



AP[®] United States History 2004 Scoring Commentary Form B

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AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY
2004 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)

Question 1

Sample: 1A

Score: 9

This is an excellent essay on U.S. foreign policy between 1920 and 1941. It has a strong thesis that is well developed and a sophisticated analysis of documents; it uses most of the documents effectively and brings in substantial and relevant outside information. The essay references the strong navy views of Alfred Thayer Mahan and Franklin D. Roosevelt's Lend Lease plan. It has some minor errors, such as the reference to William Howard Taft instead of Robert Taft, but these don't detract from the overall quality.

Sample: 1B

Score: 6

This is a good essay, but it is not as thorough in its coverage of the topic. Its thesis is limited and the conclusion is weak. It uses a number of documents and shows a good understanding of their import but paraphrases and quotes them extensively. The essay has limited outside information, and the Zimmerman note is out of place.

Sample: 1C

Score: 5

This essay has a solid thesis that is carried throughout. It has a good grasp of the foreign policy issues of the period and uses the documents to support its arguments. However, the essay's lack of analysis and limited outside information keep it in the middle scoring category. It also contains some errors, such as the misinterpretation of Document C.

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Question 2

Sample: 2A

Score: 9

This is a nicely developed, well-organized, and finely written essay that thoughtfully challenges some aspects of the concept of the “Revolution of 1800.” The essay provides considerable strong outside supporting evidence in the analysis of matters of foreign policy and politics. Its strength is enhanced by the strong thesis and clarity of analysis.

Sample: 2B

Score: 6

This essay’s mixed thesis argues that in the area of judicial matters the concept of “Revolution of 1800” holds some validity, but in the larger political context this appears to have been less true. The essay includes some detailed information to support this contention, but it lacks analysis. It is also imbalanced in its treatment of judiciary and politics.

Sample: 2C

Score: 5

This essay has a simplistic thesis that is developed throughout. It attempts to analyze the differences between the Federalists and Republicans and offers some relevant outside information, such as the Judiciary Act, Marbury v. Madison, and the XYZ affair. It is imbalanced in its brief treatment of foreign policy and incorrectly concludes that the Revolution of 1800 was related to the “midnight judge appointments” and the Judiciary Act. Lack of depth of analysis and supporting evidence keep this essay in the bottom of the middle scoring category.

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Question 3

Sample: 3A

Score: 9

This essay has a clear opening statement that the early industrial revolution led to a change in the role of women in the first half of the nineteenth century. It links the growing availability of unskilled jobs and inventions, such as the sewing machine, to the fact that some industries began to look to women as a source of labor. It effectively makes connections between changes in the economy, education, and family life. This essay has a sophisticated analysis and considerable outside information. A few minor errors, such as referring to the federal funding of public schools, do not detract from the quality.

Sample: 3B

Score: 7

This essay's thesis is creative but not clearly expressed. It asserts that changes in women's roles began before the period of the question and that changes between 1790 and 1860 were not strong or even relevant. A considerable part of the essay deals with events outside the time period of the question. The strong emphasis on the Seneca Falls Convention is useful, but the essay is repetitive in discussing this at the expense of other developments such as employment in the textile mills.

Sample: 3C

Score: 5

This essay has a thesis that begins to address the reasons for the changing role of women in the early nineteenth century. It has a simplistic grasp of the concept of the cult of domesticity, erroneously concluding that it emerged due to declining birth and marriage rates. The essay has limited outside information and little analysis.

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Question 4

Sample: 4A

Score: 9

This is a well-developed essay that stresses the important affect of industrialization on shifting populations from rural to urban centers. It argues that urban America grew because of massive industrialization, large waves of immigration, and a troubled agriculture that suffered from global competition and other negative market forces. It has some minor errors that do not detract from its quality.

Sample: 4B

Score: 6

This essay has a good thesis and offers three major reasons (industrialization, immigration, and World War I) to explain the shift from rural to urban life. It has some level of analysis but is thin on facts and consists mostly of generalizations, which keeps it in the middle scoring category.

Sample: 4C

Score: 5

This essay has a thesis that is adequately supported throughout. It argues that technology was a major force propelling the rural/urban shift and cites some major developments such as the invention of the McCormick reaper, the assembly line, railroads, and immigration. Its lack of analysis and outside information keep it in the middle scoring category.

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Question 5

Sample: 5A

Score: 8

This is a sophisticated essay with a well-developed thesis that is supported with substantial facts and analysis. It establishes the broader context of political struggle between 1960 and 1975 before focusing on the two groups, African Americans and women. The essay provides excellent detail on both groups, with a bit more information on African Americans. It has substantial outside information, including some widely known, such as the Brown decision, and some lesser known, such as CORE and the Civil Rights Act of 1957. The essay provides a good context for the discussion of women, such as references to the nineteenth amendment and wartime employment. It cites *Roe v. Wade*, the *Feminine Mystique*, and a wealth of other information. Minor errors, such as the confusion of dates with respect to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, do not detract from the quality of this essay.

Sample: 5B

Score: 7

This essay has a thesis that is well developed and provides a good discussion of both African Americans and women. It discusses the impact of the Vietnam War and the role played by leading figures in the civil rights movement. A more thorough explanation of the events cited and some more detailed analysis would have moved this to the top scoring category.

Sample: 5C

Score: 6

This essay has a thesis that is developed throughout with some analysis. It offers information on both African Americans and women, but the information is presented less coherently than in a top scoring category essay. It lacks specific information and is somewhat imbalanced in its treatment of women—it does not mention some key issues such as the ERA, NOW, or *Roe v. Wade*.