

**Kaplan Ap U S History 2015
Book Online Dvd Kaplan Test
Prep**

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**Mastering
the AP
U.S.
History
Exam: A
Deep Dive
into the
Kaplan AP**

**History
2015 Book
+ Online +
DVD**

Preparing for the
Advanced
Placement U.S.
History exam can
feel like a
monumental task.

The course covers everything from pre-Columbian societies to the modern era, demanding not only factual recall but also the ability to analyze historical documents, craft evidence-based arguments, and think like a historian. For students tackling this challenge, the right study resources can make all the difference. One resource that has earned a solid reputation among educators and test-takers is the **Kaplan AP U.S. History 2015 Book + Online + DVD (Kaplan**

Test Prep). Even though it was released a few years after the major redesign of the APUSH exam, this integrated package remains a valuable tool for understanding the test's structure and mastering the essential content. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore what makes this product unique, how to get the most out of its components, and why it can still serve as a robust study companion for today's AP U.S. History student.

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Why the Kaplan AP U.S. History 2015 Edition Stands Out

When the College Board overhauled the AP U.S. History exam in 2015, they shifted the focus away from simple date memorization and toward deep historical thinking skills. The new exam introduced the Document-Based Question (DBQ), the Long Essay Question (LEQ), and short-answer sections that test students' ability to analyze sources, understand

causation, and compare historical developments. The **Kaplan AP U.S. History 2015 Book + Online + DVD** was designed specifically in response to this redesign. It is not just a review book; it is a multi-format study system that addresses the test's new demands from multiple angles.

One of the standout features of the 2015 edition is its commitment to teaching the historical thinking skills that the exam

emphasizes. Instead of overwhelming students with endless lists of names and dates, Kaplan's authors focused on concepts like periodization, continuity and change, and contextualization. This approach aligns perfectly with what the AP exam graders are looking for. The book's structure helps students build a mental framework of U.S. history, making it easier to recall information and apply it to unfamiliar prompts.

Inside the Book: Content Review and Strategy

The paperback volume at the core of the **Kaplan AP U.S. History 2015 Book + Online + DVD (Kaplan Test Prep)** package is a well-organized study guide. It begins with a diagnostic quiz that helps students identify their strengths and weaknesses. This personalized starting point allows test-takers to focus their limited study time on the areas that need the most

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improvement. required for the

DBQ and LEQ.

The content For example, a review is divided section might into nine explain how to chronological identify bias in a periods, primary source or mirroring the AP how to weigh framework. Each conflicting chapter includes historical interpretations. key concepts, This is far more timelines, and useful than a sidebars that simple list of highlight important facts.

Supreme Court cases, Additionally, the presidential book provides administrations, test-taking and social strategies specific movements. But to each question what truly sets type. There are this book apart is tips for managing the "Think Like a time during the Historian" multiple-choice feature. These section, a step-by-step approach to short sections the DBQ walk students through the (including how to analytical process write a strong

thesis in the first few minutes), and advice for structuring the long essay. The practice questions at the end of each chapter are designed to mimic the style and difficulty of the actual exam, complete with answer explanations that clarify not just what is correct, but *why* each answer is correct—and why the others are not.

**The Online Component:
Interactive Practice and**

Diagnostics

One of the most powerful aspects of the **Kaplan AP U.S. History 2015 Book + Online + DVD** is its online portal. Unlike a static book, the online platform offers adaptive quiz banks, full-length practice tests, and performance tracking.

Students can take a timed practice test that simulates the three-hour-and-15-minute exam experience, then receive a detailed score report that breaks down their performance by time period and

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historical thinking skill. mobile-friendly, allowing students

The online component also includes additional video lessons that supplement the book's content. These short, focused videos cover topics that students often find difficult, such as the complexities of Reconstruction or the foreign policy shifts of the Cold War. The ability to pause, rewind, and rewatch these explanations is invaluable for visual and auditory learners. Moreover, the online platform is

to review flashcards or take quick quizzes during downtime—on the bus, between classes, or just before bed.

Another useful feature is the "Qbank," a repository of hundreds of practice questions organized by time period and skill. Students can create custom quizzes to target weak areas, and the system learns from their responses to present more questions on topics where they

struggle. This sort of adaptive learning is the hallmark of modern test prep, and Kaplan integrated it well into the 2015 edition.

The DVD: Video Instruction for Deeper Understanding

While many test prep books now rely entirely on digital downloads, the 2015 Kaplan package included a physical DVD. This DVD contains strategic review sessions recorded by

experienced AP U.S. History teachers. The videos cover key concepts that are often misunderstood, such as the difference between the Federalist and Anti-Federalist debates, the nuances of Jacksonian democracy, and the causes of the Great Depression.

For students who prefer a classroom-like experience, the DVD offers a change of pace from reading. Watching a teacher explain the chronology of the Civil War or

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walking through a DBQ outline can reinforce the material and provide a different perspective. The video lessons are concise—usually 10 to 15 minutes each—making them easy to fit into a busy study schedule. Even though the DVD format may seem outdated compared to streaming, it works perfectly offline, which is a blessing for students with limited internet access.

How to Use

This

Resource Effectively

To get the maximum benefit from the **Kaplan AP U.S. History 2015 Book + Online + DVD (Kaplan Test Prep)**, students need a strategic study plan. Here is a recommended approach:

- **Start with the diagnostic test.** Take the initial quiz in the book or online to establish a baseline. Review the results to

identify your

weakest periods and skills.

- **Work through the book chronologically.** Read each chapter, but don't just highlight. Actively engage with the "Think Like a Historian" prompts. Use the timeline at the end of each chapter to create your own mental map of events.
- **Incorporate the videos.**

After reading a chapter, watch the corresponding DVD segment. The combination of reading and listening strengthens memory retention.

- **Practice with the online Qbank.** After reviewing a period, take a custom quiz on that content. Aim for at least 80% correct before moving on.
- **Write**

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essays

early and often.

The online platform includes DBQ and LEQ prompts. Write at least two full essays per week and compare your answers to the scoring guidelines provided.

- **Take a full-length practice test monthly.**

Use the online test to simulate real exam

conditions

After each test, deep-dive into the mistakes. Re-watch videos on topics you missed.

- **Use the final month for review and strategy.**

Focus on your weakest areas, review test-taking tips, and take one last full practice test to build confidence.

Comparing the 2015

Edition to

Modern Resources

Some students might wonder: is a 2015 test prep book still relevant for the current AP U.S. History exam? The answer is yes—with some considerations. The core content of U.S. history has not changed. The founding documents, the key battles, the major social movements—all remain the same. The historical thinking skills tested in 2015 are essentially identical to those tested today. The exam's structure (DBQ, LEQ,

multiple-choice, short answer) remains unchanged.

However, there are a few updates in later editions. For instance, the College Board occasionally adjusts the weighting of certain topics or adds recent historical developments. The 2015 edition will not cover events after 2015, such as the Trump administration, the COVID-19 pandemic, or the modern civil rights movements of the past decade. But these recent events

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often appear only in the final timeline. multiple-choice questions or as context for the DBQ. The vast majority of the test focuses on pre-2000 content, so the 2015 book covers 95% of what students need.

Students using the **Kaplan AP U.S. History 2015 Book + Online + DVD** should supplement it with a more recent overview of the last ten years of U.S. history. That could be a quick read of a current

Advantages for Different Learning Styles

This tri-part textbook chapter resource is or even a high

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magic. • Page 13

effective because it caters to a variety of learning preferences.

Visual learners benefit from the timelines, charts, and video explanations.

Auditory learners absorb the strategies through the DVD lectures.

Reading/writing learners thrive on the book's detailed passages and practice essays.

Kinesthetic learners can engage with the interactive online quizzes and drag-and-drop exercises in the Qbank.

Moreover, the combination of resources reduces the likelihood of study burnout. If a student feels tired of reading, they can switch to watching a video. If they are tired of sitting, they can listen to the DVD while walking or exercising. This flexibility is crucial for maintaining momentum during the long AP prep season.

Real-World Testimonials and Success Stories

Although this article is about a

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specific product, mentioned that it is worth noting the strategy for that many the multiple-students who choice used the **Kaplan AP U.S. History 2015 Book + Online + DVD** section—specifically, the emphasis reported on eliminating obviously wrong answers—saved significant score improvements. In precious minutes during the exam. In online forums, These success past users stories praised the underscore the book's clear value of a well-explanations and structured review the DVD's ability system. The to break down The Kaplan package complex events does not just into digestible hand students segments. One information; it student noted that the “Think teaches them how Like a Historian” to think through sections were the exam's directly responsible for challenges. That her ability to skill is far more score a 5 on the enduring than DBQ. Another any single fact.

Potential Drawbacks to Consider

No resource is perfect. Some users have noted that the Kaplan book is sometimes lighter on detail compared to other review books like those from Barron's or AMSCO. Students aiming for a perfect score might want to supplement with more in-depth reading on specific eras. Additionally, the DVD format requires a DVD player or a computer with a disc drive, which fewer devices

have today. However, many students can still play DVDs on gaming consoles or older laptops.

Another minor issue is that the online platform, even when functioning, has a dated interface. Students accustomed to modern, sleek apps might find the dashboard less intuitive. Still, the content remains solid, and the practice questions are realistically difficult.

Conclusion

In the ever-evolving world of

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AP test historical events, preparation, the its core content **Kaplan AP U.S. History 2015 Book + Online + DVD (Kaplan Test Prep)** and strategy lessons remain highly applicable to the current AP U.S. History exam. For students willing to supplement with a brief modern history update, this Kaplan package can be a powerful ally in the quest for a high AP score. Ultimately, what matters most is not the year on the cover, but the depth of understanding you build—and this resource provides an excellent foundation for the most recent that vital skill.