

Advanced Placement United States History

Grading Rubric: Free Response Essay

Score	Rationale
1	This essay lacks a clear thesis and does not address the question. It is poorly organized and has little specific evidence, some of which is off topic.
2	This essay has a confused thesis with little or no analysis. It contains several factual errors and is poorly written and analyzed. Its selection of evidence is problematic and reflects a misunderstanding of the question or an inability to properly analyze it.
3	This essay has a limited thesis and a few pieces of relevant information. It deals with topic issues in a general manner and lacks sufficient analysis and is not well organized.
4	This essay has a simplistic thesis and very little analysis. Organization is problematic. The essay contains some specific and relevant information, but has several factual errors.
5	This essay has a thesis and some relevant facts presented in a generally well-organized manner. It contains little analysis and is sparse on factual information, including a few factual errors.
6	This essay has a reasonable thesis that is developed throughout the essay and supported by solid organization. A specific topic or two are treated with depth and supporting evidence. It has a limited level of analysis, some factual errors, and one or two topics addressed superficially, if at all.
7	This essay has a consistent thesis that is well supported by facts. It is well-organized and offers a limited analysis, has some factual errors, but no glaring omissions or critical mistakes.
8	This essay has a well-developed thesis that is supported by ample factual information and excellent organization. It demonstrates a solid understanding of all elements of the question. Its tendency to emphasize narration over analysis keeps it from the top score.
9	This essay has a highly sophisticated thesis, good analysis, outstanding organization, and considerable factual information used effectively. It contains excellent levels of information and analysis on all aspects of the topic. The essay is well-written, well-presented, well-defended, and contains virtually no errors at all.