Possible/Common CCOT Essay Structures

Below are some common essay structures students use for the CCOT. Note: There is no universal “best” essay structure. The specific wording of the question requires students to be flexible in organizing their response.

### Geographic
- Region #1
  - Changes
  - Continuities
  - Analysis of Region #1’s relationship to global context (RGC)
- Region #2
  - Changes
  - Continuities
  - Analysis of Region #2’s RGC

### Categorical
- Category #1 (Social)
  - Global Context
  - Changes, Continuities, analysis vis á vis RGC
- Category #2 (Economic)
  - Global Context
  - Changes, Continuities, analysis vis á vis RGC
- Category #3 (Political)
  - Global Context
  - Changes, Continuities, analysis vis á vis RGC

### Chronological
- Beginning
  - Global Context
  - Region/Category #1, including RGC analysis
  - Region/Category #2, including RGC analysis
- Middle (with emphasis on how changes develop from beginning through to end)
  - Global Context
  - Region/Category #1, including RGC analysis
  - Region/Category #2, including RGC analysis
- End
  - Global Context
  - Region/Category #1, including RGC analysis
  - Region/Category #2, including RGC analysis

### Changes, then Continuities
- Changes
  - Region/Category #1
  - Region/Category #2
  - Analysis of changes’ RGC
- Continuities
  - Region/Category #1
  - Region/Category #2
  - Analysis of continuities’ RGC

### Flexible / Generic
- 1. Beginning Situation (start date)
- 2. Cause of Change
  - a. There might be a specific date of the cause, or “turning point,”
  - b. a specific date when the change is observable, or “tipping point,” but the cause of the change was gradual with no specific date of onset
  - c. a series of factors leading to change, each with different onset dates or no clear onset date of all, which caused gradual change in an un-dramatic fashion.
- 3. Date by which Change is Observable (end date)
  - a. What were the changes in contrast with the Beginning Situation
  - b. What were the continuities from the Beginning Situation

These three items can be graphically organized in essay pre-writing using a three-bar parallel chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Change</th>
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Note: Make sure to relate all change(s) to the Global Context

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