



AP[®] United States History 2002 Scoring Commentary Form B

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Question 1

Sample	Score1-9	Commentary
IC	9	This essay has a well-developed thesis and demonstrates an understanding of the complexity of the labeling of the period “The Era of Good Feelings” and the tensions between nationalism and sectionalism. It has a detailed analysis of several issues, foreign policy, demise of the Federalist party, economic policy, Clay’s American System and the advent of new political parties. The essay is rich in outside information and ends with a strong reiteration of the thesis. It has a mastery of documents and nicely integrates document analysis and outside information.
IB	6	This essay has a clear thesis that argues that there was a strong sense of nationalism but sectional and political differences were beginning to form. The essay has some good information such as the reference to Missouri Compromise and the bank, but the discussion is vague and lacks specifics. Lack of sufficient outside information keeps it out of the top category.
IA	5	This essay has a thesis and some discussion, but lacks a clear understanding of the question. The essay summarizes documents and contains little analysis or outside information. Some documents are misread such as Document I. In addition, it is naive or simplistic in addressing the issues of the period.

Question 2

Sample	Score1-9	Commentary
IIA	8	This essay has strong thesis that argues trade routes profoundly determined various regional economies in the colonies. It distinguishes and describes the regional economies and notes that the Atlantic slave trade, which was essential to supply Southern labor demands, fueled the production of Southern commodities and prosperity. Contains a discussion of mercantilism and its impact on the colonial economies. The essay has a few chronological errors that do not detract from its overall quality
IIB	6	This essay has a simplistic thesis and some factual information. The discussion of trade routes and regional economies is thin and lacks substantive information. It demonstrates an understanding of the importance of slave trade and staple export crops in fostering the trade routes. It also emphasizes the importance of trade for raising the standards of living in the colonies. Lack of sufficient outside information and analysis keeps it in the middle category.

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Question 2 (cont'd.)

Sample	Score1-9	Commentary
IIC	5	This essay has a thesis that is not developed fully. The explanation of the trade routes (“triangular”) is accurate but incomplete. It partially addresses the slave trade and its significance in supporting the production of staples crops and exchanges goods in the trade routes, mostly tobacco from the Chesapeake. Overall, the essay is incomplete and lacks sophistication and detailed knowledge of various American economies.

Question 3

Sample	Score1-9	Commentary
IIIA	8	This essay has a sophisticated thesis that places urban growth in a larger historical context. It includes some fine analysis, such as the reference to the city as an industrial center that served as a production center for goods and absorption center of raw materials. It identifies three major trends affecting cities of the late nineteenth century — growth of industry and labor conditions, changing life style (i.e., quality of life), and changing people (i.e., backgrounds, race and ethnicity). The essay not only explores a number of critical factors but also discusses the nature of these changes in urban life. The discussion’s reflect an attempt to balance the positive and negative effects on cities. The essay combines substantial information with thoughtful analysis of changes affecting late nineteenth-century cities.
IIIB	7	This essay has a strong thesis that explores a number of factors shaping cities in the late nineteenth century — immigration, new industries and labor unions, political institutions and values. It offers a good explanation of some of these factors, such as the discussion of relationships of immigration to jobs and labor organization, industrial growth and its effect on society and environment, the positive and negative of machine urban politics. The essay is well written, but tends to be more narrative than analytical.

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Question 3 (cont'd.)

Sample	Score1-9	Commentary
IIIC	5	This essay has a clear thesis that identifies two basic factors that affected urban life in the late nineteenth century, i.e. demographic conditions and technological advances. The essay has considerable facts on both factors: on immigration, it notes how new immigrants produced anti-immigrant sentiment and its effect on city politics and the development of a diverse religious culture; on technology, it highlights architectural building construction, electricity and street lighting, assembly line productions, and telephones. The essay is clearly organized, but is weak on analysis and offers little explanation of the changes that transformed the late nineteenth century city.

Question 4

Sample	Score1-9	Commentary
IVA	8	This essay has a well-developed thesis and presents a sophisticated argument about the course of the depression and the New Deal programs that sought to provide relief and recovery. It demonstrates an understanding of the complexity of the New Deal and makes clear distinctions between relief and recovery programs. It also addresses change over time and is rich in relevant detail. It has some extraneous information such as the criticism of the New Deal, but this does not detract from the overall excellent quality of the essay.
IVB	5	This essay has an adequate if limited thesis on the success of the New Deal programs in addressing relief and reform. It demonstrates an understanding of the questions, but provides an answer that is not entirely balanced and is lacking in analysis. It presents a wealth of information on relief, but does not adequately address reform.
IVC	4	This essay has a limited thesis and includes some facts on relief and recovery. There is little understanding of the complexity and development of New Deal programs. The essay is not balanced, as more attention is devoted to recovery than reform. It is also narrowly focused and lacks depth and analysis.

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Question 5

Sample	Score1-9	Commentary
VA	9	This essay has a well-developed thesis and a sophisticated analysis of political developments in the 50's and the 60's. It has a strong analysis of the impact of McCarthyism on U.S. politics and an excellent discussion of the silent majority. It demonstrates an understanding of the complexity of political alliances. For example, it shows how the New Deal democratic coalition was fragmented by the events of the 1950's and how Nixon built a new coalition based on the "south-west" strategy appealing to the silent majority on law and order and resistance to social change.
VB	7	This essay has good information on women's political campaign of the 1960's and their success with the Equal Pay Act. It shows how anti-communism impacted both internationally and domestically. On the latter, the essay is particularly good in showing that Eisenhower's choice of Nixon as vice president was connected to McCarthyism.
VC	6	This essay has a thesis that demonstrates how anti-communism shaped U.S. foreign policy and shows an understanding of McCarthyism. The discussion is general and the essay fails to make specific connections among the events cited. It has a good discussion of Nixon and the silent majority, but fails to see how the concept was part of a larger conservative southwest strategy. Its lack of analysis and depth keep it in the low category.