EXAM ESSAY PRACTICE: Here are suggested techniques to complete the essay questions for your exam.

1. **Align** each Term/Concepts from the bulleted list with the essay question to which they correspond (NOTE: They could be used in multiple questions)
2. **Brainstorm** other possible Terms/Concepts to consider when answering the questions. The bulleted list is just a helpful aid to get you going in the right direction.
3. **Define** each of the Terms/Concepts and **Explain** how they relate to the context of the question.
4. **Demonstrate** your understanding of the question by organizing your ideas (including the Terms/Concepts) into well written, clearly expressed, and detailed paragraphs. Use proper spelling, capitalization and punctuation as you express your thoughts.
5. In this case, “Less is NOT More”. Detail is better than short, concise responses.

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**Steps 1 & 2: Align and Brainstorm**

**(These are your personal notes: I don’t grade this part)**

IMPERIALISM

The turn of the twentieth century was an era of great growth in America. Many American’s

wanted the United States to expand its military and economic power overseas. Write an essay

describing the things America did to leave the realm of isolationism to become a global power.

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| Essay Outline:  1. Explain the leading causes for US expansionist policies.  ● AT Mahan ● economic markets ● anglo-saxonism  Other possible terms/concepts:  ● isthmus ● White Man’s Burden ● military strength  2. Describe three examples of US territorial gains that demonstrates the growing influence of America.  ● Spanish-American War ● Panama ● Cuba  ● USS Maine ● anglo-saxonism ● Seward’s Folly  ● Philippines ● economic markets ● Liliaukolani  Other possible terms/concepts:  ● Guam ● Puerto Rico ● Columbia  ● Rough Riders ● Sugar Cane ● Yellow Journalism  3. Explain two examples of US foreign policy that illustrate America’s influence on the world.  ● AT Mahan ● Open Door Policy ● Big Stick Diplomacy  ● anglo-saxonism ● dollar diplomacy ● spheres of influence  ● Platt Amendment  Other possible terms/concepts:  ● Gun Boat Diplomacy ● Great White Fleet ● Columbia | Terms/Concepts to consider  ● AT Mahan  ● Spanish-American War  ● Panama  ● Open Door Policy  ● Cuba  ● USS Maine  ● Big Stick Diplomacy  ● anglo-saxonism  ● Seward’s Folly  ● Philippines  ● economic markets  ● Dollar Diplomacy  ● Spheres of Influence  ● Liliaukolani  ● Platt Amendment |

**Step 3: Definitions and Explanations**

**(These are your personal notes: I don’t grade this part)**

**Essay Question 1** Topics

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| --- | --- |
| AT Mahan | * US Naval officer * Wrote *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History 1660-1783* * Made recommendations for US Naval success and power:   + - Update the military fleet     - Gain military bases in the Pacific     - Gain military bases in the Caribbean     - Create a passageway through Latin America to shorten travel between oceans. |
| Economic Markets | * The United States had great economic wealth due to industrialization * We were in need of markets/people with which to trade to keep our economy strong * Resources such as sugar cane and tobacco were not readily available in the US, and our demand for these goods increased * European countries had expanded overseas, which increased our need to compete |
| Anglo-saxonism | * The belief that white, English-speaking nations were more dominant than lesser developed territories in the world * Americans used this as justification for our actions of Imperialism * Americans believed these “brown, black, and yellow” nations had to be civilized (and governed) * The duty to christianize people around the world became essential, too |
| isthmus | * a passageway between landmasses * would lead to the acquiring land for the Panama Canal |
| White Man’s Burden | * Book written by Rudyard Kipling * explained the idea of a duty for white, anglo-saxons to civilize and Christianize “lesser” nations |

**Step 4: Demonstration of Understanding**

**(This is the only thing you have to provide on test day)**

**Sample Response for Essay Question 1**: Explain the leading causes for US expansionist policies.

In the first century of independence, the United States had primarily been an isolationist country. Come the end of the 1800s, Americans began to push for more expansion and involvement on the world stage. There were a number of reasons for this push to become more Imperialistic, such as expanding our markets overseas, increasing our military presence around the globe, believing in the idea of anglo-saxonism (the belief that the white people were superior to other races around the world).

As the industrial age was creating a great deal of wealth in America, we were looking to increase that wealth by finding new markets overseas with which to trade. Many countries had valuable resources (sugar cane and tobacco, to name a few) that were in great demand in the United States. As European countries had been colonizing countries to obtain these resources, many Americans believed we should join the expansionist race to also tap into these foreign markets. To be able to secure these markets, there were those that believed we needed a stronger military presence around the world. A leading proponent of this was AT Mahan, who wrote a book called *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History 1660-1783.* In it he described four expansionist strategies the US should adopt to increase its military power: update the military fleet, obtain military bases in both the Pacific and the Caribbean, and open an isthmus through Latin America. A final reason for expansion was the growing belief that Americans had an obligation to civilize and Christianize less developed countries around the world. *The White Man’s Burden* (a poem by Rudyard Kipling) illustrated how Americans felt the “yellow, brown, and black” people around the world were inferior to the people of white, European descent. For us to be able to expand markets and create trade around the world, these people/countries had to be colonized and taught how to be civilized. As the desire to make money, increase our military presence, and Christianize and civilize other countries was growing in popularity around the country leaders like Theodore Roosevelt took the lead on developing foreign policies that lead America towards Imperialism.