

# AP European History

## Contextualizations

The point for 'Contextualization' on the DBQ rubric requires a 3-4 sentence analysis that introduces a context that is an influence on the main topic of the prompt, or the time period of the prompt. Your analysis should explain the way in which the context you introduce influenced events or developments; in other words, explain how the context is relevant to the topic, time period, and also the arguments you will present to answer the prompt. (side note: as a relevant influence on events a context is in a way a contributing 'cause' of events.)

The 'Isms' below, in no particular order, are great for earning the DBQ point for contextualization. You should define and know them ALL. Know your 'Isms'! The bolded "-isms" are in the framework. In executing a contextualization in a way that will earn a point on the DBQ rubric use an '-ism' in a sentence. Write something like: "\_\_\_\_\_ happened within the context of \_\_\_\_\_ism"; or, "The big context in which \_\_\_\_\_ happened was within \_\_\_\_\_ism".

The first blank is the topic, or period, of the prompt you are contextualizing, and the second blank is the 'ism' you will explain as the context. Go on to explain how/why the context you offer, the '-ism', shapes the topic or time period. Tell how events or developments were impacted by the context.

animism	imperialism	militarism	rationalism	Social Darwinism	abolitionism
feudalism	socialism	isolationism	communism	modernism	mercantilism
feminism	expansionism	capitalism	colonialism	consumerism	liberalism
fascism	Marxism	racism	totalitarianism	anti-imperialism	absolutism
humanism	conservatism	nationalism	existentialism	constitutionalism	pluralism

The DBQ also offers a point if you successfully analyze documents by noting the ways in which certain features significantly shape the contents of a particular document. Noting how a document is shaped significantly by an historical context is one of the ways to earn this point. The same approach used above to earn a point for contextualization also works when doing an 'historical context' for a document.

To earn the point for document analysis a student must execute at least four analyses correctly. Four ways to extend the analysis of primary sources include correctly analyzing: Historical Context, Audience, Purpose, and Point of View. HAP-P (say 'happy') represents a useful acronym you can employ to help yourself remember the four methods of extended document analysis specifically listed in the DBQ rubric.

**H = Historical Context**

**A = Audience**

**P = Purpose**

**P = Point of View**

Additionally, ‘-ation’ words, that is to say, words ending with the suffix “-ation” indicate action, and often processes. Many of these processes go on for significant lengths of time. The big processes, very much like the ‘isms’, make great Contextualizations, and also historical contexts for executing document analysis.

Some major ‘-ation’ words you will find repeatedly useful, and again the bolded words are specifically in the framework:

domestication	urbanization	stratification	commercialization
innovation	migration	specialization	colonization
intensification	immigration	civilization	centralization
state formation	industrialization	adaptation	subjugation
mobilization	liberalization	diversification	segregation
monetization	decolonization	deforestation	

You can also work with contexts that are not ‘isms’ to execute either Contextualization or to analyze a document by noting the influence of a relevant historical context. You can use words to make developments into contexts when you can’t think of an ‘-ism’ or ‘-ation’ that fits.

Make the terms in the lists below work as contexts by using words such as “continuing”, “ongoing”, or “trend”. When used well these words transform an event or development into a long-term, persisting, and relevant context.

“\_\_\_\_\_ happened in the continuing context of \_\_\_\_\_”

“\_\_\_\_\_ happened in the context of ongoing \_\_\_\_\_”

“\_\_\_\_\_ happened in the context of the trend of \_\_\_\_\_”