Question 2

Compare and contrast the British, French, and Spanish imperial goals in North America between 1580 and 1763.

The 8–9 Essay

- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that compares and contrasts the British, French, and Spanish imperial goals in North America between 1580 and 1763.
- Develops the thesis with substantial and relevant historical information.
- Provides effective analysis that compares and contrasts the British, French, and Spanish imperial goals in North America between 1580 and 1763; treatment of multiple parts may be somewhat uneven.
- May contain minor errors that do not detract from the overall quality of the essay.
- Is well organized and well written.

The 5–7 Essay

- Contains a partially developed thesis that compares and contrasts the British, French, and Spanish imperial goals in North America between 1580 and 1763.
- Supports the thesis with some relevant information.
- Provides some analysis of the imperial goals of the British, French, and Spanish in North America between 1580 and 1763; treatment may be uneven.
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.
- Has acceptable organization and writing.

The 2–4 Essay

- Contains an unfocused or limited thesis that compares and contrasts British, French, and Spanish imperial goals in North America between 1580 and 1763 or that simply paraphrases the question.
- Provides minimal relevant information or lists facts with little or no application to the question.
- May address the question in a general, simplistic, or superficial manner; may deal with the goals of only two nations.
- May have major errors.
- May be poorly organized and/or written.

The 0–1 Essay

- Contains no thesis or a thesis that does not address the question.
- Exhibits inadequate or incorrect understanding of the question.
- Has numerous errors.
- Is organized and/or written so poorly that it inhibits understanding.

The — Essay

• Is completely off topic or blank.

Question 2 (continued)

Information Sheet

British Imperial Goals in North America between 1580 and 1763

In 1580 Francis Drake completed his second circumnavigation of the globe. In 1584 Britain authorized privateers to act against its rivals. In 1585 Britain established a colony called Roanoke; this was unsuccessful. Other exploration and settlement had to be put on hold because of religious disputes between Catholics and Protestants following Henry VIII's break with the Catholic Church. With that dispute settled, and encouraged by the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, England quickly caught up with its European rivals. Like the French, the English sailed to the New World in search of a short route to Asia. Other English motives included generating benefits for investors who underwrote joint-stock companies and settlement, finding raw materials for England's growing industrial economy, and mercantilism. Mercantilism involved accumulating wealth in the form of precious metals, establishing colonies, and maintaining a positive balance of trade between home country and colony.

Jamestown, founded in the colony of Virginia in 1607, was England's first permanent settlement. Plymouth and the Massachusetts Bay Colony followed in 1620 and 1630. Six of England's original colonies were founded before 1640. Six others were established or came under English rule during the Restoration era, between 1660 and 1688. Georgia, the last, was settled in the 1730s.

By the late 1600s England's American colonies, as a consequence of years of salutary neglect, had developed their own unique cultures and economies while retaining much of their basically English character. Settlers came to the American colonies in the hope of improving their economic lot or to gain greater religious or political freedom. The English American colonies were not demographically homogenous. Wealthy colonists were politically more powerful, and their interests were not necessarily consistent with the interests of those less well off.

Just as Britain and France were rivals in Europe, they became rivals in North America. Continental wars between France and Britain (and usually Spain) spilled over into North America and were nearly constant from 1689 to 1763. As each nation's imperial goals came to include being the dominant power in North America, they fought for control of the continent. King William's War (War of the League of Augsburg), 1689–1697; Queen Anne's War (War of the Spanish Succession), 1702–1713; and the War of Jenkins's Ear, 1739–1748, which merged with King George's War (War of the Austrian Succession), 1744–1748 were all inconclusive.

The French and Indian War began in North America in 1754 and merged with Europe's Seven Years' War, thus lasting nine years (1754–1763). It was decisive and left France temporarily with no major territorial possessions in North America.

French Imperial Goals in North America between 1580 and 1763

Like the Spanish, the French goal was to explore as much land as possible in hope of finding mineral wealth, like gold, and a shortcut to Asia. In 1524 France sent Giovanni da Verrazano to search for a northwest passage to Asia. Between 1534 and 1543 Jacques Cartier made three voyages and sailed up the St. Lawrence River, searching for a rumored wealthy kingdom. Also like the Spanish, French missionaries tried to convert Native Americans to Roman Catholicism. France also established permanent settlements, as did the Spanish. Unlike the Spanish, the French settled in the less hospitable

Question 2 (continued)

northern climate of New France (Quebec and Nova Scotia), and the French government provided little incentive for citizens to venture to the New World and settle in this cold area. As a result, the French had a lesser impact on native peoples than did the Spanish. Few French settlers came to North America, and New France remained sparsely populated.

The early French arrivals tended to be single men who stayed on the move (*coureurs du bois*). Not until 1608 did the French make serious inroads into acquiring lucrative assets in North America, such as beaver pelts, which were in high demand in Europe. This trade led to the colonization of Quebec City that same year.

In 1625 the French government strengthened its intent to spread Roman Catholicism by declaring that only Catholicism could be practiced in New France. After 1630 the Jesuits worked particularly hard to Christianize New France. Steps were also taken to ensure that New France would be permanent. French soldiers were sent to the territory, and several hundred young women were sent over in order to provide a supply of brides. Minister Colbert offered bonuses to couples who produced large families. In 1673 Father Marquette and a trader, Louis Joliet, traveled down the Mississippi River in search of a passage to the Pacific. They turned back when they became convinced that the Mississippi emptied into the Gulf of Mexico. In 1682 Réné-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle traveled down the Mississippi and claimed the entire Mississippi River Valley for France, calling it Louisiana. In 1718 the city of New Orleans was established.

The French expansion into the interior confined the British to territory east of the Appalachians. A turning point came for the French with the War of the Spanish Succession and the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. France, on the losing side, lost Newfoundland and Nova Scotia to Britain. France tried hard to strengthen its position in North America. The French erected their fortress at Louisbourg and built forts on Lake Champlain and on the Great Lakes. In 1745 Louisbourg fell to the British, largely owing to the efforts of British American colonists. The fortress was returned to France with the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, which ended King George's War (War of the Austrian Succession) in 1748. The small population of New France proved to be a handicap to French efforts to counter the growing British presence in North America during the early 1700s. By 1750 British settlers outnumbered the French and Indian War (1754–1763), France temporarily had no major territorial possessions in North America: Britain controlled the continent east of the Mississippi, and Spain claimed the land west of the Mississippi.

Spanish Imperial Goals in North America between 1580 and 1763

For most of the sixteenth century Spain was the most important colonial power in the western hemisphere. Spain's initial goals were to explore the New World, find mineral wealth, and extract it for the benefit of Spain. Spain hung on to Columbus's goal of finding a passage to the Far East. Advanced weapons and a good deal of ruthlessness allowed the conquistadors to dominate the New World. The Spanish Armada made it difficult for other European nations to send competing expeditions. Initially, the Spanish gave little thought to colonizing and spent their time searching for precious metals. The Spanish found success in Central and South America and the West Indies, where they collected and exported as much of the local wealth as possible. After finding no cities of gold in the American West, Spain concluded that the gold and silver found in Mexico and Peru did not exist north of the Rio Grande.

Question 2 (continued)

By 1580 Spain's primary goal was to establish and defend a mercantilist policy that would reserve to Spain all the rewards the New World had to offer. The Spanish concentrated their efforts on extracting Mexican and Peruvian mineral wealth and shipping it back to Europe.

Spain's secondary goal became the creation of a mixed Indian and Spanish culture that would incorporate Spanish customs. The conquistadors enslaved the Native Americans on encomiendas. The encomienda system gave settlers authority over Native American labor and obliged the settlers to Christianize them. The Spanish sought to impose Spanish culture and religion on the indigenous peoples. When the conquistadors faded away, Spanish missionaries carried on, particularly in the North American Southwest. When other European countries showed interest in North America, Spain responded by establishing permanent settlements, first at St. Augustine (1565) and later at Santa Fe (1610).

Following the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, Spain began a descent to second-rate world power. By the 1640s the economic benefits available to Spain from its presence in the New World began to decline. Spain's imperial goal shifted to maintaining but not expanding its presence in North America.

1492	Christopher Columbus arrives, searching for a passage to India on behalf of Spain.
1492	Spain and Portugal, with influence from the pope, agree to the Treaty of Tordesillas,
	dividing the world between the two Catholic countries. All of the western hemisphere
	except Brazil was assigned to Spain. Other countries did not take this seriously, but
	Spain and Portugal had an advantage in terms of preparedness to explore North America.
1511	Spain begins planning to explore the North American mainland to the west.
1513	Ponce de Leon lands in and claims Florida.
1513	Vasco Núñez de Balboa crosses the Isthmus of Panama and discovers the Pacific Ocean.
	Initially, the Spanish ventured to North and South America in search of precious metals
	and thought little of colonization or permanent settlement.
1519	Hernán Cortés and his army land at Vera Cruz, Mexico, and march to Tenochtitlan,
	where the <i>conquistadores</i> easily plunder the Aztec riches. By 1521 diseases — primarily
	smallpox — had greatly weakened the Aztecs. To the south, Francisco Pizarro marched
	through the Inca Empire, captured the capital city, executed the Inca chief, and began
	exploiting Peru's silver mines.
1540	Francisco Vásquez de Coronado and an army of 300 venture into the American
	Southwest from Mexico, attack Pueblo settlements, find no gold or silver, and conclude
	that the gold and silver found in Mexico and Peru does not exist elsewhere in the
	Americas.
1540s	Spain locates the silver mines at Potosi (Bolivia) that became a major source of Spain's
	wealth for the next 100 years.
1565	St. Augustine (Florida) established.
1570	Jesuits establish a mission in what is today Virginia.
1573	King Philip II of Spain decrees it illegal to enslave American Indians or forcibly extract
	tribute from them.
1577–1580	Francis Drake plunders Spanish possessions along the Pacific coast and continues west
	to circumnavigate the world.
1585	An English expedition lands on Roanoke Island, but the colony established lasted only a
	short time.

Time Line and Background Information

Question 2 (continued)

1587	Sir Walter Raleigh sends a second expedition to Roanoke Island. It includes women. This
1001	was to be a permanent settlement, but the colonists disappeared.
1604	Samuel Champlain establishes a French settlement in Acadia.
1607	The London group of the Virginia Company sends three ships to the Chesapeake Bay
	area and establishes the colony at Jamestown. Of 325 settlers who reached Jamestown
1000	before 1609, fewer than 100 were still alive in the spring of 1609.
1608	France colonizes Quebec City.
1609	First Powhatan War begins, lasting for five years.
1610	Spanish found Santa Fe, New Mexico.
1613	John Rolfe imports a new strain of tobacco, which soon becomes in great demand.
1619	Africans reach Virginia. Their status was ambiguous.
1620	The Pilgrims (separatists from the Church of England) arrive on the <i>Mayflower</i> and
	establish the Plymouth Colony.
1624	King of England declares the Virginia Company bankrupt, assumes direct control of
	Virginia, and makes Jamestown the first royal colony.
1630	Puritans, led by John Winthrop, arrive and establish the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
1632	Maryland Charter makes Lord Baltimore, a Catholic, proprietor of the Maryland Colony.
1636	Roger Williams flees Massachusetts and settles in what becomes Rhode Island.
1638	Anne Hutchinson is banished from Massachusetts.
1642–1651	English Civil War.
1649	Toleration Act grants freedom of religion to Christians in Maryland.
1649	Parliament beheads Charles I and proclaims a commonwealth, eventually headed by
	Oliver Cromwell.
1650	Parliament bans foreign ships from English colonies.
1651	Navigation Acts of 1651, aimed at Dutch competition, are passed by Parliament.
1660	Restoration of Charles II to the British throne.
1660	Navigation Acts of 1651 are extended to require that all colonial goods traded must be
	carried on English ships. Enumerated commodities, such as sugar and tobacco, were to
	be shipped from the colony of origin only to England or to another English colony.
1663	Louis XIV and his minister, Jean-Baptiste Colbert, take direct charge of the French
	colony. Agriculture was encouraged, and women were transported over to marry the
	men.
1663	Charter is granted to eight men for the Carolina Colony.
1664	James, duke of York, receives a charter for a colony that becomes New York.
1665	New Jersey is made a separate colony from New York.
1673	Plantation Duty Act requires captains of colonial ships to post bond in the colonies to
	ensure that they would deliver all enumerated commodities to England, or else pay on
	the spot the duties that would be owed in England. The act was designed to eliminate
	incentives to smuggle. It also established customs officials in all English colonies.
1675–1676	Metacom's War (also known as King Philip's War) begins in June 1675 and ends in 1676
	with a decisive military victory for the British colonists.
1676	Bacon's Rebellion.
1680	Pope's Rebellion (also known as the Pueblo Revolt). A Pueblo Indian named Pope
	organizes the most successful Native American revolt in American history, temporarily
	gaining control of New Mexico from the Spanish.
1681	William Penn gains a charter for the colony of Pennsylvania.
1682	Réné-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle travels down to the mouth of the Mississippi

Question 2 (continued)

1688	William III and Mary II are named joint sovereigns of Great Britain after James II flees to France in what is known as the Glorious Revolution.
1689–1697	King William's War.
1690s	South Carolina plantation develops rice agriculture, possibly originating with African slaves. Rice quickly became the staple export and triggered a massive growth of slavery to provide labor for plantations.
1690–1691	Competition from France in the Gulf of Mexico prompts the Spanish to move into Texas and establish missions.
1691	Massachusetts's new charter grants the king the right to appoint governors and merges Plymouth and Maine with Massachusetts.
1700	England possesses about 20 colonies in North America and the West Indies; colonial and Asian commerce accounts for 30–40 percent of England's overseas trade; and London is the largest city in western Europe.
1700–1740	A massive influx of slaves lays the foundation for a society (the Old South) consisting of wealthy slaveholding planters, a much larger class of small planters, and thousands of slaves. By 1720 slaves made up 70 percent of South Carolina's population, 40 percent of Virginia's population, and almost 30 percent of Maryland's population.
1701	Five Nations of the Iroquois negotiate a peace treaty with the French and the western American Indians in which they agree to remain neutral in any war between France and England. Encouraged by a new French fort at Detroit, American Indians begin to return to the fertile lands around Lake Erie and Lake Huron.
1702–1713	Queen Anne's War. French and American Indians destroy Deerfield, Massachusetts. New England and the British capture Acadia and rename it Nova Scotia.
1716–1720	To counter French efforts to hold on to the Gulf of Mexico, Spain sends missionaries and soldiers into Texas, establishing a capital at Los Adaes.
1717–1721	French Company of the Indies ships thousand of settlers and slaves to Louisiana. In fewer than 10 years half had died or fled.
1718	French found New Orleans.
1739	Spanish governor of Florida offers liberty to any slave from the British colonies. This, rumors about Fort Mose (first community in Florida for free blacks), and religious and personal reasons combine to touch off the Stono Rebellion in South Carolina.
1739–1748	War of Jenkins's Ear starts a new era of imperial war.
1742	Philip V of Spain sends 36 ships and more than 1,000 soldiers from Cuba with instructions to devastate Georgia and South Carolina and free the slaves. Georgians ambushed two patrols, and Spanish morale collapsed.
1744	France joins Spain in the war against Britain (now called King George's War).
1745	French fortress, Louisbourg, on Cape Breton Island, falls to the British.
1748	Louisbourg is returned to the French with the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.
1750	To protect English industries, Parliament passes the Iron Act, which prohibited the erection of certain types of iron mills.
1754	Confrontation between Virginia forces under George Washington and French forces near the forks of the Ohio River starts the French and Indian War.
1754	The Albany Congress is convened to meet with the Iroquois to encourage them not to side with France. Benjamin Franklin's Albany Plan proposed a form of colonial unity, but every colony rejected it.
1756	Britain declares war on France, and the colonial contest merges into the Seven Years' War. By 1758 it was clear that the British Empire finally had put together a military force capable of overwhelming New France.

Question 2 (continued)

1762	Spain enters the war in an attempt to prevent a total British victory.		
1763	The Peace of Paris ends the war. France surrendered to Britain all of North America east		
	of the Mississippi, except for New Orleans. In exchange for Havana, Spain ceded Florida		
	to Britain. To compensate its Spanish ally, France gave New Orleans and all of Louisiana		
	west of the Mississippi to Spain.		
1763	With a unity never seen before, American Indians attack in the West in a conflict known		
	as Pontiac's War.		
1763	The Paxton Boys murder a number of American Indians along the Pennsylvania frontier.		
1764 Parliament passes the Sugar Act, the Quartering Act, and the Currency Act.			
1765			
1769			
1795	Pinckney's Treaty sets the border between the United States and Spanish Florida.		
1819 In the Adams–Onís Treaty, the United States gains rights to all of Florida.			

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AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY 2011 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)

Question 2

Sample: 2A Score: 8

This essay contains a clear thesis that compares and contrasts the British, French, and Spanish imperial goals in North America between 1580 and 1763. It develops the thesis with substantial and relevant historical information (Spanish: gold, "cultivating sugar," *encomienda*, "Black Legend'"; British: Virginia East India Company, primogeniture, Roanoke, Jamestown, tobacco, separatists, Massachusetts Bay Colony, salutary neglect; French: Quebec, fur trapping, trading, "coureur de bois"). It provides effective analysis in comparing and contrasting the imperial goals (Spanish: "greatly contributed to Mexico and Central America"; British: "there were Navigation Laws in place to promote mercantilism"; and French: "maintained friendly relations with the Native Americans unlike Spanish and British colonies"). The conclusion is an extremely effective summary of the essay, which, when added to the information and analysis presented, placed this response in the highest category. The essay is well organized and well written.

Sample: 2B Score: 5

This essay has a thesis that compares the imperial goals of the three nations in North America. The discussions of each nation's imperial goals are supported by relevant information and analysis. For example, "The French were mostly focused on economic gains they could achieve from trade." This statement is supported with evidence about the relations between the French and the Native Americans, as the French went about the fur trade without claiming much American Indian land, which facilitated continued friendly trading ties. The treatment of Spanish and British imperial goals is handled in a similar manner. The essay has minor errors. For example, the Spanish may have killed thousands of American Indians but not "Indian tribes"; the British relations with the Americans Indians were not as friendly as portrayed; and Georgia is not in the "Chesapeake region." There are also omissions: for example, the Spanish goal of finding and extracting gold is not mentioned. The errors are relatively minor, but their accumulation kept the essay at the bottom of the 5–7 category.

Sample: 2C Score: 2

The essay's thesis is stated in the opening paragraph. Although balanced in its treatment of the similarities and differences among the imperial experiences of Britain, France, and Spain in North America, the essay addresses these issues in a very general fashion. Despite the fact that it is well organized and acceptably written, the essay received a score of 2 because of its simplicity and the imprecise nature of the evidence it provides to buttress its assertions.