## Introducing Incentive Dates to Help You Pace Yourself (Tip: Voluntary & Extra Credit)

Three definitions from *Merriam-Webster’s Online Dictionary*:

* **Due** = “the day by which something must be done, paid, etc.” – **Due dates** are covered on the **prior** 2 pages.
* **Incentive** = “something that makes a person try or work hard or harder.” – **Incentive** dates are **below**.
* To **pace** yourself = “to establish a moderate or steady pace for (oneself)” – Incentive dates to help you **pace** yourself.

Stacking of similar sounding items can help people compare:

* **Due** date = the **last** day you can do a quiz for **points** because Blackboard automatically closes the quiz at the end of the day.
* **Incentive** date = the date when you complete (or previously completed on any earlier date) a quiz with 80% or more of the questions right, with the **incentive** being 1 point of extra credit on the **next** day

Incentive dates are always:

* **Earlier** than the due date
* **Spread out** so you can **pace** yourself but be complete by the due date

**Guys, this is common sense.** When I had a bunch of stuff to do by a due date, especially on a tight schedule, I’d look at the calendar and spread the work out just the way I did with your incentive dates. I don’t assume something will be easy until I try it. I set a **pace** early and I follow it. If things are going slower than I hoped, I know I am likely to fail before I actually do fail so I can speed up my pace.

**Why the extra credit for keeping up with the Learning Quizzes in a Unit at a regular pace?**

* Research says learning is more successful if you do not try to cram at the end.
* I’d rather reward you for pacing yourself than watch some of you fail because you never finished.

**FYI:** If you want to wait until the end of Unit 1 to do these quizzes, then that is fine. It is your business. You just will **not** get the extra credit.

Just to say the obvious, my putting:

* A 0 for a grade that is **extra credit**does **not** take away from your points
* A 1 for a grade to help you remember to pace yourself may help your future—and I want to help your future.

**Tip:** If you have questions about that, I am glad to help you.

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| Incentive Dates for This Course – Extra Credit for Pacing YourselfThe purpose of the Incentive is to **help you persist** and **pace yourself**. **Tip**: You can always do the quiz **earlier** than the Incentive Date. The day **after** the Incentive Date below, I place either a **0** or **1** in a quiz’s **Incentive** grade. **You see a 1** if you are correct on **80% or more** of the questions **by the date in the tables below**. * **Either** on the **Self-Test**
* **Or**—if you did **not** get that many right on the Self-Test—on the **Full-Test**.

When you are looking at your Self-Test to see what you missed (and you **should**), count the number of possible questions. **Remember** if you have 80% or more, you do **not** have to do the Full-Test to get full points. (I enter those when the quizzes close.) **Also remember** that 80% is equal to **.8** and **you** do a little math. **Tip:** Notice in the examples how rounding works with the 3.2 and the 9.6. **Examples:*** If there are 4 questions on a quiz, you need **.8** X 4 = 3.**2.** - You need at least **3** questions right.
* If there are 10 questions on a quiz, you need **.8** X 10 = 8 - You need at least 8 questions right.
* If there are 20 questions on a quiz, you need **.8** X 12 = =9.6 - You need at least **10** questions right.
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#### Incentive Dates for Evidence Quizzes

Moving the Evidence Quizzes before Unit 1 is an experiment to try to help people with the Unit Study Terms. It covers key requirements for using evidence with your post—and later with your paper, 2 peer reviews, and 2 responses.

Because putting the Evidence Quiz at this spot in the schedule is an experiment, the revised dates are:

* January 30 by 11:59 PM to take 4 Self-Tests
* January 31-February 15 to do Full-Tests—if needed—to score 80% or higher and earn the incentive

#### Unit 1 Incentive Dates for Learning Quizzes

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| **Incentive Date** | **Lesson #** | **Questions** | **Title of Self- and Full-Test** |
| 1/28-11:59 PM | 1 | 10  | Essential Terms in Unit 1 (in Sets) – Sets=Blackboard displays different questions. |
| 1/30-11:59 PM | 1 | 12 | Map of Regions and Nations after 1492 (Uses a modern map.) |
| 2/1-11:59 PM | 2 | 10 | Map of the English Colonies and Sections |
| 2/4-11:59 PM | 2 | 13 | Scarcity and Surplus |
| 2/4-11:59 PM | 3 | 4-brief | Traits of Colonial Sections |
| 2/6-11:59 PM | 3 | 5-brief | Representative Colonies |
| 2/6-11:59 PM | 4 | 3-brief | Looking at Geography |
| 2/6-11:59 PM | 4 | 3-brief | Looking at the Revolution in Words |

#### Unit 2 Incentive Dates

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| **Incentive Date** | **Lesson #** | **Questions** | **Title of Self- and Full-Test** |
| 2/11-11:59 PM | 1 | 10 | Essential Terms in Unit 2 (in Sets) – Sets=Blackboard displays different questions |
| 2/13-11:59 PM | 2 | 11 | Basics of the Constitution |
| 2/18-11:59 PM | 3 | 6 | Map of North America, 1783 to circa 1803 |
| 2/20-11:59 PM | 4 | 7 | Major Canals, Lakes, Rivers, and Roads Linking the East and West, 1810-1860 |

#### Unit 3 Incentive Dates

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| **Incentive Date** | **Lesson #** | **Questions** | **Title of Self- and Full-Test** |
| 2/25-11:59 PM | 1 | 10 | Essential Terms in Unit 3 (in Sets) – Sets=Blackboard displays different questions |
| 2/27-11:59 PM | 2 | 5 | Impending Crisis Map |
| 2/27-11:59 PM | 2 | 3 | Map of US Territories (Free and Slave) and Sectionalism |
| 3/3-11:59 PM | 3 | 5 | Map of Key Events in the Civil War |
| 3/3-11:59 PM | 3 | 5 | Civil War in the East |
| 3/5-11:59 PM | 4 | 20 | The Constitution – Seeing the Past, Reconstruction, and the Future |
| 3/5-11:59 PM | 4 | 4-brief | Amendments Plus |