

### Essay Grading Guidelines

	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point
<b>Focus</b>	Thesis is well written, specific, and concise. Answer integrates all the demands of the essay into a seamless whole.	Thesis is complete, but may have minor problems with content, specificity, or structure. A clear, consistent argument is developed in the essay, although very minor digressions are possible.	Thesis is included, but may be vague or insufficient. Alternatively, essay may significantly deviate from the central argument at least once.	The thesis has significant problems or does not answer the question. There may be several significant digressions.	Thesis is missing or unacceptable. Alternatively, the essay severely lacks focus and/or understanding of the question.
<b>Evidence (counts THREE TIMES in overall score)</b>	In depth, accurate, and relevant examples are consistently provided as support throughout the essay; including specific names, dates, events, and/or terms. Material is used in a creative and convincing way.	Answer is generally supported by accurate and relevant knowledge. Some areas could be developed with more specificity. No significant factual errors.	Some examples are given, but there are significant areas that could have been developed with more specificity. May include some factual errors or irrelevant material.	Limited amount of accurate or relevant knowledge. Broad generalizations may be made without substantiation.	Few facts that only mildly relate to the question.
<b>Analysis</b>	The historical evaluation sought by the question is skillfully woven throughout the essay. Illustrates a high level of conceptual ability through sophisticated and unique interpretation of the facts. May challenge conventional views.	A relevant historical evaluation is developed: cause or effect, comparison or contrast, success or failure, etc. The factual events are interpreted in a clear and thoughtful way.	There is an attempt to develop a relevant historical evaluation. Essay needs more individual interpretation of the facts. May include a limited amount of chronological or descriptive narrative.	Answer may rely too heavily on a chronological or descriptive narrative with too little attempt at interpretation. Alternatively, may show confusion with the basic ideas and their significance.	There is no attempt to evaluate the historical events at all. Answer may make little sense or may not be appropriate.
<b>Organization</b>	Shows a logical organization of ideas and an effective use of paragraphs. Each paragraph begins with a clear topic sentence that ties it into the overall organization of the essay.	Shows a proper use of paragraphs and good organization, but may have minor problems. May not use topic sentences consistently or well.	Organization needs work. There may be problems with the overall structure of the essay or of the individual paragraphs. <i>If the essay does not include an appropriate conclusion, it cannot score above this level.</i>	Ineffective organization of ideas and/or paragraphs that detracts from the argument.	Organization is unacceptable or non-existent.
<b>Style &amp; Language</b>	The grammar, syntax, and spelling allows for a proper flow of ideas and clarity of thought. Style is advanced, including varied sentence structure, good vocabulary, active voice, and consistent tenses.	The grammar, syntax, and spelling are good overall. The style is sophisticated, but not yet brilliant. A good effort has been shown to proofread the essay.	Grammar, syntax, and spelling are sometimes problematic and weak. This includes, but is not limited to: <i>the use of the first person</i> ; awkward or simplistic sentence structure; and/or limited vocabulary.	The use of language is very weak or the essay has been carelessly written.	The use of language is so weak as to hamper the reader's understanding of the ideas.

Revised September 4, 2013

#### Converting Raw Score to a Curved Grade:

**A = 31-35 (31=90, 32=92, 33=94, 34=96, 35=98 to 100)**

**B = 26-30 (26=80, 27=82, 28=84, 29=86, 30=88)**

**C = 19-25 (19=70, 20=71, 21=73, 22=74, 23=76, 24=77, 25=79)**

**D = 13-18 (13=61, 14=62, 15=64, 16=65, 17=67, 18=68)**

**Grades 12 and below are marked at the discretion of the teacher.**