questions are being asked within the question?
 - Each** is used. The number of answers depends on how many religions are being discussed.
 - Colonial America** can be plural due to the colonies being individual and categorized in colonial regions.
 - Challenges is plural so multiple examples are required.
- How many examples is the question requiring so that the answer is completely answered?
 - Every answer needs to have an explanation with examples.

CREATE SENTENCE STARTER WITH MULTIPLE ANSWER - FILL IN SENTENCE STARTER TOPIC WITH DIFERENT ANSWERS

- Make the question into individual statements to answer how each religious group handled challenges.
 - How did **each religion** deal with their specific challengeS in colonial America?
 - (**Religion**) specifically dealt with (**challenge #1**) and (**challenge #2**) in colonial America by _____.

HOW TO ANSWER HISTORICAL QUESTIONS – Question Breakdown

CREATE MULTIPLE ANSWERS

1. Create first part of answer number 1
 - a. **Quakers dealt with (challenge #1) in the colonial America by _____.**
 - i. Rephrase the question into a statement which will answer the question.
 - ii. Specifically name a religion and make the question into a statement.
 1. Name the challenge the religion dealt with without explaining what they did.
 2. Religions may have handled the same challenges differently.
 - iii. Challenges is plural so there needs to be at least two examples to complete the answer correctly. The more examples the more you **SHOW UNDERSTANDING**.
2. Create second part of answer number 1 – Follow the steps above
 - a. **Quakers dealt with (challenge # 2) in colonial America by colonies by _____.**
 - i. Rephrase the question into a statement which will answer the question.
 - ii. Specifically name a religion and make the question into a statement and follow the steps above.
3. You can combine two sentences or multiple answers into one sentence. *Examples must be in the same order.*
 - a. **Quakers dealt with religion and Native Americans in colonial America by establishing religious freedom and by manipulating the Native Americans.**

Notice how the purples are connected to religion and how the greys are connected to Native Americans.

EXAMPLES OUTSIDE THE NORM

Below are examples of questions that require multiple examples or answers although “and”, commas, and plural words are not used.

The questions below are asking for multiple examples because there was more than one reason for slavery developing and there were a number of ways that slavery was resisted. There are words that indicate multiple examples although they may not look like it. Developed and resisted are words that require multiple examples. If a question is questioning a process, then multiple (more than 2) examples are required.

1. How did slavery **develop** in colonial America?
2. How was slavery **resisted**?

HOW MANY QUESTIONS?

What role did geography play in the economies and political systems of **each colony**?

1. What role did geography play in the **economies and political systems of each colony**?
2. What role did geography play in the **economies and political systems of each colony**?

Create the questions

1. What role did geography play in the economy of (colony name)?
2. What role did geography play in the political systems of (colony name)?

How many questions are you technically supposed to answer? ____

Explain _____

What do you need to do to make the statements grammatically correct?

How would you answer this question without having to answer ____ questions?

Group the colonies by _____, _____, and _____

EXAMPLE OF ONE QUESTION BEING ASKED

What was the agricultural revolution?

1. How many questions are being asked within the question?
 - a. Only 1 question is being asked.
 - i. There are no plural words, no commas, and the word “and” is not used.

CREATE SENTENCE STARTER

2. Make the question into a statement to answer the question.
 - a. ~~What was~~ **the agricultural revolution is/was** _____.

CHOOSE ONE OF THE SENTENCE STARTERS WITH YOUR ANSWER

3. Create Sentence Starter #1
 - a. **The agricultural revolution was** _____.
 - i. Rephrase the question into a statement which will answer the question.
 - ii. Make a point but Do NOT explain. Step 2 is when you explain your answer with examples.
- Create Sentence Starter # 2.
 - b. Place the answer at the beginning of the sentence. – **Follow the example that’s easier to follow when answering the question.**
 - ii. _____ **and** _____ **are examples of the agricultural revolution.** – *Apply more examples if needed.*
 - iii. Rephrase the question into a statement to answer the question.

HOW TO ANSWER HISTORICAL QUESTIONS – Question Breakdown

STEPS TO BREAKING DOWN A QUESTION

Identify Who or What the Main Idea is.

- What is the Question **REALLY** asking?
 - Who or what is the main idea of the question?

How Many Questions Are Being Asked?

- *If the question has the word “OR” with only TWO options, the sentence is asking only one question.*
- *The question is asking multiple questions when the word “and,” “each” (normally more than 2 questions and or examples are expected).*
- *Are there any plural words, phrases, and or commas used to require multiple answers?*
- *Is the question questioning a process? If it is discussing a process, multiple examples are required. Minimum of 3.*

If there are more than one question being asked...What Are the Questions?

- Write down the question(s) that are being asked.
- How can you answer the question as easily as possible without having to write too much while still answering on a Level 4?
 - Example – Don’t write about all the thirteen colonies individually but discuss them by the three different regions.
 - Writing about the New England, Middle and Southern regions will allow you to discuss all the regions without having to write a lot.
 - Discussing Cause and Effect, Applying Analysis and Evaluation, and Comparing and Contrasting are just a few examples to do this correctly.
 - Review the History Rubric for more examples.
 - College classes will give you a word limit on you will not be allowed to exceed.

How Many Examples is the Question Asking For?

- Is the question asking for an example or multiple examples to reach a Level 4 answer?
- Each question must have its own examples unless the examples connect to the questions being asked.
 - If you use the same example for different questions you must explain the connection to the question.

Write Your Sentence Starter.

- Rephrase the question into a statement (sentence starter) to answer the question.
 - Take out the words that make the sentence a question.
 - Cross out the words Who, What, Where, When, and Why.
- Make the statement grammatically correct.
- If more than one question, idea, or example is being asked, create a statement (sentence starter) to answer each question, idea, or example.

Answer Your Historical Question

- Use the sentence starter to start your answer
 - **Answer the Question**
- Apply the number of examples needed to answer the question correctly
 - **Explain your answer**
- Explain the importance of your answer
 - **Explain why the example and or answer is important.**
 - Connect the Inquiry Arc and or the 4 Questions to Understanding the Importance
 - May require more than one sentence.

For additional help for writing your answer, review [How to Answer Historical Questions](#).