

FOR TEACHERS ONLY

The University of the State of New York

REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

Thursday, August 18, 2011 — 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., only

VOLUME
1 OF **2**
MC & THEMATIC

SCORING KEY FOR PART I AND RATING GUIDE FOR PART II (THEMATIC ESSAY)

Updated information regarding the rating of this examination may be posted on the New York State Education Department's web site during the rating period. Visit the site at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/apda/> and select the link "Scoring Information" for any recently posted information regarding this examination. This site should be checked before the rating process for this examination begins and several times throughout the Regents Examination period.

Scoring the Part I Multiple-Choice Questions

Follow the procedures set up by the Regional Information Center, the Large City Scanning Center, and/or the school district for scoring the multiple-choice questions.

Multiple Choice for Part I Allow 1 credit for each correct response.

Part I			
1 1	13 1	26 1	39 4
2 1	14 4	27 3	40 3
3 4	15 2	28 4	41 2
4 2	16 4	29 2	42 1
5 3	17 3	30 1	43 3
6 2	18 1	31 3	44 1
7 4	19 4	32 2	45 2
8 4	20 2	33 1	46 4
9 2	21 3	34 4	47 1
10 3	22 1	35 3	48 3
11 1	23 4	36 3	49 2
12 3	24 2	37 1	50 4
	25 3	38 2	

Contents of the Rating Guide

For **Part I** (Multiple-Choice Questions):

- Scoring Key

For **Part II** (thematic) essay:

- A content-specific rubric
- Prescored answer papers. Score levels 5 and 1 have two papers each, and score levels 4, 3, and 2 have three papers each. They are ordered by score level from high to low.
- Commentary explaining the specific score awarded to each paper
- Five prescored practice papers

General:

- Test Specifications
- Web addresses for the test-specific conversion chart and teacher evaluation forms

Mechanics of Rating

The following procedures are to be used in rating essay papers for this examination. More detailed directions for the organization of the rating process and procedures for rating the examination are included in the *Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examination in Global History and Geography and United States History and Government*.

Rating the Essay Question

(1) Follow your school's procedures for training raters. This process should include:

Introduction to the task—

- Raters read the task
- Raters identify the answers to the task
- Raters discuss possible answers and summarize expectations for student responses

Introduction to the rubric and anchor papers—

- Trainer leads review of specific rubric with reference to the task
- Trainer reviews procedures for assigning holistic scores, i.e., by matching evidence from the response to the rubric
- Trainer leads review of each anchor paper and commentary

Practice scoring individually—

- Raters score a set of five papers independently without looking at the scores and commentaries provided
- Trainer records scores and leads discussion until the raters feel confident enough to move on to actual rating

(2) When actual rating begins, each rater should record his or her individual rating for a student's essay on the rating sheet provided, *not* directly on the student's essay or answer sheet. The rater should *not* correct the student's work by making insertions or changes of any kind.

(3) Each essay must be rated by at least two raters; a third rater will be necessary to resolve scores that differ by more than one point.

Schools are no longer permitted to rescore any of the open-ended questions (scaffold questions, thematic essay, DBQ essay) on this exam after each question has been rated the required number of times as specified in this rating guide, regardless of the final exam score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

United States History and Government
Content-Specific Rubric
Thematic Essay
August 2011

Theme: Geography—Development of the United States

Many important events in United States history have been influenced by geography. Geographic factors or conditions include location, size, climate, natural resources, and physical features. These events in turn have had political, social, and economic impacts on the development of the United States.

Task: Identify *two* important events in United States history and for *each*

- Describe how a geographic factor or condition influenced the event
- Discuss the political, social, *and/or* economic impacts of this event on the development of the United States

You may use any important event that was influenced by geographic factors or conditions. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Louisiana Purchase, the construction of the Erie Canal, migration to California in the late 1840s, the Civil War, the purchase of Alaska, the building of the transcontinental railroad, the acquisition of the Philippines, the building of the Panama Canal, the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and the construction of the interstate highway system.

Scoring Notes:

1. This thematic essay has a minimum of *six* components in the task (how *each* of *two* important historical events was influenced by geographic factors or conditions **and** *at least two* political, social, *and/or* economic impacts of *each* event on the development of the United States).
2. The classification of impacts as political, social, or economic need not be specifically identified as long as the identification is implied in the discussion.
3. The impacts of the event on the development of the United States may be any combination of political, social *and/or* economic impacts as long as two distinct examples are discussed.
4. The impacts of the event on the development of the United States may be immediate or long term.
5. The impacts of the event on the development of the United States may be narrow (the transcontinental railroad's construction caused hardships for workers) or broad (the transcontinental railroad established a national economy).
6. The events may have been influenced by a similar geographic factor or condition (e.g., access to water routes) or they may have similar impacts (e.g., reduced travel time) as long as each is supported by specific historical information.
7. The response may discuss impacts of events on United States development from any perspective as long as the position taken is supported by accurate historical facts and examples.

Score of 5:

- Thoroughly develops **all** aspects of the task evenly and in depth by describing how **each of two** historical events was influenced by a specific geographic factor or condition and discussing the political, social, *and/or* economic impacts of each event on the development of the United States
- Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates* information), e.g., *Louisiana Purchase*: connects Tennessee and Kentucky farmers' dependence on the Mississippi River for shipping and the need to protect the right of deposit at the port of New Orleans to President Jefferson's decision to purchase the Louisiana territory from France, adding vast acreage of fertile land to eventually supply food to growing urban centers in the East and increasing white settlement on the Great Plains, leading to the destruction of the culture of the Native American buffalo hunters; *Civil War*: connects the rocky soil and shorter growing season of the industrialized North and the fertile soil and longer growing season of the agricultural South to increased sectional discord over slavery and the onset of the Civil War, leading to President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, the 13th amendment abolishing slavery, and the implementation of sharecropping in the defeated South, keeping African Americans in poverty and debt into the 20th century
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details, e.g., *Louisiana Purchase*: flatboats on the river; grain storage; Gulf of Mexico; Atlantic shipping; Pinckney Treaty; Napoleon; Jefferson's agrarian vision; \$15 million; 1803; Federalist opposition; issue of Constitution and strict construction; doubled the size of the nation; Lewis and Clark; Sioux and Cheyenne; led to Manifest Destiny; issue of slavery in new land; breadbasket of America by late 19th century; removal policy; reservations; *Civil War*: fast-moving streams; water power; natural harbors; commerce; cash crops; plantations; "King Cotton"; 1860 election; secession; goal of preserving the Union; Radical Republicans; Freedmen's Bureau; Reconstruction; 14th and 15th amendments; working for former masters; crop lien; tenant farmers; Black Codes; Jim Crow laws; white supremacy
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

Score of 4:

- Develops **all** aspects of the task but may do so somewhat unevenly by discussing all aspects of the task for one historical event more thoroughly than for the second historical event *or* by discussing one aspect of the task less thoroughly than the other aspects
- Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates* information), e.g., *Louisiana Purchase*: discusses how western farmers' need for full use of Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans led to Thomas Jefferson's purchase of the port of New Orleans, how the Louisiana Purchase added millions of acres of farmland that would feed the growing nation, and how the building of the transcontinental railroad and the Homestead Act helped to destroy the buffalo and the lifestyle of the Plains Indians; *Civil War*: discusses how differences in climate and soil created sectional conflicts between the North and the South that resulted in the Civil War, how President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th amendment ended slavery in the nation, and how southern plantation owners used sharecropping to replace slavery, keeping former slaves in poverty for many years
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

Score of 3:

- Develops *all* aspects of the task with little depth *or* develops *at least four* aspects of the task in some depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical (applies, may analyze, and/or evaluate information)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some minor inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that may be a restatement of the theme

Note: If *all* aspects of the task for *one* historical event have been thoroughly developed evenly and in depth, and if the response meets most of the other Level 5 criteria, the overall response may be a Level 3 paper.

Score of 2:

- Minimally develops *all* aspects of the task *or* develops *at least three* aspects of the task in some depth
- Is primarily descriptive; may include faulty, weak, or isolated application or analysis
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addressed; may lack an introduction and/or a conclusion

Score of 1:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task
- Is descriptive; may lack understanding, application, or analysis
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details; may include inaccuracies
- May demonstrate a weakness in organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addressed; may lack an introduction and/or a conclusion

Score of 0:

Fails to develop the task or may only refer to the theme in a general way; *OR* includes no relevant facts, examples, or details; *OR* includes only the theme, task, or suggestions as copied from the test booklet; *OR* is illegible; *OR* is a blank paper

*The term *create* as used by Anderson/Krathwohl, et al. in their 2001 revision of Bloom's *Taxonomy of Educational Objectives* refers to the highest level of the cognitive domain. This usage of create is similar to Bloom's use of the term *synthesis*. Creating implies an insightful reorganization of information into a new pattern or whole. While a Level 5 paper will contain analysis and/or evaluation of information, a very strong paper may also include examples of creating information as defined by Anderson and Krathwohl.

Geography has been an important influence countless times in the development of the United States, such as in the Civil War and the acquisition of California and their respective impacts on the United States.

The Civil War can be looked upon as an ideological clash of economic systems, but one of the root causes of these systems in themselves is geography, or more specifically, climate. The Northern climate is colder and more harsh with rocky soil and a short growing season. By contrast, the Southern climate is warmer, with fertile soil and a longer growing season. The Southern climate suited a cash crop economy, in particular "King Cotton" and supported the development of a labor system based on slavery and large plantations. In the North, the climate did not support large plantations but slavery, so especially after the Industrial Revolution of the early 1800's, slavery became obsolete there. The slavery issue arose directly from differences in geographic conditions which in turn caused political and economic aggravation, so much so that after Lincoln's election, Southerners felt that their way of life was under attack. Starting with South Carolina in 1860, Southern states seceded. So the difference between the Northern and Southern social, economic and political systems can be tied to differences in their geographic conditions. The results of the Civil War on the development of the United States are clear. Politically, "radical" changes were made to the Constitution such as the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendment to abolish slavery and give legal rights to former slaves. Also, during Reconstruction there were black officials in government, for the

first time in United States history. The amendments meant that, legally, the black man was equal to the white man but it would take another century and a long struggle for civil rights to achieve true equality. Economically, the Civil War was extremely destructive, so when it ended in 1865, the Reconstruction was implemented in the South to watch over it to ensure there would be no more troubles. The development of the United States was aided in the slow but steady industrialization of the South. However, well into the 20th century, the Southern economy remained largely agricultural, with sharecropping as the livelihood of many African Americans.

The acquisition of California from Mexico was another important event in United States history. And, once again, geography was the primary motivation for its acquisition. Along with the sheer size of California, the point of the matter was its location on the Pacific Coast with great harbors providing opportunities for trade with Japan and China. Americans at the time believed in "manifest destiny", that is, that the United States had the God-given right to extend itself from coast to coast. President Polk, who had already proclaimed his geographical interests in Oregon with his "54'40 or fight!" slogan, also encouraged the acquisition of California because of its location on the coast. The gain of the California territory as a result of the Mexican War did much to aid the development of the United States. Gold was discovered in 1848 in California, spurring a mass migration of people to the new West. Economically, this was

very important because, first of all, the few who did "strike it rich" added to the gold supply. The many who did not poured energy into other aspects of the economy, such as farming, banking and contributing to the rapid growth of towns. Politically, California was in a line of events that irritated the slavery issue, because it wished to enter the Union as a free state. A compromise was reached, and California entered as "free" disrupting the balance of power in Congress. So, the Compromise of 1850 which was meant to ease sectional tensions, was actually just a temporary fix. The North and South would continue to disagree about expanding slavery into new territories. California's favorable climate and vast resources would eventually make it the largest state economy and most populous state in the Union in the 20th century.

Geography has influenced several important historic events, including the Civil War and the acquisition of California. Geography has certainly been a key factor in many occasions, and it is certain that it will continue to be so, presumably forever.

Anchor Level 5-A

The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth by describing how the Civil War and the acquisition of California were influenced by geographic factors and discussing the political and economic impacts of each event on the development of the United States
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Civil War*: the Civil War can be looked upon as an ideological clash of economic systems, but one of the root causes of these systems in themselves is geography, or more specifically, climate; differences between the Northern and Southern social, economic, and political systems can be tied to difference in their geographic conditions; the amendments meant that legally, the black man was equal to the white man, but it would take another century and a long struggle for civil rights to achieve true equality; well into the 20th century, the Southern economy remained largely agricultural with sharecropping as the livelihood of many African Americans; *acquisition of California*: along with the sheer size of California, the point of the matter was its location on the Pacific Coast, with great harbors providing opportunities for trade with Japan and China; the Compromise of 1850 was meant to ease sectional tensions; California's favorable climate and vast resources would eventually make it the largest state economy and most populous state in the nation)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Civil War*: colder, rocky soil; short growing season; warmer; fertile soil; longer growing season; cash crop economy; "King Cotton"; labor system based on slavery; large plantations; Industrial Revolution; Lincoln's election; South Carolina in 1860; Southern states seceded; 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments; abolish slavery; legal rights to former slaves; Reconstruction; black officials in government for the first time; ended in 1865; *acquisition of California*: Manifest Destiny; God-given right; coast to coast; President Polk; Oregon; "54' 40° or fight!" slogan; Mexican War; gold was discovered; 1848; mass migration; "strike it rich"; free state; balance of power in Congress)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes a brief introduction and conclusion that restate the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response demonstrates an understanding of the role of geography as an important factor influencing events. The inclusion of both immediate and long-term impacts of the events indicates knowledge of United States history.

America's vastness, as well as its geographical diversity has, since the first human settlements, profoundly affected not only historical events but its very culture and society as well. The Louisiana purchase of 1803 and the construction of the first transcontinental railroad of the mid nineteenth century both serve to demonstrate the idea that ^{the} geography of the US has affected its development.

In the earliest years of the nineteenth century, Americans at the frontier in Tennessee and Kentucky were desperately seeking to expand their land and gain unrestricted use of the Mississippi River as an outlet for their crops. Farmers suddenly had been denied the right of deposit in New Orleans, blocking their access to markets and threatening their living. When Thomas Jefferson was given the chance to purchase Frenchland in North America, he set aside his constitutional belief in strict construction and supported the treaty that made the Louisiana Purchase and doubled the size of the US. This also guaranteed the US access to trade and the economic advantage of the port of New Orleans.

The addition of the Louisiana territory increased the land available and by doing so provided more farmland and more resources for Americans to use. It relieved some of the tension from the growing frontier population but also led to increased tensions with Native Americans who were pushed off their land by the encroaching European Americans. By the end of the century, white settlers moving into this area would

destroy the culture of the Plains Indians by killing off the huge buffalo herds. More and more Native Americans were forced off their lands and onto reservations. This came about after the passage of the Homestead Act. Furthermore, it decreased European influence in North America making the young republic more secure, enabling it to grow and prosper. It also expanded presidential power and the popularity of Thomas Jefferson. The Louisiana Purchase therefore profoundly affected the United States by removing a strong European power from control of the Mississippi, opening the way to the Pacific.

Half of a century later, another geographical condition would have a huge effect in the United States. In the mid-eighteen hundreds, both the east and west coasts of the North American continent were settled but people generally avoided the middle of the continent – an area widely referred to as the “Great American Desert.” Transporting goods and people the vast distance between coasts required either a long, dangerous cross-country journey, or a long journey by boat all the way around the tip of South America. To combat this problem, two companies, aided by grants of land from the US government, began construction of a transcontinental railroad which would connect the railroad lines in the mid-west to railroad lines in California. When the final golden spike was ceremoniously driven in to connect the two lines, it represented a huge achievement for the United States.

It connected the East and West and would make the transportation of materials, goods, and people across the continent tremendously easier, faster, and cheaper. The result was the start of a truly national economy in which manufactured goods from Eastern factories went west and western agriculture fed Eastern cities. From a social standpoint America's culture became more diverse as thousands of Indian and Chinese immigrants worked on the railroads, and thousands more European immigrants settled in the newly available and accessible land of the mid-west. Immigrant families would establish farms and ranches, supplying food to growing Eastern cities and increasing exports of cheap farm goods to Europe and beyond. Politically it strengthened the power of the US as a whole, but also the power of the North which had a better transportation system, and a population that was steadily on the rise. The Republican party which dominated the North would also dominate US politics for most of the second half of the nineteenth century. The transcontinental railroad greatly affected the US.

The unique geography of the United States has posed new obstacles and challenges, but has also spurred events that have positively effected our development as a nation.

Anchor Level 5-B

The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth by describing how the Louisiana Purchase and the building of the transcontinental railroad were influenced by geographic factors and discussing the social, political, and economic impacts of the events on the development of the United States
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Louisiana Purchase*: farmers suddenly had been denied the right of deposit in New Orleans, blocking their access to markets and threatening their living; he set aside his constitutional belief in strict construction and supported the treaty; by the end of the century, white settlers would destroy the culture of the Plains Indians; Native Americans were forced onto reservations; decreased European influence in North America, making the young republic more secure, enabling it to grow and prosper; *building of the transcontinental railroad*: in the mid-eighteen hundreds, both the east and west coasts of the North American continent were settled, but people generally avoided the middle of the continent—an area widely referred to as “the Great American Desert”; the result was the start of a truly national economy in which manufactured goods from eastern factories went west and western agriculture fed eastern cities; from a social standpoint, America’s culture became more diverse as thousands of Irish and Chinese immigrants worked on the railroad and thousands more European immigrants settled in the newly available and accessible lands of the Midwest)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Purchase*: 1803; Tennessee and Kentucky; Mississippi River; outlet for their crops; Thomas Jefferson; French land; doubled the size of the United States; more farmland; Native Americans; encroaching European Americans; expanded presidential power; *building of the transcontinental railroad*: mid-19th century; vast distance between coasts; cross-country journey; long journey by boat; tip of South America; two companies; grants of land; golden spike; farms and ranches; exports of cheap farm goods)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that highlights America’s vast size and geographical diversity, and a brief conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. Effective description and strong analysis are used to show how geographic factors led to the Louisiana Purchase and the building of the transcontinental railroad, and how these events were important in United States development.

many significant events that have contributed to the history of the United States have been greatly impacted by various geographic factors. Throughout history many events that have shaped the development of the United States were influenced by geographic factors such as location, size, climate, natural resources and physical features. These events that were influenced by geographic features have impacted the U.S. either politically, socially or economically. The building of the transcontinental railroad and the acquisition of the Philippines are two such events that were influenced spurred by geographic factors and these two events would have significant impact on the country's future.

The building of the transcontinental railroad was influenced by geographic factors. The transcontinental railroad would not have been completed as easily if the U.S. did not have a wide open plain separating the populated eastern part of the country from the scattered settlements in the West. While California had been quickly populated after gold was discovered much of the western territory was unsettled. The vast size of the U.S. made travel to the far West difficult. Tracts of open land spurred the creation of the continental railroad for two reasons. First, the large amount of

farmland attracted farmers and therefore the railroad was needed to bring people west. Secondly, the relatively flat terrain, until the Rocky mts, provided for an easy course to create a railroad. Therefore in 1869, at Promontory Point the first transcontinental railroad was completed connecting the country from east to west.

The transcontinental railroad, influenced by geographic factors, impacted the U.S. politically and economically. It helped tie the nation together by improving transportation and communication. Politically, the transcontinental railroad impacted the U.S. because it allowed for more and more people to move west. These people eventually formed new states and joined the union. The transcontinental railroad also impacted the U.S. economically because it allowed people from the eastern cities and immigrants to move west and farm more land, therefore creating more profit. Vast quantities of wheat, corn, and cattle could be shipped to population centers like Chicago where the meatpacking industry developed. Eventually the small family farms would be replaced by large commercial farms. Therefore the transcontinental railroad impacted the U.S. politically and economically.

The acquisition of the Philippines was another event that was influenced by geographic features. Many U.S. political

leaders had become interested in building a navy, especially after hearing Admiral Mahan's arguments about the importance of sea power. The U.S. needed a strategic naval base and the Philippines' location in the Pacific provided a good one. Therefore, after the Spanish-American War the U.S. held onto the Philippines instead of giving the people their freedom because of the Philippines' strategic location and natural resources.

The acquisition of the Philippines also had many political and economic impacts on the U.S. The Philippines had a political impact on the U.S. because there were increased tensions among the Americans as to whether or not the U.S. should become an imperial state. Increased political tensions also arose because how should the U.S. govern the Philippines? Some felt it went against U.S. principles of freedom to control another nation, especially in light of the Filipinos' opposition to U.S. control and therefore political tensions increased. The acquisition of the Philippines also impacted the U.S. economically because it provided a country with which the U.S. could trade. The U.S. established a large naval base in the Philippines greatly increasing trade with China and other Asian nations. Continued U.S. control of the Philippines would lead to increased tension with

Japan as it expanded its power before Pearl Harbor the acquisition of the Philippines therefore impacted the U.S. politically and economically.

The transcontinental railroad and the acquisition of the Philippines were both influenced by geographic factors and impacted the future of the U.S.

Anchor Level 4-A

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task for the building of the transcontinental railroad and the acquisition of the Philippines, but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the impacts of the acquisition of the Philippines more thoroughly than the impacts of building the transcontinental railroad
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*building of the transcontinental railroad*: the transcontinental railroad would not have been completed as easily if the United States did not have a wide, open plain separating the populated eastern part of the country from the settlements in the West; these people eventually formed new states and joined the Union; eventually the small family farms would be replaced by large commercial farms; vast quantities of cattle shipped to Chicago where meatpacking industry developed; *acquisition of the Philippines*: the United States needed a strategic naval base and the Philippines location in the Pacific provided a good one; some felt it went against United States principles of freedom to control another nation especially in light of the Filipinos' opposition to U.S. control; political tensions increased; greatly increased trade with China and other Asian nations)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*building of the transcontinental railroad*: California; gold was discovered; farmland; relatively flat terrain; Rocky Mountains; 1869; Promontory Point; *acquisition of the Philippines*: Admiral Mahan; the importance of sea power; Spanish-American War; imperial state; trade; increased tension with Japan; Pearl Harbor)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that restate the theme

Conclusion: The response demonstrates a good understanding of the task. General statements about the role geographic factors played in shaping the building of the transcontinental railroad and the acquisition of the Philippines are strong. However, fewer details about the impact of the transcontinental railroad than about the impact of the acquisition of the Philippines weakens the response.

Throughout the history of the United States, numerous geographic factors have played a vital role in the country's development. Even in the earliest days of colonization the geographic aspects of different parts of the New World played a crucial role in development. The northern + southern colonies had different geographic features + therefore developed different economic and social systems. Another key event influenced by geography was the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 which nearly doubled the size of the U.S.

As early as the development of the Jamestown colony in Virginia, geography affected the lifestyles of the colonists. Jamestown was able to barely survive its "starvation time" by focusing on agriculture. The warm climate and good soil rewarded hard work, and early success came from growing tobacco to export. As more colonists came to the southern colonies, the lifestyles they formed were affected by the land. In

The north, the climate was cool with a shorter growing season, and the soil was rocky and poor. This prevented northerners from being able to farm as easily as southerners. Though the north did have a mild climate and great natural harbors, which allowed for great trading abilities and a more commercial economy. The South, however, was different. The South had large areas of rich, fertile soil, which allowed for the development of huge and successful farms. Much of the South lacked many natural harbors which made them a more agricultural economy. These differences in sections had a huge impact on the country.

The north became a place where families were an integral part of society and where more cities developed. They relied on shipping and trading and eventually became the center of for America's industrial revolution. The South on the other hand was made up of large plantations with very few cities and because of the large plantations slavery was an extremely

important factor in their economy. These sectional differences, especially the South's reliance on slavery, eventually led to the Civil War which drastically changed the course of American history. The Civil War resulted in the end of slavery, even though that was not President Lincoln's original goal. He wanted to preserve the Union. By 1862 he decided that he needed to free slaves in the South and issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which was followed at the end of the war by the 13th amendment outlawing slavery forever. Another major impact was that supplying the Union army created huge economic changes in the North and sped up the growth of industry. This would help bring on major industrialization that made the United States one of the world's largest economies by the end of the 1800s. The South, meanwhile, suffered most of the war's damage and took decades to overcome its agricultural traditions.

The United States was also affected politically and economically when the country

doubled in size in 1803. The Louisiana Territory had recently been given to the French from Spain. This was a huge problem for President Thomas Jefferson since it put France in control of New Orleans and the west bank of the Mississippi River. Western farmers needed the river to send their products to market and were angry when their right to ship goods through New Orleans was stopped. President Jefferson sent ambassadors to France to try and acquire the right to the port of New Orleans. However, Napoleon, the French leader at the time, needed money and had given up hope for empire in America so offered to sell the entire territory to the U.S. for \$15 million. Though Jefferson was a "strict constructionist" and did not feel the Constitution gave him the right to purchase land, he knew it would benefit the country greatly so he agreed to the purchase. The U.S. nearly doubled in size. Now the country had access to huge areas of fertile farm land and the many natural resources the land offered. They also

gained complete control of the vital New Orleans port and the Mississippi River which was already a vital aspect for America's economy.

The purchase affected society in multiple ways. The movement west introduced the idea of Manifest Destiny, the idea that America should expand from sea to shining sea. The Louisiana Purchase gave us the first territory west of the Mississippi. The land also offered the development of the frontier. The frontier was a crucial aspect of American society and in many people's opinions the development of the frontier/the west also caused the development of the true American character. Settlers in this area needed a character of strength, endurance and courage. The Great Plains were flat, treeless and difficult to survive on. The pioneer spirit that people needed to succeed encouraged democracy and equality. The west had a great impact on America, and it all started with The Louisiana Purchase.

There are many other events in U.S. history that have been influenced by geography, and geography continues to influence numerous countries today. Geography played a major role in American history and will continue to do so.

Anchor Level 4-B

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so unevenly for the Civil War and the Louisiana Purchase
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Civil War*: the South had large areas of rich fertile soil which allowed for the development of huge and successful farms; slavery was an extremely important factor in their economy; the North relied on shipping and trading and became the center of America's industrial revolution; the Civil War resulted in the end of slavery; supplying the Union army sped up the growth of industry in the North; *Louisiana Purchase*: they also gained complete control of the port of New Orleans and the Mississippi River which was already a vital aspect for America's economy; the movement west introduced the idea of Manifest Destiny, the idea that America should expand from sea to shining sea; the pioneer spirit that people needed to succeed encouraged democracy and equality)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Civil War*: Jamestown colony in Virginia; soil was rocky and poor; natural harbors; commercialized economy; agricultural economy; cities developed; Industrial Revolution; large plantations; sectional differences; reliance on slavery; *Louisiana Purchase*: doubled in size; 1803; given to the French from Spain; President Thomas Jefferson; ambassadors to France; Napoleon needed money; sell entire territory for \$15 million; strict constructionist; Constitution; natural resources; west of Mississippi; frontier; true American character; strength, endurance and courage; flat; treeless)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that cites the effects of geographic factors from early United States history and a conclusion that states that geography will continue to effect the United States in the future

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response includes a lengthy and well-developed section about the geographic differences between the North and the South and the impact of the Civil War. The discussion of the Louisiana Purchase is well developed but would benefit from additional details.

The development of the United States has been greatly influenced by various geographic features. Some of these geographic features include size, location, climate, and the different physical features. The events that have led to the creation of our nation have been effected by these geographic features. Two of these events are the Civil War and the decision to enter World War I.

The Civil War began over the idea of slavery. Climate was the primary factor for the differences in development between the north and south during the 19th century. The colder north was more industrial and the south, with a warmer climate and longer growing season, relied on farming cash crops. Due to these differences, large plantations with slaves became common in the south. Slaves were used to work in the cotton fields and tobacco farms. In the north, slavery died out in part because trade and industry grew. Because of the southern defense of slavery and the northern opposition to its expansion, the Civil War occurred. This war between the north and south began with the break up of the union as southern states seceded. During this time, president Abraham Lincoln emerged as one of the greatest presidents of all time. He helped abolish slavery by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation and supporting an amendment to permanently end it and also bring the union back together. Also, industrialization during the war boosted the economy of the United States. Northern factories developed to produce guns, clothing, and other war materials.

Another event is the decision to enter World War I. Because of where the continental United States is located, 3,000 miles across the Atlantic from Europe, we had maintained a policy of isolation and avoided European wars. After World War I broke out in Europe, President Woodrow Wilson vowed to remain neutral as long as possible and not get involved in European entanglements. Germany's use of unrestricted submarine warfare brought us closer to war but it wasn't until the Zimmerman telegram threatened that Germany would help Mexico take over the southwestern part of the United States that America decided to declare war. We had the advantage in this war because none of our buildings were being destroyed, no civilians were losing their lives, and we never had to rebuild. During the war, the United States supplied Britain and France with munitions, food, and many other goods. United States banks loaned them money to buy American products, all of this helped the economy during the war and made us stronger. After this war the United States economy sky rocketed. This led to the economic optimism of the "Roaring 20s" and the jazz age ^{after the war,} President Wilson proposed the creation of the League of Nations in the Treaty of Versailles to prevent future wars. The Senate would not ratify the treaty because senators were afraid it would not preserve our neutrality in future European wars despite our location.

Throughout history, the United States has been effected

by many geographic features, Many geographic features also impacted how the United States is today, there was slavery because of the different climates that separate the north and the south. We went through an economic boom in the 20s because of WWI, without our specific geographic features, the United States wouldn't be what it is today.

Anchor Level 4-C

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the decision to enter World War I more thoroughly than the Civil War
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Civil War*: the colder North was more industrial and the South, with a warmer climate and longer growing season, relied on farming cash crops; President Abraham Lincoln helped abolish slavery by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation and supporting an amendment to permanently end it; Northern factories developed to produce guns, clothing, and other war materials; *decision to enter World War I*: because of where the continental United States is located, 3,000 miles across the Atlantic from Europe, we had maintained a policy of isolation and avoided European wars; the United States supplied Britain and France with munitions, food, and many other goods; after this war, the United States economy skyrocketed; the United States never joined the League of Nations because senators were afraid it would not preserve our neutrality)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Civil War*: cotton fields; tobacco farms; trade; Southern defense of slavery; Northern opposition to its expansion; breakup of the Union; Southern states seceded; *decision to enter World War I*: Germany's use of unrestricted submarine warfare; Zimmermann telegram; southwestern part of the United States; Versailles Treaty; President Wilson; Senate would not ratify)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that briefly reviews the two examples

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response clearly connects United States location to neutrality before World War I and conveys the war's impact on economic growth and a return to isolationism. However, the discussion of the Civil War is less analytical and detailed.

Throughout United States history, the geography and environment of a region has affected an event. Two events affected by the geography of the region include the building of the first transcontinental rail road and the building of the Panama Canal. The transcontinental rail road was the first rail road to cross the country allowing for quick transportation across the country, while the Panama Canal allowed for quick shipments of goods from the Gulf of Mexico to the West Coast. Clearly, the geography associated with the first Transcontinental Railroad affected its development because the Rocky Mountains and plains created difficulties for its development, while the geography associated with the Panama Canal affected its creation because the builders constructed it on an isthmus for the shortest distance, and the jungle environment created difficulties for the workers.

The geography associated with the first transcontinental Railroad created many difficulties for the builders but its completion helped the economy and affected the society of the U.S. Firstly, the transcontinental rail road spanned across the great plains and through the Rocky Mountains to California. The plains created problems for the railroad because during the winter temperatures plunged to negative temperatures, while during the summer, temperatures soared into uncomfortable levels. This posed a problem for workers since most camped near the railroad so they could easily work on it the next day. The Rocky Mountains also

posed a problem for workers of the railroad since dynamite had to be used to create the tunnels through the mountains, which resulted in numerous deaths and injuries. The completion of the railroad changed the American economy and society greatly. Economically, goods like beef and vegetables could be shipped quickly from the west coast to the east ~~coast~~ coast and not spoil. Socially, the transcontinental railroad allowed for pioneers to settle in the west because they could be easily transported across the country, and acquire the goods they needed to survive. The transcontinental railroad also brought in a lot of Chinese and Irish labor to work on the railroad during its construction, which led to the development of Chinese and Irish towns in the west. Clearly, the geography associated with the first transcontinental Railroad affected its development by creating dangerous working conditions.

The geography associated with the Panama Canal also created dangerous working conditions, and had a political and economic impact on Americans. Firstly, the designers built the canal in Panama because Panama had an isthmus, which is a narrow strip of land between two bodies of water. This allowed for less money and labor to be used in creating the canal. The dense tropical rainforest created problems for the workers because they had a difficult time removing the foliage from the path, and caught diseases like malaria and yellow

fever from the mosquitoes in the area. These conditions caused the completion of the canal to take more time than expected. Next, the canal created many political impacts. Firstly, Roosevelt had to utilize his "big stick" policy, which was a policy of keeping Europe out of Latin America and a way for the U.S. to intervene to create a coup to overthrow the Venezuelan government in Panama, so the new government would give the land to the U.S. In addition to the "big sticks" policy, the Roosevelt colony strengthened the Monroe doctrine so European nations wouldn't interfere with Latin America or the canal. Economically, the Panama Canal allowed for a quick transfer of goods by ship from the east coast to the west coast of the U.S. The U.S. also gained revenue from the canal since the U.S. placed tariffs on anyone going through the canal. Without a doubt, the geography of the Panama Canal led for a short canal to be created and created hazardous working conditions.

Clearly, the geography associated with the first Transcontinental Railroad and the Panama Canal created many dangerous working conditions and affected their development. The first Transcontinental Railroad was affected by the harsh weather of the plains and the Rocky Mountains. The isthmus of Panama created a more feasible canal to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and the dense rain forest spread many dangerous diseases. Geography will always have an impact on history because the nature will have to overcome the difficulties created by it.

Anchor Level 3-A

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task in some depth for the building of the transcontinental railroad and the Panama Canal
- Is mostly descriptive (*building of the transcontinental railroad*: the transcontinental railroad spanned across the Great Plains and through the Rocky Mountains to California; the Rocky Mountains also posed a problem for workers on the railroad since dynamite had to be used to create the tunnels through the mountains, which resulted in numerous deaths and injuries; socially, the transcontinental railroad allowed for pioneers to settle in the West because they could be easily transported across the country and acquire the goods they needed to survive; *building of the Panama Canal*: the dense tropical rainforest created problems for the workers because they had a difficult time removing the foliage from the path, and caught diseases like malaria and yellow fever from the mosquitoes in the area; economically, the Panama Canal allowed for a quick transfer of goods by ship from the East Coast to the West Coast of the United States; the isthmus of Panama created a canal to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*building of the transcontinental railroad*: beef and vegetables; Chinese and Irish labor; *building of the Panama Canal*: Roosevelt; keeping Europe out of Latin America; “big stick” policy; coup; Roosevelt Corollary; Monroe Doctrine; tariffs); includes an inaccuracy (*building of the Panama Canal*: overthrow of the Venezuelan government in Panama)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that describe the construction difficulties for each event

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response interprets the building of these infrastructures literally and focuses on working conditions.

Throughout time, infrastructure has changed the United States in many ways. One thing such as the first transcontinental railroad changed the economy forever and another one which ~~was~~ was the creation of the interstate highway system which heightened social barriers between the classes and the races. Both of these new technologies and ideas of their time made a great impact on the United States. Both of these were trying to overcome the problem of the huge size of the United States. The country is so big that it was very hard to travel great distances.

In the 1800s a new railroad was conceived. While the technology of the ~~“railroad”~~ “iron horse” had already existed, it hadn't come to be a magnitude of size until the completion of the transcontinental railroad. Smaller railroads had existed of many different track scales and time systems. ~~A~~ A historical event that the transcontinental railroad effected was the creation of time zones across the U.S. Instead of “God's time” the country was divided into four different sections

so that travel schedules could be standardized and more easily followed. These four time zones still exist today, making all types of communication and business easier. The railroad also created faster ~~mail~~ mail delivery and the construction of more telegraph poles that traveled along with the tracks.

The railroad also had effects on the economy. New goods could be transported faster throughout the country. To some extent, fruits and vegetables could be transported larger distances for greater profits. For the west and the plains, the ~~the~~ cattle trade could increase. Instead of herding cattle up North they could just put the cattle on a railroad. Therefore, the transcontinental railroad contributed to a true ~~the~~ nation of economy. Adding to that, the railroad also employed people which helped the economy. Also, coal production would have had to go up because of locomotives burning coal.

Like ~~the~~ the building of the railroad, the creation of the Interstate Highway System

in the 1950s under president Eisenhower had affects on political and social aspects of the United States. The historical effect of the creation of the system was the suburbanization of the United States which meant that people who could afford it could now move out of cities and into large residential developments known as suburbs. They drove their cars to their suburban homes, shopping plazas and supermarkets rather than shopping downtown. It also created competition of who has the greenest lawn and the nicest car parked in the driveway. The differences were much more visible now that people were living in individual homes rather than apartment complexes. This move by mostly white people created social tension because most blacks couldn't afford to live outside of the city so they stayed in inner city neighborhoods. The inner cities decayed as they lost businesses and their tax bases. Suburbs grew and cities were plagued by poverty and crime.

Both of ~~these~~ these advances in infrastructure contributed to the growing

economy of the United States. The railroad increased the economy while the ~~infrastructure~~ interstate highway system increased suburbanization which are two positive things in the history of the U.S.

Anchor Level 3-B

The response:

- Develops some aspects of the task in some depth by discussing the economic and social impacts of the building of the transcontinental railroad and the interstate highway system and the problem of overcoming the size of the United States in little depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*building of the transcontinental railroad*: instead of “God’s time,” the country was divided into four different sections so that travel schedules could be standardized and more easily followed; the transcontinental railroad contributed to a true national economy; *construction of the interstate highway system*: the historical effect of the creation of the system was the suburbanization of the United States which meant that people who could afford it could now move out of cities and into large residential developments known as suburbs; the inner cities decayed as they lost businesses and their tax bases)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*building of the transcontinental railroad*: “iron horse”; different track scales; faster mail delivery; telegraph poles; cattle trade; locomotives burning coal; *construction of the interstate highway system*: 1950s; President Eisenhower; cars; shopping plazas; supermarkets; greenest lawn; homes rather than apartment complexes; poverty; crime)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that note the impact of infrastructure on the development of the United States

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response mentions the conditions that the building of the transcontinental railroad was attempting to overcome. The strength of this response is in the discussion of the impacts of these events.

"Location, Location, Location," this is the quote that has been used to describe the three most important aspects of a successful business, and the same applies to countries. Geographic factors have had a major effect on the development of the United States and have helped to raise us to one of the most powerful countries in the world. The diverse geographical landscapes, climates, and conditions of our country influenced the Civil War, and the building of the transcontinental railroad. Two events that would drastically change the future of America.

The diverse climates of the country led to different types of development in different regions. The warm climate and fertile soil of the south supported agricultural development while the cold climate and rocky soil in the north yielded industrialization. These opposing developments led to different lines of thought for the people in each of these areas, despite this they were able to exist in peace and harmony. That is, until the institution of slavery came into question. Slavery was a major part of life in the south, and although it was also legal in parts of the north it was much less prevalent. The Agricultural development of the south was largely dependant on

slaves and the economy of the region was dependant on the farming business. So when the north questioned the legality of slavery a rift was created. The geography in these regions had developed the people differently, creating this difference of opinions which eventually led to the civil war.

The effect of the civil war on the country was drastic and long lasting. For out of the war came the freedom of slaves and the citizenship of black Americans. It was this war that established the United States as one single country that could not divide itself, and it was this war that determined the futures of the peoples of the country; black and white both citizens under the law.

The building of the transcontinental railroad was another event that drastically changed the United States. The size and vastness of the country made it difficult and tedious to travel from one coast of the country to the other. Out of this long tedious journey arose the need to develop and efficient form of transportation; this come about with the steam engine, with this new invention moving from one area to

another could be done quickly and safely and aspirations of a transcontinental transportation system become realistic. The building of this ~~system~~ railroad had a tremendous economic boost on the American Economy. It provide thousands of jobs, a cheap easy way to transport goods that favored business and trade, and the developement of a national economy. With the building of this transportation wonder new areas untouched by man were revealed to the American people. Settlements and towns sprung up along the tracks, people moved west and lived on lands that had once been wild. The creation of this railroad come from the need created by the country's geographic features and size and eventually led to the settling and developement of the country from coast to coast.

The geographic features of the country sparked both the civil war and the building of the transcontinental railroad. These events that shaped the future of the country. This serves as just a small example of how the geography of the North American Continent helped form the government and country of the United States of America.

Anchor Paper—Score Level 3-C

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task for the Civil War and the building of the transcontinental railroad
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Civil War*: the warm climate and fertile soil of the South supported agricultural development while the cold climate and rocky soil of the North yielded industrialization; out of the war came the freedom of slaves and the citizenship of black Americans; it was this war that established the United States as one single country that could not divide itself; *building of the transcontinental railroad*: the size and vastness of the country made it difficult and tedious to travel from one coast to the other; it provided thousands of jobs, a cheap, easy way to transport goods that favored business and trade, and the development of a national economy; settlements and towns sprung up along the tracks and people moved west and lived on lands that had once been wild)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Civil War*: different regions; institution of slavery; citizens under the law; *building of the transcontinental railroad*: steam engine)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that highlights the importance of location and diverse geography to a nation and a conclusion that restates the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response demonstrates an understanding of the task with many analytical statements; however, the lack of factors and details weakens the response.

Throughout the ~~the~~ History of the United States, we can see how the location and the ~~the~~ size of the country have greatly contributed to, and in some cases enabled, the survival of the nation.

The location of the country, during colonial times, made the Revolutionary War possible. The size of the United States before and after the Louisiana Purchase helped to ensure the longevity of the Nation.

In the beginning of the United States history, there is one event ~~that~~ that ~~truly~~ truly shaped the Nation. The Revolutionary War created the Nation, and the location of the colonies, before they became the states, greatly influenced the outcome of the war. In the 1700's, the war was fought in the colonies, which was a great advantage to the Patriots. The British "Redcoats" were not familiar with the land they were fighting on and they were so far away from home. The colonists, who were familiar with the land, used ~~tactics similar to Guerrilla Warfare tactics~~ the land to their advantage and they were able to win the war ~~despite~~ even though they did not have

an army as large as the British.

One can say that the location of the colonies caused the war; ~~the~~ many colonists were angered by the taxation imposed by a king an ocean away. As they grew more and more rebellious they ~~saw the distance as~~ the distance became an advantage. Socially, the ~~distance~~ war caused a split between ~~the~~ colonists and their families. Some wished to remain loyal to the king and others wanted to break away. The Revolutionary War had political effects on the United States, as well, because without the war the United States would ~~not~~ never have been created and the political systems would ~~not~~ have developed.

Another event that literally shape the United States was the Louisiana Purchase. The Louisiana Purchase more than doubled the size of the United States. ~~The~~ The Purchase can be seen as a ~~big shopping spree~~ Thomas Jefferson's large shopping spree, but it was so much more than that. The Louisiana ~~Purchase~~ ~~was~~ held so much potential, it brought the country closer to ~~its~~ its dream of spreading to the ~~the~~ Pacific Ocean and achieving the goal of Manifest Destiny.

Within the area purchased from Napoleon, The United States received ~~the~~ a vast expanse of rich and fertile land. This land ~~helped~~ held a lot of economic prosperity in the future of the United States. In ~~the~~ the years after the purchase was made we see many times where this land has ~~helped~~ provided economic prosperity. The land helped enable further expansion west and it also helped during the creation of the ~~transcontinental~~ transcontinental railroad. Also, as the cities in the East became more crowded, ~~the~~ people were encouraged to move west into, and ~~is~~ further than, the area of the Louisiana Purchase.

The ~~land~~ size of the United States has grown since the Revolutionary War, and even since the Louisiana Purchase, and we have seen ~~where~~ how this land has allowed the country to grow ~~is~~ strong ~~and~~ ~~prosperous~~. Of course the country has had some hard times such as during the numerous wars that have been fought since the 1700s and during the Great ~~the~~ Depression, when parts of the country became the Dust Bowl, some of these parts ~~and~~ had once been part

of the Louisiana purchase. But, even today
~~it is clear that~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ the United States is
a strong independent Nation, and many
farms in the midwest, and western part of
the country provide food for the whole country.
It is clear that Thomas Jefferson made
one of the greatest purchases in the history
of the United States

Anchor Level 2-A

The response:

- Develops some aspects of the task in some depth
- Is primarily descriptive (*Revolutionary War*: the British “Lobster Backs” were not familiar with the land they were fighting on and they were so far away from home; many colonists were angered by the taxation imposed by a king an ocean away; *Louisiana Purchase*: as the cities in the East became more crowded, people were encouraged to move west into, and further than, the area of the Louisiana Purchase)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Revolutionary War*: location of the colonies; patriots; did not have an army as large as the British; taxation; an ocean away; *Louisiana Purchase*: doubled the size of the United States; Thomas Jefferson; purchased from Napoleon; rich and fertile land; transcontinental railroad); includes inaccuracies (*Louisiana Purchase*: it brought the country closer to its dream of spreading to the Pacific Ocean and achieving the goal of Manifest Destiny; *Revolutionary War*: had political effects on the United States as well, because without the war the United States would never have been created and the political systems would not have developed)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that emphasizes the importance of the location and size of the nation and a lengthy conclusion that digresses from the topic

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response adequately describes geographic factors that influenced the American victory in the Revolution and mentions an effect but does not develop it. Conversely, there is no description of how geographic factors influenced the Louisiana Purchase, but economic and social impacts are included.

When a person goes somewhere new they must adapt to the new conditions of that place. ~~The same is~~ This is true, not only for one person, but for a whole ~~country~~ country too. As the US grew either physically, socially, or in industry it needed to find new ways to deal with its geography, and use the ~~and~~ the land to help instead of hinder the US's efforts. Thus, some of the US's most important events happened while adapting to ~~the~~ its geography.

The Louisiana purchase ~~was~~ is one of the US's most important events; and also the event that most altered the geography of the US. Before the Louisiana purchase the US's territory ~~was~~ only went about as far as the Mississippi River; Therefore, as more people immigrated to the US ~~land began to become scarce~~ more and more land was needed. ~~for everyone to be able to~~ When the Louisiana Purchase was made the US's territory approximately doubled in size. Due to the expansion people had

more space on which to live and farm. Many people moved west which encouraged the invention of better ~~longer~~ means for long distance travel, and communication. Such as, ~~the railroad, and the pony express~~ steel wagon wheels, and the pony express, and later rail roads, and telegraphs. The mass expansion of the US's land greatly impacted American life.

Another event in the US that altered geography and had an important effect on American life was the creation of the Panama Canal. In the days before the Panama Canal was built, if someone had to go from the ~~west~~^{east} end of the US the west, they either had to ~~cross~~ go by land, which was a long and ~~to~~ hard route to travel due to tall mountains and wide rivers, or sail all the way around South America, ~~cross~~ coming dangerously close to Antarctica, and causing horribly cold weather conditions. However once the canal was dug through a small land mass

connecting Mexico to South America, the time it took to travel by water was greatly reduced. Travelers no longer had to circumlocute South America, or endure freezing climates. Thusly, more Americans were able to move west to territories such as California, and people could trade many more goods between the east and west ends of the US,

~~In conclusion~~ In conclusion, the US used its need to adapt to the geography of its land, to also better itself. Leading to some of the US's most important events.

Anchor Level 2-B

The response:

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for the Louisiana Purchase and the building of the Panama Canal
- Is primarily descriptive (*Louisiana Purchase*: before the Louisiana Purchase, the United States' territory went about as far as the Mississippi River; due to the expansion, people had more space on which to live and farm; many people moved west which encouraged the invention of better means for long distance travel and communication; *building of the Panama Canal*: in the days before the Panama Canal was built, if someone had to go from the east end of the United States to the west, they either had to go by land, which was a long and hard route to travel due to tall mountains and wide rivers, or sail all the way around South America; more Americans were able to move west to territories such as California; people could trade many more goods between the east and west ends of the United States); includes faulty analysis (*Louisiana Purchase*: as more people immigrated to the United States, more and more land was needed)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Purchase*: doubled in size; steel wagon wheels; pony express; railroads; telegraphs; *building of the Panama Canal*: through a small land mass)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that some of the most important events in United States history were caused by the need to adapt to geography

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response shows some understanding of how long distances influenced events but lacks development and details.

Many factors led to and influenced many important and lasting effects. One important factor ^{affecting} ~~to~~ these events are geographic features. Geographic features have greatly influenced important events that shaped U.S. life. The effect of geographic features are apparent in important battles like the Revolutionary War and the Civil War; battles that changed the way the U.S. thought and lived.

Geographic features have the ability to change the tide of a war, no matter how huge a disadvantage one ~~side~~ side might be at. The Revolutionary War was between the 13 original colonies of the U.S. and Britain, one of the largest and most powerful empires ^{at} ~~of~~ then time. The war was heavily in Britain's favor, but the geographic features were on the U.S.'s side. Because England was separated from the U.S. by water, ~~it~~ it was difficult for England to send troops and supplies quickly enough. ~~The~~ The battles were also fought on U.S. lands, and the ~~the~~ American soldiers were more familiar with their lands and were able to plan many sneak attacks which helped to lower British morale. Geographic features greatly aided the U.S. victory, and the war had a great impact on U.S. citizens.

The Revolutionary War left a strong political

impact. The war had originally started based on a lack of representation in England's government. After the war, the U.S. drew up their own constitution, one where the citizens of the U.S. would have a say. After many failed constitutions like the Articles of Confederation, the U.S. came up with the system of government and the constitution we still have today. Our constitution received many amendments and changes, one of which was a result of another war influenced by geographic factors.

The Civil War was a war within the U.S. itself. It was ~~the~~ between the North and the South, who had many disagreements about how the U.S. should be run. Because the North had a larger population, more supplies, and more factories, it seemed as though it would be nothing more than a few small battles. However, the geographical features of the South gave them a few advantages. The land in the South was good for growing cotton, which became known as "King Cotton" and gave the South a great profit. Many battles were fought in the South, giving Southerners a greater advantage ~~because~~ because of their knowledge of their homeland. Despite these geographical advantages, the South still lost, and the war had a lasting

economic and political effects.

As a result of the Civil War, an amendment was added to the Constitution which ~~was~~ prohibited any state of the U.S from ~~separating~~ breaking away from the U.S. This Amendment was passed because the war ~~was~~ was caused ~~by~~ with the tearing of racial states. The South faced severe economic problems as a result. They were in debt and not even cotton could repay the debt. They also lost hundreds of people and workforce, forcing them to rejoin the North.

The Revolutionary War and the Civil War were two important battles in U.S. history that were influenced by geographical factors. ~~It~~ ^{if} those factors ^{had} not come into play, the U.S. wouldn't be what it is today. We wouldn't have our own forms of government nor would we be united as one country. Geographical factors greatly influenced what the U.S. is today.

Anchor Level 2-C

The response:

- Develops some aspects of the task in some depth
- Is primarily descriptive (*Revolutionary War*: because England was separated from the United States by water, it was difficult for England to send troops and supplies quickly enough; after the war, the United States drew up their own constitution, one where the citizens of the United States would have a say; *Civil War*: because the North had a larger population, more supplies, and more factories, it seemed as though it would be nothing more than a few small battles; the South went into debt and not even cotton could repay the debt)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Revolutionary War*: 13 original colonies; Britain; most powerful empire; fought on United States land; sneak attacks; lack of representation; Articles of Confederation; *Civil War*: between North and South; “King Cotton”; great profits; fought in the South; leaving of several states); includes inaccuracies (*Civil War*: as a result of the Civil War, an amendment was added to the Constitution which prohibited any state of the United States from breaking away from the United States; they also lost hundreds of people and workforce, forcing them to rejoin the North)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that credits the wars with creating our present government

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response demonstrates some understanding of the effect of geography on the outcome of the wars. While the discussion of the Revolutionary War’s impacts is satisfactory, the discussion of the Civil War’s impacts is mostly inaccurate.

The development of the United States has been altered by geographic factors greatly. Westward expansion and moving over seas are two examples of this.

Westward Expansion was one of the first major United States developments that took place. When we first moved to the United States, we only lived east of the Mississippi River. The ~~the~~ belief in Manifest Destiny was willing to change that. Manifest Destiny was the belief that the United States should extend from coastline to coastline. This impacted the United States greatly because now not only we could trade with Europe but we could trade with Asia as well.

Another way that our country developed from geography was expansion over seas. For example, the annexation of Hawaii, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ getting Guam, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Cuba helped over sea trade. The ~~the~~ Philippines and Guam helped our trade with Asia. ~~and~~ Cuba and Puerto Rico helped our trade with

European Countries and South America.

In conclusion, the ^{idea} of expansionism geographically helped the United States to develop greatly. It helped our trade with other countries and boosted our economy. ~~The~~ The United States still has over sea power today and it will most likely continue to expand and increase its power as a nation and over seas. The United States is on its way to becoming an even bigger world power.

Anchor Level 1-A

The response:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task by mentioning the economic impacts of westward and overseas expansion
- Is descriptive (*westward expansion*: this impacted the United States greatly because now not only could we trade with Europe but we could trade with Asia as well; *overseas expansion*: the Philippines and Guam helped our trade with Asia)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*westward expansion*: Mississippi River; Manifest Destiny; coastline to coastline; *overseas expansion*: annexation of Hawaii, Puerto Rico); includes an inaccuracy (*overseas expansion*: getting Cuba)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that misstates the task and a conclusion that reviews the main points of the response

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response shows a limited understanding of the task by focusing primarily on the impacts of the events without mentioning the geographic factors.

Many of the important events that have contributed to the development of the United States have been greatly influenced by various geographic factors or conditions. Two important events that contributed to this are Alaska and the first transcontinental railroad.

In Alaska it is very cold, so the climate is contributed to it. We need the oil from Alaska because of the high gas prices because of the lack of oil now.

The first transcontinental railroad ~~connected~~ connected the east and west, so that helped with trade and the transportation ~~and demand~~ of demands for the resources needed or wanted.

In conclusion, The first

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 1 – B

transcontinental railroad and Alaska are examples of how geographic locations and conditions contributed to important events.

Anchor Level 1-B

The response:

- Minimally develops few aspects of the task by mentioning the building of the transcontinental railroad
- Is descriptive (*building of the transcontinental railroad*: so that helped with trade and the transportation of demands for the resources needed or wanted)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*building of the transcontinental railroad*: connected the east and west)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that restate the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response shows only a limited understanding of the task in the section on the building of the transcontinental railroad.

Over the course of American history, many events that led to the growth and development of the United States were influenced by the geography of the area. Geography becomes of extreme importance in American history due to the great differences in the land of different regions of the country. Both the Louisiana Purchase and the construction of the Erie Canal were two events that resulted from the geography of the area.

In the late 1700s the United States had far less land than it does today. Western settlers were bound by the Mississippi River and were having problems shipping their crops and goods on the Mississippi River because the Spanish, who owned New Orleans, denied American farmers entrance to the port. With the ratification of Pickney's Treaty which granted Americans trading rights in New Orleans, American farmers could establish highly profitable farms and have an easy and cheap method of trading. When the Spanish gave control of New Orleans to the French, President Thomas Jefferson feared that the French would take away the farmers' right of deposit. Jefferson desperately wanted to control the port of New Orleans. Jefferson believed that farmers were the backbone of the United States and should be given every chance to succeed. When Napoleon Bonaparte of France offered Jefferson the entire Louisiana Territory for only 15 million dollars, Jefferson readily accepted. Most of the land

was good for farming. Jefferson hoped that farmers would take advantage of cheap land out west and establish profitable farms. He sent Lewis and Clark on an expedition to explore the new Louisiana territory and asked them to report back about land, plants, animals and Native Americans. This information would encourage more people to move west and establish farms, making the Louisiana territory a major source of food in the future. As more and more white settlers poured into the new territory, Native Americans were greatly harmed because their hunting grounds were turned into farms. By the end of the century, the buffalo were nearly extinct and the Plains Indians had been pushed onto reservations. The geographic factors that influenced Jefferson's decision were access to the Mississippi River, admittance to the port of New Orleans, and vast new farm lands.

The construction of the Erie Canal in upstate New York was also influenced by geography. While the Mississippi River provided southern and western farmers with an easy method of trade by water, farmers in the midwest struggled. There was no great waterway to transport the produce of farmers from the Great Lakes to the eastern seaboard cities. Farmers in the midwest usually had to ship their produce by land which took more time and was more costly. Therefore,

legislators decided to construct a canal, a man-made waterway to connect the midwestern farmers with the people living in the cities. The construction of the canal was long and expensive but the canal quickly proved to be worth the trouble when it began operating. The decision in this case was based on both the geographic conditions and economic needs, two situations that tend to be linked. New York legislators decided that a canal needed to be built because of the lack of a natural waterway linking the midwest and eastern cities. Along the canal route towns grew because of the possibility for trade. Cities like Rochester and Buffalo went from being small villages to highly populated trading centers overnight. Along with new towns and cities, the canal caused New York City to become the most important city in the country because it was the gateway between world markets and the midwest. New York City is still the most powerful economic center in the United States. The construction of the canal proved to be beneficial to both midwestern farmers and the urban populace alike.

Many events over the course of American history have been influenced by the geographic factors of a particular region. Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory from France giving farmers an abundant source of

Cheap land and easy access to trade in New Orleans, legislators in New York decided to construct the Erie Canal in order to gain access to the trade and produce of the Midwest. The canal provided midwestern farmers an easy waterway through which to transport their goods to the large cities of the east coast. The geography of America has been and ^{will} always be an influential force in the political actions and policies of Americans.

Events in history occur as a result of the culmination of various different causes creating a specific environment. And in almost any case, the setting plays a significant role in how that event unfolds. In the history of the United States, our geography has greatly influenced how our country has developed over the years. This major factor has played a key role in paving the path that our nation follows. Two specific events in which geography had a huge impact were the acquiring of the Louisiana purchase, and the Civil War.

The Louisiana purchase was undoubtedly an issue surrounding geography. President Jefferson went ahead with buying the vast French land holding in North America primarily to increase the size of land that we could call our state. It nearly doubled the size of the United States. This event had a great effect on the American people. Many chose to move further west to settle the new territory, creating new social environments. It also opened up new economic opportunities such as farming. However, unfortunately, it also came to bring political conflicts between the U.S. and Native American societies living on the Louisiana territory. The center of this event and its effects was →

land, a geographical factor.

The Civil War was also an event driven by geographical factors. The northern States and the Southern states greatly differed in their geographical features. The north was much more hilly, and had fast-moving rivers. This led to a more industrial economy. In the South, however, the land was flat plantations, perfect for farming. They had slow moving rivers, which steered them away from trade. This economic difference of industrial North vs. agrarian South was a huge part of the conflict leading to the Civil War. The Southern economy called for slaves, which the North generally disapproved of because they had no need for them. The two regions butted heads on most economic policies, such as tariffs. This conflict played an immense role in causing the Civil War.

As seen in the cases of the Louisiana Purchase and Civil War, geographical factors play a great role in causing turning point events.

Geography is a cornerstone. It is the foundation upon which human history has been laid upon, and it has therefore been shaped accordingly. Geography has been one of the single greatest influencing factors in the lives of humans. It determined where they live, how they live, how they travel, etc. This holds true in the history of the United States, and the influence of geography can be seen in two major events; the Louisiana Purchase and the Civil War.

The Louisiana Purchase was completed during the reign of Napoleon over Europe. The president thought it would be prudent to buy the port of New Orleans from the French in order to protect the interests of the U.S. He believed that this purchase of New Orleans would allow trade along the Mississippi to the Atlantic to remain smooth, and would deter any attacks by the French on the U.S. Surprisingly, Napoleon offered the entire Louisiana Territory to the U.S. for about \$15 million. This basically doubled the size of the U.S. and insured the protection of the country. Napoleon was no longer a danger to us. There were, however, many unknowns. Before the Louisiana Purchase, no Americans ventured past the Mississippi River, so the land was extremely unfamiliar. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was sent out to explore the new land, and were overwhelmed by the task. They employed the help of Sacagawea and a

other Native Americans who knew the land better and could help them explore the geography more thoroughly. The size, location, and resources found in the Louisiana Purchase made it highly valuable to the U.S. and it was a very good deal. Many states were later added from the land we purchased.

A second event in U.S. History that was affected by geography was the Civil War. The bloodiest and most horrible of all wars in our history, this one pitted brother against brother and neighbor against neighbor. It changed the economy of the U.S. due to the Emancipation Proclamation and abolition of slavery. It tore the country apart, ruined its morale and its economy, and left grave lasting effects and sentiments.

This war was influenced by geography in the major differences in the two sides, the North and the South. The South had a very hospitable climate and land that favored farming and agriculture, so they promoted slavery to deal with the labor needs. The North was more industrial though, and opposed slavery. They were also able to produce more weapons and clothing for their men due to the large numbers of factories in the North. They also had better forms of transportation where the South was rural and unconnected. All of these

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – C

Reasons allowed the North to easily overpower the South, forever changing the history of the U.S.

These two events, the Louisiana Purchase and the Civil War, were greatly influenced by geography. The size, location, and resources of the areas shaped how these events occurred, and influenced the decisions made. The Louisiana Territory was deemed important to the U.S., and was therefore purchased by the U.S., and the North's industry and transportation system allowed them to win the war over the South. Both of these events changed the course of U.S. history forever.

Has had passed many of the important events that have been contributing to the development of the United States have been greatly influenced by various geographic factors or conditions including location, size, natural resources, and physical features. Some important events that contain a lot of geographical factors or conditions were the Civil War that was from 1860 to 1865, and the transcontinental railroad that lasted 20 years and it ended right after the Civil War.

The Civil War was fought by the North vs the South side of the country. The president of the North side was Abraham Lincoln and the president of the South side was Jefferson Davis. There were many reasons that led to this war but mainly was because Abraham wanted the South to be united with the North so they can be a all one country, but the ~~South~~ South did not want to, because if they became one all nation that South was going to be forced to end slavery, which was the second reason of the Civil War because the people from the North didn't like the idea of slavery but the South needed the slavery because they had a largest farms and plantations and their economy was based on their agriculture. In the other hand the North

didn't use plantation or agriculture they used a lot of manufacturing and agriculture, they ~~also~~ small farms or plantations.

An other geography factor/condition was the build of the Transcontinental Railroad which was an event that lasted for 20 years and it was a road build from the ~~east~~ side of the country to the west side, right across the country. This railroad was build with the idea of make easy for people to trade their good from one side of the other, ~~and~~ or to export and imports their good, the build of the transcontinental railroad was a big thing also from immigrant from Asia and Europe because they were the ones ~~who~~ worked on the build of such amazing thing.

In conclusion many of the important event have had contributed a lot to our country and not only contributed but also influence from many factors such as geography factor or condition and as we see it was a big influence.

Throughout history, societies have always, and will continue to be, primarily influenced by geography. Where people live, what they eat, and how they survive all depend on geographic factors and conditions. Sometimes nature can help societies by providing fertile land, good growing conditions, or natural resources. However, other times, it turns on humanity and causes great amounts of human distress. The Dust Bowl during the 1930's and The Gold Rush of the late 1840's were both heavily influenced by geography.

When gold was discovered in California, thousands of people rushed to California, spreading out the nation. The migration occurred because gold, an extremely valuable metal, was found in California streams at Sutter's mill in 1848. This news sent the "49ers", Americans and foreigners, racing to find their fortune. Unfortunately, although many went to California, only a few became rich, while most continued to be poor. They had wasted money on maps and mining supplies, and had to find ways to start a new life. Soon, California's other natural attractions became obvious. A warm climate; fertile soil, and natural harbors meant that it would become a farming and

trading center. The positive outcome of this migration was that new towns sprouted on the Pacific coast. Soon the Pacific was populated and California gained statehood. During the California Gold Rush, many had tried to travel by sea, usually all the way around the tip of South America, a long and difficult journey.

By the 1860s railroad companies began to lay railroad tracks to connect the riches of California to the east. Since a canal could not be built, this would give Americans a way to get across the unsettled Plains and the Rocky Mountains. The transcontinental railroad was built and it united the east and the west coasts. The gold rush succeeded in spreading out a growing nation over a vast continent. The gold rich streams of California caused the migration to California in the late 1840's and influenced the development of the US by leading to the transcontinental railroad.

During the great Depression, the geographic conditions of the midwest caused many farm families to endure the Dust Bowl. The 1930's left most of the nation in distress because of the stock market crash, but because of the specific geography of

the mid-west, suffering was greatest there. The vast, flat, treeless lands of the Plains became dry and dead when rain failed to fall. Because the land was overcultivated, the top soil turned to dust and coated everything in sight with inches, and even feet, of dust. The farmers had no money or food because they couldn't produce their crops. The Government, and New Deal programs tried to help Americans, but urban communities received the most government aid. One program used to fix the problems created by the Dust-Bowl was the CCC. Young men were bused to rural areas to plant trees and build and repair irrigation projects. This New Deal program was an important step in environmental conservation. Also, during the New Deal, the government began to give subsidies to farmers to help them keep their farms. The Dust bowl was an extremely trying time for farmers because of falling crop prices and national economic distress, but the factor that essentially produced the Dust Bowl was the geography of the Midwest.

Geographic factors influence, and even produce, historical events. From terrain, to climate, to natural resources, society is affected by geography.

The migration to California, or the Gold Rush, and the DUST BOWL both were influenced by geography and impacted the United States.

Practice Paper A—Score Level 4

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the Louisiana Purchase more thoroughly than the geographic factor influencing the construction of the Erie Canal
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Louisiana Purchase*: the geographic factors that influenced Jefferson’s decision were access to the Mississippi River, admittance to the port of New Orleans, and vast new farmlands; this information would encourage more people to move west and establish farms, making the Louisiana Territory a major source of food in the future; by the end of the century, the buffalo were nearly extinct and Plains Indians had been pushed onto reservations; *construction of the Erie Canal*: there was no great waterway to transport the produce of farmers from the Great Lakes to the eastern seaboard cities; along the canal route towns grew because of the possibility for trade; New York City is still the most powerful economic center in the United States)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Purchase*: late 1700s; Spanish; Pinckney’s Treaty; right of deposit; farmers were the backbone of the United States; Napoleon Bonaparte offered entire Louisiana territory for only 15 million dollars; cheap land; *construction of the Erie Canal*: man-made waterway; long and expensive; New York legislators; Rochester; Buffalo; highly populated trading centers; gateway between world markets and Midwest)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that reviews how the events were influenced by geographic factors

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The discussion of the Louisiana Purchase is rich with historical details that convey a solid understanding of both geographic factors and their impacts on events. Less developed is the discussion about the construction of the Erie Canal.

Practice Paper B—Score Level 2

The response:

- Develops some aspects of the task in some depth
- Is primarily descriptive (*Louisiana Purchase*: President Jefferson went ahead by buying the vast French land in North America; it also opened up new economic opportunities such as farming; unfortunately it also came to bring political conflicts between the United States and Native American societies living on the Louisiana territory; *Civil War*: in the South, however, the land was flat plantations, perfect for farming); includes faulty analysis (*Louisiana Purchase*: primarily to increase the size of land that we could call our state)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Purchase*: doubled the size; *Civil War*: North was hilly with fast-moving rivers; industrial economy; industrial North vs. agrarian South; slaves; tariffs)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that indicates an understanding of the task and a brief conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The discussion of the Louisiana Purchase is cursory and general, only mentioning important information. For the Civil War, geographical differences between the North and South are described, but the remaining tasks are ignored.

Practice Paper C—Score Level 3

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth for the Louisiana Purchase and the Civil War
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Louisiana Purchase*: the president believed that this purchase of New Orleans would allow trade along the Mississippi to the Atlantic to remain smooth and would deter any attacks by the French on the United States; Napoleon was no longer a danger to us; many states were later added from the land we purchased; *Civil War*: the South had a very hospitable climate and land that favored farming and agriculture, so they promoted slavery to deal with the labor needs; it changed the economy of the United States due to the Emancipation Proclamation and the abolition of slavery)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Purchase*: the reign of Napoleon; doubled the size of the United States; Lewis and Clark expedition; Sacajawea; *Civil War*: bloodiest; brother against brother; North more industrial; weapons and clothing; factories; better forms of transportation); includes inaccuracies (*Louisiana Purchase*: \$6 million; *Civil War*: North opposed slavery; all of these reasons allowed the North to easily overpower the South)
- Demonstrates a weakness in organization; includes an introduction that emphasizes the importance of geography on history and a conclusion that reviews key points

Conclusion: The response shows a general understanding of the task. The Louisiana Purchase is much more developed than the Civil War. Overgeneralizations and a lack of supporting details weaken the response.

Practice Paper D—Score Level 1

The response:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task by stating an economic and social impact of the building of the transcontinental railroad on the development of the United States
- Is descriptive (*building of the transcontinental railroad*: this railroad was built with the idea of making it easy to trade their goods from one side to the other; the building of the transcontinental railroad was a big thing also for immigrants from Asia and Europe because they were the ones who worked on the building of such an amazing thing)
- Includes no additional relevant facts, examples, or details; includes inaccuracies (*building of the transcontinental railroad*: an event that lasted for twenty years; a road built from the east side of the country to the west)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; lacks focus, especially regarding the Civil War; includes a weak introduction and conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response mentions two impacts of the transcontinental railroad, but omits the geographic factors that influenced its building. The section on the Civil War suggests little understanding of the task.

Practice Paper E—Score Level 4

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task for migration to California in the late 1840s and the Dust Bowl, but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the impacts of the migration to California more thoroughly than the impacts of the Dust Bowl
- Is both analytical and descriptive (*migration to California in the late 1840s*: the migration occurred because gold, an extremely valuable metal, was found in California streams at Sutter’s Mill in 1848; the transcontinental railroad would give Americans a way to get across the unsettled plains and the Rocky Mountains; *Dust Bowl*: because the land was overcultivated, the top soil turned to dust and coated everything in sight with inches, and even feet, of dust; Civilian Conservation Corps, a New Deal program, was an important step in environmental conservation; also during the New Deal, the government began to give subsidies to farmers to help them keep their farms)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*migration to California in the late 1840s*: 49ers; maps and mining supplies; warm climate; fertile soil; natural harbors; new towns; Pacific coast; farming and trading center; around the tip of South America; 1860s; railroad companies; united the east and west coasts; *Dust Bowl*: Great Depression; Midwest; stock market crash; vast, flat, treeless lands of the Plains; rain failed to fall; young men; bused to rural areas; plant trees; build and repair irrigation projects; falling crop prices)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that links geographic factors to economic conditions and a conclusion that notes that society is affected by geography

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response displays an awareness of how government and big business respond to geographic factors. More development of the impacts of the Dust Bowl would have strengthened the response.

United States History and Government Specifications August 2011

Part I Multiple-Choice Questions by Standard

Standard	Question Numbers
1—United States and New York History	2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 32, 33, 36, 37, 40, 43, 44, 46, 48
2—World History	23, 35, 41, 50
3—Geography	1, 29, 30, 45
4—Economics	14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 26, 31, 34, 42
5—Civics, Citizenship, and Government	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 38, 39, 47, 49

Parts II and III by Theme and Standard

	Theme	STANDARDS
Thematic Essay	Geography: Development of the United States; Human Systems; Environment	Standards 1, 3, 4, and 5: United States and New York History; Geography, Economics; Civics, Citizenship, and Government
Document-based Essay	Government; Citizenship; Change; Civic Values; Constitutional Principles; Reform Movements; Diversity	Standards 1, 3, 4, and 5: United States and New York History; Geography; Economics; Civics, Citizenship, and Government

Notes:

Part I and Part II scoring information is found in Volume 1 of the Rating Guide.

Part III scoring information is found in Volume 2 of the Rating Guide.

The *Chart for Determining the Final Examination Score for the August 2011 Regents Examination in United States History and Government* will be posted on the Department's web site at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/apda/> on the day of the examination. Conversion charts provided for the previous administrations of the United States History and Government examination must NOT be used to determine students' final scores for this administration.

Submitting Teacher Evaluations of the Test to the Department

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State assessments. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. Instructions for completing the evaluation form are as follows:

1. Go to <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/exameval/reexameval.cfm>.
2. Select the test title.
3. Complete the required demographic fields.
4. Complete each evaluation question and provide comments in the space provided.
5. Click the SUBMIT button at the bottom of the page to submit the completed form.