Advanced Placement United States History
Document-Based Question (DBQ Essay) Evaluation Rubric

Possible Score: 0-7 points

A. Thesis: 0-2 points		
States a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim. Thesis directly addresses all parts of the question. The thesis must do more than restate the question. The thesis may be developed in more than one sentence, but must be located in one place (the introduction). **1 point**	**AND**	Develops and supports a cohesive argument that recognizes and accounts for historical complexity by explicitly illustrating relationships among historical evidence such as contradiction, corroboration, and/or qualifications. **1 point**
Comment:		

B. Document Analysis: 0-2 points		
Utilizes the content of at least six of the documents to support the stated thesis or a relevant argument. **1 point**	**AND**	Explains the significance of at least one of the following for at least four of the documents: • intended audience • purpose • historical context • the author's point of view **1 point**
Comment:		

Docs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

C. Using Evidence Beyond the Documents (Outside Evidence): 0-2 points		
Contextualization: Situates the argument by thoroughly explaining the broader historical events, developments, or processes immediately relevant to the question, using evidence and analysis not found in the documents. **1 point**	**AND**	Provides additional specific historical evidence (and analysis of that evidence), beyond what is found in the documents, to support or qualify the argument. **1 point**
Comment:		

D. Synthesis: 0-1 point		
Extends the argument by explaining the connections between the argument and ONE of the following:		
A development in a different historical period, situation, era or geographical area. **1 point**	**OR**	A course theme and/or approach to history that is not the focus of the essay (such as political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual history). **1 point**
Comment:		

Score: **Grade:**