

SUGGESTED SKILLS

See the four options for their related skills.

INSTRUCTIONAL PERIODS

Each of the four options is 4-5.

TOPIC 4.24 FRAMEWORK**Starting Points**

Sources for student investigation

Explore

A suggested learning objective or line of inquiry

Possible Focus Areas

Key developments, issues, and perspectives to build deep understanding of the topic

TOPIC 4.24, 4 OPTIONS

Contemporary Issues and Debates

Topic 4.24 provides flexibility for students to explore one contemporary topic in great depth. Four options are provided for Topic 4.24, with the intention that a student will explore one of the four suggested topics. Teachers can employ various strategies to guide student inquiry for Topic 4.24, including: selecting one topic that the entire class will study, establishing an independent exploration for each student, facilitating collaborative learning whereby small groups will each investigate one of the four topics and then engage in a full classroom activity to reflect on the learnings across each topic. Given the optional nature and flexibility for this topic, the AP Exam will not include questions about the various sources, explore statements, or focus areas outlined for Topic 4.24. Accordingly, teachers whose school year started later—and hence have later summer closing dates—may choose to focus on this topic after the AP Exam date.

Topic Overview

Throughout their history in the United States, people of African descent have held various perspectives on the issues their communities faced and have designed multiple strategies for achieving societal change. This remains true for contemporary issues and debates. African American communities are not a monolith. The field of African American studies creates space for respectful debate and arguments informed by research and evidence, as even those with shared goals, such as achieving greater equity and inclusion for communities that have been and remain marginalized, maintain diverse and conflicting opinions.

In Topic 4.24, students should select one of the four topics below and engage in further reading and discussion to understand the origins and diverse perspectives of a contemporary issue or debate.

- **Option 1** Medicine, Technology, and the Environment
- **Option 2** Incarceration, Abolition, and the New Jim Crow
- **Option 3** Reparations
- **Option 4** The Movement for Black Lives

For each topic option, the framework articulates:

- **Starting Points:** sources for student investigation
- **Explore:** a suggested learning objective or line of inquiry
- **Possible Focus Areas:** key developments, issues, and perspectives to build deep understanding of the topic