**FINAL REMINDERS FOR APHG EXAM SUCCESS**

The following is a list of **best practices** for the day before and day of the APHG Exam. Rules, conditions and situations in your particular school or testing center may vary.  But, we believe if you follow these suggestions, you will create opportunities to do well on the APHG exam.

**1. NO CELL PHONES IN THE TESTING ROOM – Leave them in your car or locker or store them in the testing center. Just do not have them with you when taking the exam or at the break.  Having a phone in the exam room/center/break area can result in you having your test scores cancelled.**

**2. Get plenty of sleep the night before the exam.**

**3. Eat a protein-rich breakfast.  Protein fires up your brain and can help you get ready to think.**

**4. Be on time for the exam – be 10 minutes early.  Some testing centers will lock the doors and not allow you to enter if you are late.**

**5. Bring #2 pencils and black or dark blue pens – erasable if desired.  Pencils are used on the MCQs and pens are used on the FRQs.**

**6. The MCQ section is first, has 75 questions and is 60 minutes in length.**

**7.  Do not linger over an MCQ item – if you read it a few times and have not answered it, go on to the next item.  Remember to circle items which cause difficulty or that you leave blank so you can come back to them later.**

**8. Be careful with NOT and EXCEPT items.  In other words, read carefully as all the answers on these items are correct except for one.**

**9. If you have any time remaining and you have finished the MCQs, go back and check your answers.**

**10. ALWAYS go back and check MCQs with stimulus material.  This gives you a chance to check your answer of the questions with maps, photos, diagrams, etc.**

**11. Remember, when the APHG exam is over, you may NEVER discuss the MCQs!  You signed an agreement to this extent when the APHG exam began.**

**12. THERE WILL BE A 15 minute BREAK AFTER THE MCQs.**

**13. At the break get up, walk around, go outside.  Get your blood flowing and clear your head.  You still have the other half of the exam to take.**

**14. Be on time coming back after the break.**

**15. FRQ section is 3 questions with 75 minutes to answer.**

**16. MCQs = ½ of the exam. FRQs = ½ of the exam.**

**17. Each FRQ then is worth ⅓ of ½ of the FRQ section.**

**18. FRQ test booklet has a pink cover, white-lined paper & question number on the top of each page.**

**19. For up to 5 minutes, read all 3 FRQs, make an outline or write down key words to help answering.**

**20. *Box* all the *verbs*, *circle* all *numbers* and *conjunctions* and *underline* all other *key words.***

**21. Any notes or marks you make on the question pages are NOT SCORED!! Transfer any critical ideas.**

**22. NOTE – Never, ever, ever write in bullets! They will not be scored!!**

**23. Determine which questions you consider the easiest to most difficult.  Imagine you are a hungry lion on the Serengeti.  You are looking for an easy meal.  Of course you would love to find a wounded, young wildebeest by itself.  Well, that is what you are doing now – trying to find the easiest question.  In other words figure out which question you think would be easiest for you to answer.**

**24. Like the lion, attack the easiest question first and allow 10-15 minutes to answer it.**

**25. Do not go over this 15 minute time frame.**

**26. When finished devouring your wildebeest question, attack the next easiest question (maybe an old, adult wildebeest) and allow 15-20 minutes to answer it.**

**27. Do not go over this 20 minute time frame.**

**28. Finally, the lion must attack the healthy, adult wildebeest.  You can get it, but it will be more difficult.  Attack the last question allowing 25-30 minutes to answer it.**

**29. Do not go over this 30 minute time frame.**

**30. If you use all of the maximum times here, you will still have 5 minutes left over.  It is likely you will have a lot more time.**

**31. Use any remaining time to review answers and/or add items to your answers.**

**Advice from the Venerable Debbie Lange**

**Ask for 2 examples and you give 3:**

When an example is asked for the first example is scored.  Additional answers beyond what is asked for are not considered at all.  They cannot get credit for the shot gun approach where they attempt to hit something by giving multiple answers.

**Here is some advice...**

#1   Don't Panic--when the student sees the question, their first response will probably be, “My teacher did not teach us this...."  That may be true but he/she did teach you some of the elements...read the question....break it down...what can you answer.....

#2  Always remember to "THINK GEOGRAPHICALLY".  This is a geography test not a history test.  Location, Scale, and Time are important.

#3  Practice--Go to the College Board Web Site and look at the previous questions.  Notice how they can be approached from different subject areas (they usually cover more than one topic).  Outline answers (or answer them if you have the time).  Then look at the rubric and see if you hit the right points.  Score them or peer grade them [notice on the rubric what was accepted and what was not accepted as a response].

#4  Assume the reader is tired....it is the end of day 6...they have been scoring since 8:00....Help the reader find the answer.  Label the different sections or at least start a new paragraph for each part of the question.  Underline appropriate terms.  For example if the question asks for the definition of a nation......then underline the word nation so the reader can see...oh yes, here is the definition.

#5  Unless you are running out of time do not just list facts.  Communicate with the reader.  Explain, discuss, etc. **Remember to use your knowledge of the verbs and give the appropriate amount of information for each verb.**

#6  One last hint---and this comes up at every reading---ANSWER THE QUESTION--don't ramble....yes it is better to try to answer the question instead of leaving it blank....but don't show off....if you have answered the question don't keep writing in order to tell the reader everything you have learned in APHG this year.

Which goes back to # 1  Break the FRQ down.  Answer each part from the geographic perspective (#2) and help the reader know that this is your answer (#4).