

# FOR TEACHERS ONLY

The University of the State of New York

REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

## GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Friday, January 28, 2011 — 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., only

### 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 <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/osa/> 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 at least one more time before the final scores for the examination are recorded.

#### 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

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Albany, New York 12234

VOLUME  
**1 OF 2**  
MC & THEMATIC

Global History  
and Geography  
January 28, 2011

#### Part I

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## Mechanics of Rating

The following procedures are to be used in rating 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*.

### Scoring the Part I Multiple-Choice Questions

On the detachable answer sheet, indicate by means of a checkmark each incorrect or omitted answer to multiple-choice questions; do not place a checkmark beside a correct answer. Use only red ink or red pencil. In the box provided on the answer sheet, record the number of questions the student answered correctly in Part I.

### 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.

**Global History and Geography**  
**Content-Specific Rubric**  
**Thematic Essay—January 2011**

**Theme: Geography**

Geographic features have influenced the historical and cultural development of civilizations, empires, countries, and regions of the world.

**Task:** Select *three* different geographic features and for *each*

- Discuss how this geographic feature influenced the historical *and/or* cultural development of a specific civilization, empire, country, or region

You may use any geographic feature from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include rivers, seas, oceans, rain forests, plains, mountains, deserts, islands, and monsoons.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**  
**Do *not* write about the geographic features of the United States.**

**Scoring Notes:**

1. Responses to this thematic essay should discuss how *each* of *three* different geographic features influenced the historical *and/or* cultural development of a specific civilization, empire, country, or region.
2. If more than *three* geographic features are discussed, only the *first three* geographic features can be scored.
3. The same specific civilization, empire, country, or region may be used for more than one geographic feature, e.g., the influence of the Nile River and of the Sahara Desert on Egypt.
4. The influence of a geographic feature on the historical or cultural development of a specific civilization, empire, country, or region may be discussed within a specific time period or over time.
5. The influence may be discussed 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 discussing how three different geographic features influenced the historical and/or cultural development of specific civilizations, empires, countries, or regions
- Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates\* information), e.g., *rivers*: connects the location of early Egyptian civilization on the Nile River and agricultural methods such as irrigation systems to the growth of population, the economy, and cities; *oceans*: connects the Atlantic Ocean to Great Britain’s emphasis on commercial interests, its dominance as a sea power, and its development as a trading empire and as an imperial power in North America and India; *monsoons*: connects the monsoons to the economic well-being of India, noting both positive and negative effects, and employing specific examples such as the impact on agricultural production and the production of hydroelectric power
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details, e.g., *rivers*: cataracts; delta; silt; pharaohs; hydroelectric power; Isis; Osiris; “Gift of the Nile”; calendar; irrigation; *oceans*: capitalism; joint stock companies; mercantilism; trans-Atlantic trade; thirteen colonies; British East India Company; *monsoons*: crops withering in fields; flooding; lack of drinking water
- 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 one geographic feature less thoroughly than the other two geographic features
- Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates\* information), e.g., *rivers*: discusses efforts to control the flooding of the Nile River and early Egyptian agricultural methods to the development of a civilization in ancient Egypt; *oceans*: discusses the role of the Atlantic Ocean in the development of British naval superiority and how this led to empire building and the growth of the British economy; *monsoons*: discusses the importance of the monsoons to agriculture and other businesses and how this affects the economic well-being of India
- 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 two* geographic features 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

**Score of 2:**

- Minimally develops *all* aspects of the task *or* develops *at least one* geographic feature 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.

Throughout the course of history, geographic features have been key to the development and success of civilizations. From the very first, to the most recent, no civilization can deny how important its geography is. In areas all over the globe, rivers, surrounding waters, and mountains have been crucial to human history.

It was rivers that paved the way for the development of our species. After the Neolithic Revolution, man no longer had a need for a nomadic way of life. The fertile soil and overflowing banks of the Nile River proved to be the perfect place to settle. Once people learned of the regularity of flooding and that crops could be irrigated, a surplus of food became available. By making this surplus possible, the Nile made possible government, religion, written language, social classes, cities, in other words, the ingredients of civilization. This civilization soon grew into a vast empire, Egypt. The descendants of once nomadic people were now making great strides in mathematics, writing, and architecture. The influence of the Nile is evident everywhere in this great civilization.

Geometry grew out of surveying the fields. Papyrus was a principal ingredient of writing. The huge blocks used to build the pyramids were floated down the river. Government was constantly involved in rules regulating things like access to the river. Egypt as the "gift of the Nile" is a central focus of ancient ritual and prayers.

Mountains are commonly used as a symbol for something standing in the way of our dreams, but mountains were a key factor in one of South America's most famous empires, the Incas. The Incas lived among the Andes mountains in western South America. These mountains dictated the terms of survival for the Incas. The severe conditions of life in the mountains made all areas of human

activity, agriculture, government, transportation, and trade extremely difficult. In other words, the mountains served as a test of Incan problem solving skills. Survival required adaptation. In a technique known today as "terrace farming" the Incas would cut flatland into the sides of a mountain, creating space for farming. They also cut irrigation canals to grow potatoes, a hardy crop that could grow throughout the empire and be stored. The Incas showed they rivaled the Romans in engineering and empire building in the canals, suspension bridges, and thousands of miles of roads they built. Mountains have had great effects on the history of civilization.

Another extremely important geographic feature is so big it is sometimes overlooked, the waters surrounding an island nation. Such waters have been key to the development of England, an island surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, and the English Channel. These waters have kept them out of many mainland European quarrels, but have also better prepared them for war. Because of these waters, England built a navy more feared than the Spanish Armada. These waters have protected the English from the Spanish and Germans at various points in history. The Spanish Armada was destroyed in part by the weather conditions on the North Sea and English Channel. English plans for colonization in North America and later imperialism in Africa are evidence of British reliance on the Atlantic Ocean for transportation. In addition to promoting protection and expansion, and because it is surrounded by water, England has been able to interact with or isolate itself from the rest of Europe on its own terms.

In conclusion, geographic features have shaped society. From rivers to mountains to waters, no feature is unimportant. Physical features force people to adapt. In each of these cases, unique civilizations have resulted.

## Anchor Level 5-A

### The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing the influences of the Nile River on Egypt, the Andes Mountains on the Inca, and bodies of water surrounding England
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Nile River*: it was rivers that paved the way for development of our species; once people learned of the regularity of flooding, a surplus of food became available; civilization soon grew into a great empire, Egypt; descendants of once nomadic people now making great strides in mathematics, writing, and architecture; government constantly involved in rules, regulating things like access to the river; *Andes Mountains*: mountains commonly used as symbol for something standing in the way, but mountains were a key factor in South America's most famous empire, the Inca; dictated the terms of survival for the Inca; mountains served as test of Inca problem-solving skills; survival required adaptation; Inca rivaled the Romans in engineering and empire building; *bodies of water surrounding England*: waters kept them out of many mainland European quarrels but also better prepared them for war; Spanish Armada destroyed in part by weather conditions; English plans for colonization in North America and later imperialism in Africa are evidence of reliance on the Atlantic Ocean for transportation; because it is surrounded by water, England has been able to interact with or isolate itself from rest of Europe on its own terms)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Nile River*: Neolithic Revolution; nomadic way of life; ingredients of civilization; geometry; surveying; papyrus; pyramids; "Gift of the Nile"; *Andes Mountains*: mountains in western South America; terrace farming; irrigation canals; potatoes; canals; suspension bridges; thousands of miles of roads; *bodies of water surrounding England*: North Sea; English Channel; navy more feared than Spanish Armada)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response does a good job in defining civilization through the influence of the Nile on the development of Egypt, assessing Inca adaptation in meeting the challenges posed by mountains, and characterizing surrounding bodies of water as determining the path to English development.

From the beginning of civilization in China, the East Asian geography has influenced the development of culture, traditions, and beliefs. China was bordered to the south by the world's tallest mountains which had significant impact on China's history. The Yellow River became the site of one of the earliest civilizations. The northern steppes of China were home to nomadic herders and led to a series of invasions. The geographic features of China, whether they are mountains, rivers, or steppes, contributed to the formation of this ancient culture.

Among the mountain ranges to the south, the Himalayas tended to shield China from ongoing, direct contact with its neighbors. However, as in the case of the spread of Buddhism, from India to China, contact did occur and was significant. The Himalayas also contributed to patterns of settlement, helping to limit population to the east. Some suggest this led to the cultural aspect known as sinocentrism, or ethnocentrism ~~is~~ specific to China. The Chinese believed that they were the center of the universe and superior to others. As China turned inward her creative energies helped promote philosophies like Confucianism, inventions like block printing, and engineering feats like the Grand Canal. Life in China also developed along rivers such as the Yellow River because it provided water for human purposes, as well as irrigation. This river often flooded unpredictably,



Wiping out villages and killing thousands. For this reason, the Yellow River became known as "China's Sorrow." However, when the river flooded it deposited fertile soil known as loess on its banks and the surrounding fields. This allowed farmers to obtain successful yields. They built and maintained dikes and channels to direct the flow to try to prevent flooding, death, and famine. Without rivers, China would not have been able to develop.

A third feature of China's topography is located in its north-western region, known as the steppes. The steppes were adequate grazing land, but contained few rivers and the dry land was not easily farmed. The nomadic groups of the steppes such as the Mongols raided the Northern Chinese villages and cities for supplies and goods. For the hardy Mongols, the steppes served as a training ground for their military and an invasion route into China. Starting with Shi-Huangdi dynasties tried to block access to China via the steppes with construction of the Great Wall. This worked until the Mongols got around it. One Mongol leader, known as Chinggis Khan led his people in an invasion of Song dynasty China. His successful attacks led to the establishment of a new dynasty in China, the Yuan. In this era, the Chinese were relegated to a labor class, as the Mongols created an exclusive government. The Chinese could not learn the Mongol language, or marry Mongol women. It was not until the

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**Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – B**

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Ming dynasty overturned the Yuan rulers that the Chinese regained freedom. The Mongols were pushed back to the steppes to resume their nomadic lifestyle.

The influence of the Chinese mountains, rivers, and steppes on the region's history proves that the geographic features have a profound affect on the cultural and traditional aspects of Chinese society. While mountains limit and define interaction with people, the steppes serve as something of a gateway. Rivers provide the means of livelihood but also were a threat to people.

**Anchor Level 5-B****The response:**

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing the influence of mountains, rivers, and steppes on China
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*mountains*: world's tallest mountains had significant impact on China's history; tended to shield China from ongoing, direct contact with its neighbors; in the case of the spread of Buddhism from India to China, contact did occur and was significant; contributed to patterns of settlement; some suggest this led to the cultural aspect known as sinocentrism or ethnocentrism specific to China; as China turned inward, her creative energies helped promote philosophies, inventions, engineering feats; *rivers*: China's Yellow River became the site of one of the earliest civilizations; damage from unpredictable flooding led the Yellow River to become known as China's sorrow; without its rivers, China would not have been able to develop; they built and maintained dikes and channels to direct the flow to try to prevent flooding, death, and famine; *steppes*: home to nomadic herders and led to a series of invasions; for hardy Mongols, steppes served as training ground for military and an invasion route into China; Mongols created exclusive government)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*mountains*: Himalayas; Confucianism; block printing; *rivers*: fertile soil known as loess; *steppes*: Shi-Huangdi; Great Wall; Ghengis Khan; Song dynasty; Ming dynasty; Yuan dynasty)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The treatment in this response demonstrates skillful use of historical knowledge in discussing the effects of geography on China through references to various cultural innovations and dynasties. Concentrating on a single country leads to a well-integrated response.

Throughout time geography has been a major influence on all civilizations. It affects many aspects of life for people. Geography is not prejudiced against any culture. From Ancient Egypt to Modern China it is present; so are its influences. Three prime examples include Egypt's Nile River's effects on culture, Britain's island status promoting development of a powerful navy and the Gobi Desert's effect on China's world view.

Ancient Egypt was a very dry place, surrounded by an abundance of desert. The Nile river was Egypt's main source of life. It provided water for drink, transportation, & irrigation. Every year the Nile would flood & provide fertile silt. This influenced the culture greatly. Ancient Egypt worshipped gods related to the Nile. Osiris was an important god associated with the fertility of the soil. Another god symbolized the importance of the flooding and was associated with the riches the Nile provided.

The Egyptians would hold festivals and rituals for the flooding of the Nile. The annual cycles of the Nile were the basis for the Egyptian calendar: flooding, cultivating, and harvesting. While the Nile provided access to the Mediterranean, the delta was an obstacle to those trying to use the Nile as an invasion route.

From the time the 100 years war made it a nation,

England's identity was shaped by its island status. The English fished, traded and pirated for years prior to the notorious Sea Dogs of Elizabethan times. They were relatively free to carry out their squabbles free of intervention because they were an island. But it is one particular attempt to invade the island that brought England fame as a naval power. During Queen Elizabeth I rule, the English and the Spanish monarchy had some conflicts, mostly due to the fact that Queen Elizabeth I was Protestant, King Phillip II was Catholic. The Sea Dogs had plundered Spanish ships looking for silver. Spain was also angry over the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots who was Catholic. King Philip II of Spain soon declared war on Britain, and decided to attack with the infamous Spanish Armada: the greatest world power at that time. When they attacked they underestimated the roughness of the English Channel. Britain on the other hand knew exactly how to work the seas to their advantage. They defeated the Spanish, and became a naval world power. In the future this influenced them to imperialize 25% of the world, and become one of the most influential.

powers of the world.

The Gobi Desert of China is a vast dry, sparsely populated land. This mass of land caused China to be somewhat isolated, and contributed eventually to the view that they were superior to other nations. This can be seen in their expression "Middle Kingdom." While the Gobi discouraged most Chinese from settling there, for the Mongols the Gobi was a path to invasion. This led the Chinese to construct the Great Wall. Last, the Gobi was the source of the yellowish, windblown soil called loess. The wind carrying this soil is a nuisance because it blows soil into people's houses (that is why the doorways face south). But the loess has enriched China's soil and is very important to agriculture.

The Nile effected Egyptian culture. The island status of England helped it become a world naval power. The Gobi Desert effected China in various ways.

## Anchor Level 4-A

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but develops the Nile River in Egypt and England's island status in more depth than the Gobi Desert in China.
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Nile River*: ancient Egypt worshipped gods related to the Nile; another god symbolized the importance of flooding and was associated with riches the Nile provided; while the Nile provided access to the Mediterranean, the delta was an obstacle to invasion; *island status*: English fished, traded, pirated for years prior to the notorious Sea Dogs of Elizabethan times, who plundered Spanish ships; English were relatively free to carry out their squabbles without intervention because England was an island; knew exactly how to work the seas to their advantage; defeated the Spanish Armada and became a world naval power; influenced them to imperialize 25% of the world; *Gobi Desert*: contributed eventually to view they were superior to other nations; while Gobi discouraged most Chinese from settling, for Mongols the desert was a path to invasion)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Nile River*: Egypt's main source of life; irrigation; annual floods; fertile silt; Osiris, an important god associated with fertility of soil; festival, rituals; *island status*: 100 Years War; Queen Elizabeth I, Protestant; King Phillip II, Catholic; execution of Mary, Queen of Scots; English Channel; *Gobi Desert*: vast; sparsely populated; caused China to be somewhat isolated; Middle Kingdom; Great Wall; yellowish, windblown soil called loess; loess enriched China's soil)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response includes facts, examples, and details for all three geographic features. The case study approach, used to discuss the island status of England, lends itself to historical analysis; however, the absence of a historical frame of reference in the discussion of the Gobi promotes description, not discussion.

Geography has had a huge influence on civilizations. Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece and Ancient China are three examples of just how heavily geography can impact.

Ancient Greece was not unified under one government but instead many small city states making up one civilization. The city states were spread out and located in mountainous terrain. It was these mountains that kept the city states from uniting under one government. A centralized government just wouldn't work. The mountains of Greece kept the city states relatively isolated. This incomplete isolation led to a variance in culture, making each city state individual but still Greek. Athens and Sparta developed quite differently. Sparta stressed the military and discipline, Athens emphasized the individual and a limited democracy. Although they didn't unite under one government, they worshipped the same gods, they resented other city states interfering in their affairs but joined together to battle their Persian enemies. So while the mountains led to different governments, they were not a barrier to the development of Greek culture.

The area of Ancient Egypt was also massively influenced by geography. Egypt is located in a desert, and with such an arid climate, growing food is difficult, and therefore is hard to settle down in. However, the Nile river cuts through the deserts of Egypt and overflows its banks each year, allowing the Egyptians to survive. Every time the river flooded, it deposited fertile mud, called silt. This mud accumulated and was perfect for farming. As such, the Egyptians not only had enough food, but an abundance of it. Surpluses of

food allow for artisan workers. And it was from this that the Egyptian rich culture had sprung. Because it was so important, the river unified Egypt. It unified agriculture. The river was also used to transport goods to the settlements along its banks, and to carry the blocks used to build the tombs of the pharaohs. The Nile river was of great benefit in the development of Egyptian culture.

Ancient China was also impacted by geography. China is an interestingly located country with a desert and mountains bordering it. The location of China shielded it from continuous contact with other civilizations. In this case of incomplete isolation, China developed with little influence from the rest of the world. Belief systems that were uniquely Chinese developed. Confucianism and Legalism addressed specifically Chinese circumstances. Each represented a code of behavior designed to maintain order. The spread of Buddhism into China shows China was not completely shielded. Normally deserts are a barrier to invasion but the Gobi didn't shield China from invasion from the north, and west. Ultimately, the "barbarians" got around the wall and established their own dynasty. Obviously, China was not completely isolated from other civilizations. However, China's location allowed it to develop its own rich culture.

Geographic features influence civilizations greatly. The Nile River was important to Egypt's culture and the people's survival. The location of China and the mountains of Greece caused some isolation and left the people to develop unique cultures.



## Anchor Level 4-B

### **The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing influence of the location of ancient China and mountains of ancient Greece more thoroughly than influence of the Nile River on ancient Egypt
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*mountains*: ancient Greece was not unified under one government but instead, many small city-states making up one civilization; incomplete isolation led to a variance in culture making each city-state individual but still Greek; worshipped same gods; resented other city-states interfering in their affairs but joined together to battle the Persians; *Nile River*: overflowed banks each year; deposited fertile mud; surpluses of food allow for artisan workers, and from this, Egyptians' rich culture sprung; *location*: China is interestingly located with desert and mountains bordering it; location shielded China from continuous contact with other civilizations; belief systems that were uniquely Chinese developed; spread of Buddhism shows China was not completely shielded; ultimately, "barbarians" got around the wall and established their own dynasty)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*mountains*: Greek mountains kept city-states from uniting; Sparta stressed the military and discipline; Athens emphasized the individual and democracy even though it was limited; *Nile River*: arid climate; silt; river united Egypt; *location*: Confucianism; legalism; Gobi Desert)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that mentions the civilizations to be discussed and a conclusion that is beyond a restatement of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response is primarily descriptive in discussing the total dependence of Egyptian society on the Nile, but uses analysis in applying the concept of "incomplete isolation" to the development of ancient Greece and ancient China.

In history, there is rarely a civilization or region that is not affected in at least some small way by geography. Sometimes, this impact is minor, but more often than not, geography plays a huge role in the development of an area. Three places geography has affected in particular are Egypt, with the Nile River, Britain, with its coastline, and Africa, with the Sahara Desert.

After the Neolithic Revolution enabled people to farm and form more permanent settlements, most civilizations built up around rivers. The land around rivers was very fertile and the access to water made irrigation and farming easy. This is especially true of Egypt. Started around the Nile River, Egypt quickly grew into an effective agricultural civilization. The reason for this was that the Nile River would, once a year, flood the land surrounding the river. When the flood receded, thick dark silt was left behind. The farmers would spread it out and use this fertile soil to grow a vast quantity of food. However, in addition to this flood being helpful, it was also harmful. If the flood did not go high enough, the farmer would not get the silt they needed for farming, and the crop would be bad. However, if the flood was too much, the waters would destroy the surrounding buildings and villages. This was often the time when people were required to work on projects like the pyramids. This helps explain why the people of Egypt became a polytheistic culture. In order to ensure that the river flooded the way it was supposed to, the Egyptian people would pray to their many gods to help the river flood properly. In this way,

a river affected the development of Egypt.

Another geographic feature that can have a major effect is irregular coastlines. Britain has a large amount of coastline, with harbors which can serve as ports. For Britain, this led to trade and prosperity, both of which led to the Industrial Revolution. For the Industrial Revolution to be a success in Britain, it needed several things: capital, natural resources, and markets. Two out of three of these things came about as a result of Britain's coastline and ports. The capital was earned by men who used trade to their advantage. These men invested in starting up industry in Britain. They then sold their goods to other countries through the ports in their coastline. This led to more capital, more industry, and more trade, which turned Britain into a modernized and industrialized country, which it still is today, all because of its coastline. These same ports also linked Britain with colonies. The sun never set on an empire that took manufactured goods abroad and brought back riches through busy ports.

Deserts are another major geographic feature. They often act as trade and cultural diffusion barriers. In Africa, this was the role of the Sahara desert for Europeans. Located in northern Africa, just south of the Mediterranean Sea, the Sahara Desert kept the interior remote. For people of the interior, their understanding of the desert was much more complex. They knew the locations of oases and could set up patterns of movement from one to another. They understood when

there would be water at specific times. The desert was also the source of salt. People carried salt from oases to oases. Control of this trade meant great wealth and power. Three great empires were based on the gold for salt trade.

Geography is often disregarded as just another topic to discuss in global class. However, by looking at the impacts of geography on certain regions, one can see that it is much more than that. Geography is a major factor in how civilizations began.

Anchor Level 4-C

**The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing Britain's irregular coastline and the Sahara Desert more thoroughly than the Nile River
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Nile River*: most civilizations grew up around rivers; used fertile soil to grow vast quantity of food; flooding was often the time when people were required to work on projects; Egyptian people would pray to their many gods to help the river flood properly; *irregular coastline*: Britain has a large amount of coastline with harbors which can serve as ports; Industrial Revolution in Britain needed capital, natural resources, and markets; two of these came about as a result of Britain's coastline and ports; ports linked Britain with colonies; Sun never set on the empire that took manufactured goods abroad and brought back riches through busy ports; *Sahara Desert*: deserts often act as trade and cultural diffusion barriers; for people of interior, their understanding of the desert is more complex; three great empires based on gold-for-salt trade)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Nile River*: Neolithic Revolution; irrigation; once a year flooded land; thick dark silt; pyramids; polytheistic; *irregular coastline*: trade; prosperity; *Sahara Desert*: located just south of the Mediterranean Sea; oases)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. This straightforward response contains good information and accurate details. The limited analysis is strategically placed to make key points.

Geography can influence the way of life of a civilization. It can be harmful, but often times humans have used ~~the~~ geographical features to their advantage. ~~It~~ It can separate a region, act as a barrier, be used as a tool for trade, and even make lives better. Civilizations often adapt to the geography of their land in order to work with instead of fighting it. With the assimilation of geography in their lives, it can create distinct historical and cultural identities of the region.

Greece was a mountainous region. Ancient Greek city-states were isolated from <sup>one</sup> another. The isolation allowed them to develop their own identities and cultures. An example of two very different city-states were Sparta and Athens. Athens practiced democracy, it valued education and all around perfection. Sparta was militaristic. Women had more rights because Spartans believed a healthy mother was essential to give birth to a strong warrior. Sparta did not value education as much as Athens. Different beliefs and cultures often clashed. This was the case in the Peloponnesian Wars. Athens and the Delian League fought with Sparta and the Peloponnesian League.

The Geography of a region can lead a civilization to success. The Nile River provided many essential things to Egyptian Civilization. The flooding of the Nile resulted in fertile lands, greatly helping the food and agricultural production of Ancient Egypt. Furthermore, the flooding was regular and predictable allowing the Egyptians to schedule farming. The flooding was not harsh and was controllable. To secure a successful harvest, Egyptians worshipped gods. The gods, they believed, insured them of a good harvest. With agricultural and food surpluses, specialization emerged. People now had jobs other than farming. It allowed Egypt build their pyramids. The Nile was not only a source of food it also became a source of transportation and protection. The Nile was used to transport goods, foods, and building materials for the Pyramids.

The Indian Ocean Monsoons was another example in which humans adapted to their environment. The monsoons were often dangerous, flooding the Indian subcontinent ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> killing many

people and winning many of the farming land. But with <sup>the</sup> knowledge of the monsoons, the people developed a calendar based on the dry and wet seasons. With this knowledge they were able to prepare and ready themselves for the two different seasons. The knowledge of the winds also helped the seafarers and merchants with trade. Their ableness to control the wind allowed them to travel more safely and more accurately, using wind power for their souls. Trade became more efficient.

Geographic features can shape the cultural and historical identity of a region. Rivers, mountains, and monsoons can greatly affect the lives of many people. Often times humans have adapted and learned to use the geography of their lands to their advantage. The geographic factors can act as a security, ~~a~~ promote trade or supply agriculture to various regions. With <sup>the</sup> knowledge of their surroundings humans can better their lives with the help of nature.

### Anchor Level 3-A

#### **The response:**

- Develops the influences of mountains on Greece and the Nile River on Egypt in some depth and develops the influence of monsoons on India in little depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*mountains*: isolation allowed Greek city-states to develop their own identities and cultures; *Nile River*: flooding resulted in fertile lands; flooding was regular and predictable, allowing Egyptians to schedule harvests; believed gods insured them of a good harvest; became a source of transportation and protection; *monsoons*: developed a calendar based on the dry and wet seasons; knowledge of winds helped seafarers and merchants with trade); includes faulty application (*mountains*: Sparta did not value education as much as Athens)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*mountains*: Athens practiced democracy; Sparta was militaristic; Peloponnesian Wars; *Nile River*: food surpluses; specialization emerged; pyramids; *monsoons*: dangerous, killing many; flooding)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. Broad descriptive generalizations demonstrate a basic understanding of the influence geography had on Egyptian and Greek cultural development. The information on the monsoon is less clear and weakens the response.



Throughout history, the geography of a region influenced how a nation would grow and develop culturally. The surroundings and climate of nations are often responsible for many cultural and historical achievements.

In the history of the country of India, the geographic feature of the Himalayan mountains allowed for the vast culture of India to develop with limited foreign influence. The Himalayas being very steep and large discouraged many nations from wanting to invade India. The mountains not only provided a barrier from invading nations but acted as a shield from cultural influence from neighboring nations allowing for India to grow and become a country with its own native culture and history. With this shield India was able to develop Hinduism and the caste system which made India unique.

In comparison to the Himalayan mountains the Sahara Desert too acted as a blockade but in a different frontier, Egypt. In Egypt, the excruciating hot climate influenced every day Egyptian life. For foreign armies, the heat of the Sahara desert stood in their way.

The Sahara desert being large in size made it difficult for other civilizations to penetrate Egypt civilization from the west. The arid conditions of Egypt's desert caused most people to live in dense populations along the Nile River. In Egypt like in India the Sahara desert served to enclose Egypt from the outside world and allowed for the Egyptians to cultivate a culture that is still fascinating till this day.

Lastly, in Vietnam the large jungles that covered the

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**Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 3 – B**

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land discouraged the United States efforts to contain the spread of Communism. The jungles of Vietnam were very dense and thick which made it difficult for troops to stop the guerilla tactics of Vietcong who were so familiar with the land. The jungles also allowed for the Vietcong to place traps that hindered the progress of the U.S. troops. The United States resorted to using Agent Orange to destroy the rainforest vegetation so the enemy couldn't hide in the jungle. In the end, the whole country of Vietnam became one large Communist nation. All in all, geography plays a huge role in how a country will develop and how it will affect the history of the nation.

**Anchor Level 3-B****The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Himalaya Mountains*: allowed for vast culture of India to develop with limited foreign influence; acted as a shield from cultural influences from neighboring nations, allowing India to become country with its own culture and history; *Sahara Desert*: heat and size of desert made invasion from the west difficult; enclosed Egypt and allowed for cultivation of culture that is fascinating to this day; *jungles of Vietnam*: discouraged United States efforts to contain the spread of communism; use of Agent Orange to destroy rainforest vegetation)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Himalaya Mountains*: barrier from invading nations; development of Hinduism and caste system; *Sahara Desert*: caused people to live in dense populations along river; *jungles of Vietnam*: dense and thick; guerilla tactics of Viet Cong)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are a restatement of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. While simplistic, the narrative is focused on theme development. Additional facts, examples, and details would have strengthened the response.

The geography of a region always shapes the culture of its civilization. Geography can limit a civilization or aid its development, or do both. Different geographic features have different effects. In Ancient Greece, mountains led to isolation within Greece and yet also to trade with other countries. Monsoons in India also allowed for trade, but led to destruction at the same time. Japan, as an island, quickly ran out of room for its growing population.

Ancient Greece's development was shaped around its mountainous geography. The mountains made travel within Greece hard. Different regions were separated from each other, leading to the growth of unique city-states, like Athens and Sparta. Athens was a democratic city filled with philosophers while Spartans led a strict, militaristic life. These drastically different cultures would not have developed if the city-states weren't so divided. Mountains also did not provide much fertile soil. Farmers weren't able to grow much besides olive trees and grape vines. To acquire the rest of the resources they needed, the Greeks were forced to trade. Greece had many ports on the Mediterranean Sea and traded with other civilizations, leading to cultural diffusion, or the exchange of ideas along with goods. For example, Greeks adopted their alphabet from the Phoenician one they picked up while trading with the Phoenicians. Thus, mountains in Greece led to both isolated city states and a society built on trade.

Monsoon weather affected the development of India greatly. Monsoons in different seasons either blew towards or away from India. European traders during the Age of Exploration and Discovery

<sup>realized</sup>  
that they could use these winds to get to India from Africa and then later get back. Utilizing these winds, trade between India and Europe flourished. This also led to some cultural diffusion. Europeans, for example, learned some mathematical concepts from India. There were negative effects of the trade and monsoons as well. Eventually, the British advanced from trading to ruling when the British East India Co. began imperializing India. The British government later took over, leading to a bad time in Indian history with unfair treatment of the Indians by the British. For example the British would not have originally reached India to do this without the aid of Monsoons.

Japan has the unique geographic feature of being an island, this greatly developed its development, especially later in its history. In the late 1800s and early 1900s; Japan's population was booming, but it was running out of room. The small islands could only accommodate so many people and were hard to expand. Japan needed to find a population outlet, so it set out to start an Empire. It gained land in Asia during both the Sino Japanese Wars, the Russo Japan<sup>e</sup> war and the Manchurian incident. It began to imperialize. Earlier in its history, Japan used being an island to isolate itself. Separated from its neighbors by water, Japan during the Shogunate Periods avoided being imperialized. This freedom is what ~~let~~ it out later to gain land. Thus, Japan isolated itself as an island and then later imperialized because it was an island.

All geographic features play an important role in shaping civilizations.

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**Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 3 – C**

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As seen in the mountains of Greece, the Monsoons of India and the islands of Japan, the effect of one feature can be numerous. Usually there are both positive and negative effects. History would have happened very differently if it was not affected by the same geographic features. This is why geography must always be studied alongside history.

**Anchor Level 3-C****The response:**

- Develops the influence of mountains on Greece and the influence of monsoons on India in some depth and develops the influence of island status on Japan with little depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*mountains*: regions separated, leading to growth of unique city-states; different cultures would not have developed if the city-states were not so divided; did not provide much fertile soil; led to both isolated city-states and a society built on trade; *monsoons*: utilizing these winds, trade between India and Europe flourished; British advanced from trading to ruling; *islands*: Japan was running out of room; needed to find a population outlet so set out to start an empire; during the Shogunate period, Japan avoided being imperialized)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*mountains*: Athens was a democratic city filled with philosophers; Sparta had a strict, militaristic life; ports on Mediterranean Sea; alphabet from the Phoenicians; exchange of ideas along with goods; *monsoons*: in different seasons, monsoons either blow toward or away from India; cultural diffusion; British East India Company; *islands*: Sino-Japanese War; Russo-Japanese War)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that is beyond a restatement of the theme and a conclusion that restates the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The discussion of monsoons includes some overreaching statements related to the effects of geography on historical events. However, the discussion of the influence of mountains on Greece strengthens the response.

In founding civilizations, empires and countries, geographical features influenced and shaped culture and society in each region. Rivers, monsoons, and deserts played a role ~~in~~ in the development of civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, and India. These factors changed agricultural needs along with protection and boundaries ~~in~~ in each region.

The first societies formed along rivers. Rivers allowed for good fertile land and ~~of~~ crops. In Mesopotamia, the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers encouraged the development of irrigation systems and new crops. This also ~~led~~ led to trade between ~~em~~ city-states and the spread of people and ideas. The rivers shaped the way of life for Mesopotamians and had an impact on their history and culture.

In Egypt, culture was able to grow and trade was able to flourish. This was due to the protection of ~~the~~ ~~the~~ The Sahara Desert west of them. In order to attack their societies, invaders would need to go through the desert which

was a struggle. The desert stopped outside invasion and left a safe region where trade along the Nile grew and the culture expanded. Pharaohs could focus on building pyramids, ~~and~~ ~~study~~ astronomy, ~~and~~ and ~~the~~ hieroglyphics. They were not ~~was~~ concerned with being invaded and this was because of the protection ~~of~~ from the desert.

The coastal regions in India experienced monsoon flooding yearly. This led to advanced agricultural calendars and techniques. As a result of the extreme floods, ~~people~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ agriculture was ruined but fertile soil was left behind. To avoid this, Indians discovered ~~the~~ patterns and could soon predict when they were going to hit. A calendar ~~was~~ placing the best time to grow around the floods was developed and their culture grew from the knowledge of these patterns. The monsoons brought heavy flooding along with agricultural advancements to India.

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Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay – Level 2 – A

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Geographic features play many roles in history. For every region, a feature such as rivers, deserts, monsoons contributed to the way of life. Culture and history was formed and grew as a result of the effects of certain geographical features.

Anchor Level 2-A

**The response:**

- Minimally develops the influence of the Sahara Desert on Egypt, the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers on Mesopotamia, and the monsoons on India
- Is descriptive (*Tigris and Euphrates Rivers*: rivers allowed for good fertile land and crops; led to trade between city-states and the spread of people and ideas; *Sahara Desert*: left a safe region where trade along the Nile grew and culture expanded; *monsoons*: led to advanced agricultural calendars)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Tigris and Euphrates Rivers*: Mesopotamia; irrigation systems; *Sahara Desert*: pharaohs; pyramids; hieroglyphics; *monsoons*: extreme floods ruined agriculture; knowledge of monsoon patterns); includes some inaccuracies (*monsoons*: India experienced monsoon flooding yearly; fertile soil was left behind)
- 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 2. Despite some inaccuracies and some generalizations, the response demonstrates a limited knowledge of the effect of geographic features on specific civilizations.



Throughout history, the majority of societies have been affected by geography of the regions that they occupy. ~~Some of these societies are Ancient~~ Many of them were forced to conform to their ~~surrounding~~ surrounding regions in order to ~~the~~ thrive and so the people may be prosperous.

One society which was required to conform to its geographical region was that of Ancient Greece. The Greek terrain is very mountainous. This evidently led to a scarce amount of fertile land in Greece making the formation of agricultural societies nearly impossible. In order to survive, the people of Greece became seafaring people. They relied on fish as their primary consumption unlike most societies at the time.

Monsoons were ~~all~~ a major factor of ~~the~~ development in Indian society. They were greatly used as a means for trade with other countries. These "trade winds" allowed sailors to easily sail to their destination. Sailors would read the patterns of the Monsoons in order to determine the appropriate

times for importing & exporting goods within the Indian Ocean Basin.

The Yangtze & the Yellow River were both an asset to Chinese society. The Shang dynasty, which was considered by most historians to be the first dynasty of China, was formulated on the banks of the Yellow River. These rivers would assist in the survival of many agricultural societies in China for centuries to come. ~~Then~~ During the Han Dynasty, the Great Canal was built in order to link these two rivers together. The ~~Yangtze~~ Yangtze and the Yellow River were major sights for transportation, trade, and agriculture.

Anchor Level 2-B

**The response:**

- Minimally develops the influence of the mountainous terrain on Greece, the monsoons on India, and rivers on China
- Is primarily descriptive (*mountains*: Greek terrain very mountainous; *monsoons*: greatly used as a means for trade with other countries; sailors would record patterns of monsoons to determine appropriate times for importing and exporting goods; *rivers* assist in the survival of many agricultural societies; canal was built in order to link the two rivers)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*mountains*: Greece; seafaring people; *monsoons*: trade winds; sailors; Indian Ocean; *rivers*: Yangtze; Yellow River; Shang dynasty); includes inaccuracies (*mountains*: Greeks relied on fish as their primary consumption; *rivers*: “Great” Canal was built during the Han dynasty)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that is somewhat beyond a restatement of the theme and lacks a conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. Details that relate to the geographic features are included, but the response goes no further than suggesting the possible influences of these features.

Throughout history, <sup>g</sup>geography has played a major role in development of different cultures. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Rivers, natural resources, and Islands have all influenced the culture of nations around the world.

Britain is ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ where the Industrial Revolution began. It began there because of Britain's geography. The industrial revolution needed a lot of coal and iron. Britain had lots of both. Since they had the supplies it was easy to start there. Another reason is because any given place on Britain is no more than 20 miles from the sea so therefore it was easy for them to build a lot of canals for easy transfer of goods.

The great Nile River flows through Egypt. This ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ greatly influenced the Agriculture of the Ancient Egyptians. Since they had the river they built their crops close to it and were the first to invent

irrigation methods. They also had annual flooding. The flooding brought silt which made the land extremely fertile. The river was an excellent method of transport for them as well.

~~then the Greeks were very different~~

~~Europe and Asia~~

The Greek city states due to their isolation of other places had very different forms of government. Since they were separated by mountains and rivers they developed very different systems of government. Sparta became a military nation, while Athens became the first democratic nation. Both opposite each other in government form.

In the role of history geography has had such an impact. It has changed a lot of things and caused many nations to develop a certain way.

## Anchor Level 2-C

### **The response:**

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task
- Is primarily descriptive (*natural resources*: Industrial Revolution needed a lot of coal and iron; *Nile River*: flooding brought silt which made land fertile; excellent method of transportation; *mountains*: since Greek city-states were separated by mountains, they developed different systems of government)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*natural resources*: Britain; *Nile River*: irrigation methods; annual flooding; *mountains*: Sparta, military nation; Athens, first democratic nation); includes an inaccuracy (*natural resources*: any given place in Britain is no more than 20 miles from the sea)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response identifies an essential point concerning the influence of mountains on Greece, the Nile on Egypt, and natural resources on Britain but does not go beyond showing a general knowledge of the historical or cultural development.

Geography, has great impact on many nations, regions, and civilizations. Geographic features have hindered and helped the development and success of these nations, regions, and civilizations. Many nations in Europe, ~~and~~ Asia, and ~~Africa~~<sup>Africa</sup> were deeply affected by their geographies. Mountains, bodies of water, and deserts ~~has~~<sup>played</sup> a major part of development for places all over.

Mountains played a significant role in many areas of the world. The Himalayan Mountains in China, affected development and spread of influence in to and out of China. The Himalayan Mountains made it difficult ~~to~~ for outsiders to come into China. This ~~kept~~<sup>helped keep</sup> China isolated from ~~other~~<sup>other</sup> parts of the world with different cultures that they didn't want to gain influence in China. It was also difficult to penetrate ~~thru~~ into China because it was surrounded by water on other sides.

~~Oceans, rivers, and seas~~<sup>canals,</sup> have also deeply impacted nations of the world. The Panama Canal, located in Central

America, was built mainly to help ships travel. Before the construction of the Panama Canal, ships ~~are~~ were forced to sail around the southern tip of South Africa. This man-made waterway allowed ~~roads~~ to cut through a thin section of ~~the~~ Panama, ~~to~~ in order to cross the Americas. This improved trade. ~~The Panama Canal, located in Egypt, was played a~~ ~~major role in~~ and other economic circumstances.

Rivers were an important part of the development of many places. The Nile River in Egypt serves as a great source for trade, spread of culture, and way of keeping fertile land in a desert area. ~~It~~ It is also a valuable geographic feature to possess because it is also a source of water and food, basic essentials of survival.

In conclusion, geography plays a critical role in developing nations, ~~physically~~ socially, economically, ~~and~~ politically, and culturally. Rivers, canals, and mountains are just three examples of extremely important geographic features. Geography, all over

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Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 1 – A

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has held back or helped nations suc-  
ceed.

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Anchor Level 1-A

**The response:**

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task
- Is descriptive (*Himalaya Mountains*: made it difficult for outsiders to come into China; *Panama Canal*: manmade waterway cut through a thin section of Panama to cross the Americas; improved trade; *Nile River*: great source for trade and spread of culture; source of water and food)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*Panama Canal*: Central America; *Nile River*: Egypt); includes an inaccuracy (*Panama Canal*: ships forced to sail around the southern tip of South Africa)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. Sweeping generalizations characterize this response, demonstrating a limited understanding of how natural and manmade geographic features have affected countries and regions.



Geographic features have influenced the historical and cultural development of civilizations, empires, countries, and regions of the world. In China there are some geographic features that have affected the civilizations of China.

In China they have <sup>a</sup> ~~a~~ rivers that ~~have~~ has an effect on the civilization. The yellow river has had an effect on civilization because it has floods ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> killed ~~a~~ a lot of people. It is also called the river of sorrows because it has killed so many people. ~~It is~~ It is called the yellow river because the sand in it is yellow because of the iron content. ~~Also~~ Also in China in the gobi desert there are some parts of it that have fertile ~~soil~~ soil and has grass throughout some parts.

Geographic features have influenced the historical and cultural development

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**Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay – Level 1 – B**

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of civilizations, empires, countries, and regions of the world. China has some regions in it that affect the civilizations of other regions in China.

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**Anchor Level 1-B**

**The response:**

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task
- Is descriptive (*Yellow River*: has had effect on civilization because it has floods and killed a lot of people; *Gobi Desert*: parts have fertile soil and grass)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*Yellow River*: China; river of sorrows; *Gobi Desert*: China); includes an inaccuracy (*Yellow River*: sand is yellow because of iron content)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are repetitive

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response minimally qualifies for this score level by using the correct name and nickname of a river in China and stating an influence of the river on the population. The mention of some of the Gobi's characteristics lacks development of its influence on the civilization.

Geography has greatly influenced cultural development of civilizations, empires, countries, and regions of the world. Geography is an important factor in the lives and safety of citizens. During wars geography is the most important factor. ~~Geography affects~~ ~~mountains and rivers~~. Geography also can affect the wealth of a country. If there are many routes of trade then the country can be very powerful. If the country has gold in their lands they will also be very wealthy.

~~During the Holocaust, the~~

During WWII, the war lands were packed tight. People sometimes had to sleep in holes under ground. They had protection from ~~the~~ The soldiers used the land as a form of their protection as well. ~~During the Holocaust, the~~ ~~geography was used to hurt~~ During the Holocaust time period the geography was used to hurt people. People lived in fifth and ~~were~~ had no source of water, which lead to deaths.

Geography also had an ~~to~~ influence on cultural development because ~~the~~ the ~~people~~ ~~were~~ were involved in the development of a

country had to build around things and knew what would benefit them and what wouldn't. The river ~~is~~ benefited for trade making the country more powerful and that can also affect the military to an extent because ~~if~~ countries can have alliances.

Geography has a lot to do with how some things turned out. It affects why some countries are wealthier, why countries are poor, and sometimes why countries are in war constantly. Geography ~~can~~ can either help or hurt a nation.

The different geographic features have influenced ancient civilization's history and culture. Geographic features have a lot of influence on the things people do and how they do it. For example in New York State there isn't a lot of ~~suffers~~ which is influenced by the climate and the ocean.

Both Egypt and China depended on their rivers. For Egypt it was the Nile River and for China the Yellow River. They depended on their rivers for soil, food and trade. With the help of their rivers both civilizations thrived and survived many years. Based on the flooding of the rivers, Egypt made a calendar. They traded ideas and food through the river with other countries. Both civilizations had a way to ~~write~~ due to the rivers.

Greece was an ancient civilization where there were independent city-states. The reason they were independent was because they were separated by mountains. Both Sparta and Athens were a good result of this geographic feature. Athens was the independent city state where democracy and other intelligent ideas were created. With

Athen's idea of democracy, United States and other countries thrive. Sparta was a military independent city-state. They focused more on war and power. If these city states were together maybe these ideas ~~wouldn't~~ wouldn't exist and history and culture will alter forever. Also due to the separation and rivalry between the city-states, the Olympics were created which is one of the most celebrated and watched sport competition.

The Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean has separated Europe, Asia and Africa from North America and South America. There was a totally different world on each side of the oceans. ~~People~~ People have believed that the world was flat and didn't dare travel the oceans. Many explorers were brave enough to travel to North America and South America. European cultures have affected North and South America's culture. Since Spain has occupied most of South America, that is why they

Speak Spanish and dance to the flamenco or salsa. Since Britain occupied the 13 colonies, this is why USA speaks English and share some of Britain's taste in culture, history and ~~government~~ government. If the explorers wouldn't have proved to the world the world is indeed round then maybe North America and South America still be a home to the Native Americans.

Geography seems to have a great affect in history. Geography and history comes hand in hand.

Geographic features have influenced the historical & cultural development of civilization, empires, countries & regions of the world. The geography of a region can greatly hurt or help the people that live there.

In some places the geography of an area can help the people that reside in that area. In Egypt, the Nile river helped the civilization. Egypt is a giant desert & without the Nile river the Egyptian Empire would not have thrived as well as they did, they wouldn't have survived at all. The Nile river helped Egypt ~~with~~ grow crops & much more.

But the geography of a place can also greatly effect the ~~country~~ <sup>civilization</sup> badly. Ancient China was isolated by mountains, so they had to entirely rely on themselves for everything. Japan was also isolated, it's an island



Throughout history, the geography and physical aspects of the world have had an enormous impact on civilizations. These land features have influenced the historical and cultural developments of many empires and regions in the world.

Rivers promote trade, transportation, and provide a food supply. Rivers have influenced many civilizations in the world, one being the Nile River valley civilization. The Nile River allowed the Egyptians to use the river for food. They also made wooden boats for trade. The Nile River allowed them to transport people and goods from one place to another. The Nile River allowed them to become civilized and economically stable during this time. All of the Egyptians had to work together in order to succeed and be a successful civilization.

Throughout Peru lived the Incas who had to deal with the challenges of mountains. The Andes mountains influenced every aspect of Incan culture and lifestyle. Their permanent settlements survived because they had a surplus food supply. This came from terrace farming and other techniques like irrigation. In terrace farming, steps are carved into the mountain to provide farmland. The Inca built roads and built suspension bridges that maintained contact among the people. They also helped the government control the people until the Spanish conquered the empire.

Throughout Europe and the Middle East there are major

waterways, oceans, and seas. In Russia, Peter and Catherine the great wanted to westernize and gain warm water ports, Peter viewed access to warm water ports as his window to the west, and that everything good would happen after they expanded. Peter the great occupied land along the Baltic Sea, which was only an advantage for about 6 months out of the year. During the cold months, the Baltic Sea was frozen and trade, and transportation were limited. The Black Sea had a warm water port which they could use for trading. Catherine the great captured and took control of this port. This warm water seaport allowed for trade to happen all year ~~around~~ around, it never froze like the Baltic Sea. Along with trade, they ~~could~~ could use this as a mean of transportation. The Baltic Sea and the Black sea allowed for Peter and Catherine the great to expand their power, and Russia to flourish.

These physical features required civilizations to adapt. Rivers, mountains and seas have influenced historical and cultural developments.

Geography has always had a major impact on civilizations & their cultural and historical development. Mountains, rivers, and deserts are some of the most influential geographic features.

Mountains are one type of geographic feature that have shaped cultures of the world. Both China and India are bordered by mountains. The mountains block easy access to both countries. This protected China and India, making it more difficult for one to attack the other. The mountains, in blocking the countries, also helped to preserve the cultures of India and China. India's merchants had a long way to go to get to the Silk Roads and trade with China. China had to travel west and then south to reach India, or rely on contact by sea. Both China and India were relatively free to develop their own traditions independent of each other.

Rivers are one of the greatest influences on countries. Many early civilizations were formed around bodies of water, usually rivers. The Ganges River Valley in India is an example. Rivers were necessary for many aspects of everyday life - drinking, bathing, cooking, washing clothes, and travel. In India the river was considered important in their religion. Everyone had to bathe in it to be cleansed, and when people died they were cremated & their ashes thrown into the river in hopes of a better next life. Rivers controlled the lives of people in the early civilizations.

Deserts are another major geographic feature. There is the giant

Sahara desert in Africa which limited travel and trade. The people also had to dress to protect themselves from the hot days and the cold nights. The people used camels for travel and work. The camels could store lots of water for long periods of time, so they could travel in the desert for a while without needing water.

In conclusion, mountains, deserts, and rivers have shaped worldwide cultures. The people have had to learn how to work around and with them. Geography is a very influential aspect in the world.

## Practice Paper A—Score Level 0

**The response:** Refers to the theme in a general way; fails to develop the task.

**Conclusion:** The response fits the criteria for Level 0. No physical features in a specific civilization, empire, country, or region are mentioned. Misuse of potentially relevant details such as gold, routes of trade, World War II, and the Holocaust serve only to reinforce the lack of understanding.

## Practice Paper B—Score Level 2

**The response:**

- Develops the influence of mountains in Greece in some depth and minimally develops the influence of oceans on the Americas and of rivers on Egypt and China
- Is primarily descriptive (*rivers*: depended on rivers for soil, food, and trade; traded ideas and food through river; *mountains*: city-states independent because they were separated by mountains; Athens was where democracy and other intelligent ideas were created; Sparta focused more on war and power; *oceans*: separated Europe, Asia, and Africa from North America and South America)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*rivers*: Egypt, Nile; China, Yellow River; calendar; *mountains*: Greece; military; separation and rivalry; *oceans*: Atlantic Ocean; Pacific Ocean)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; lacks focus; includes an introduction and a conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. In this response, two of the examples of geographic features are used in different ways. The topic of rivers has brief references to the influence of the Nile and Yellow rivers on Egypt and China. The topic of oceans cites the Atlantic and Pacific with a minimal discussion of their influence on the region of the Americas. The treatment of the effect of mountains on Greece displays some general knowledge of this civilization.

## Practice Paper C—Score Level 1

**The response:**

- Minimally develops one geographic feature and mentions two others
- Is descriptive (*Nile River*: without the Nile River, the Egyptian Empire would not have thrived)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*Nile River*: helped Egypt grow crops; *mountains*: China; *island*: Japan)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and lacks a conclusion

**Conclusion:** The response minimally qualifies for this score level. Treatment of the Nile consists entirely of the assertion that Egypt would not have existed without the Nile. The other examples barely identify an influence of the feature.

### Practice Paper D—Score Level 3

#### The response:

- Develops the influence of mountains on the Inca and warm-water ports for Russia in some depth and the influence of the Nile River in little depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Nile River*: Egyptians used the Nile for food and trade; *Andes Mountains*: permanent settlements survived because they had a surplus food supply; built roads and suspension bridges that maintained contact among people; *warm-water ports*: Peter the Great and Catherine the Great wanted to westernize and gain warm-water ports)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Nile River*: river valley civilization; *Andes Mountains*: Peru; Inca; terrace farming; irrigation; Spanish conquered the empire; *warm-water ports*: window to the West; Baltic Sea froze; Black Sea)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are restatements of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. While the discussion of the influence of mountains on the Inca consists entirely of simple, direct statements, the general development of this aspect is fairly strong. Details pertaining to warm-water ports are accurate and applicable but are limited. The discussion of the Nile lacks details and development.

### Practice Paper E—Score Level 3

#### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*mountains*: protected China and India, making it more difficult for one to attack the other; helped to preserve the cultures of India and China; both China and India were relatively free to develop their own traditions independent of each other; *rivers*: in India, the river was considered important in their religion; everyone had to bathe in it to be cleansed; cremated ashes were thrown in the river; rivers controlled the lives of people in the early civilizations; *deserts*: limited travel and trade; people had to dress to protect themselves from hot days and cold nights)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*mountains*: Silk Roads; *rivers*: Ganges River valley; *deserts*: Sahara; camels could store water)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are a restatement of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response uses brief statements to describe the effects of geographic features on civilizations. It employs a unique approach to the treatment of the common influence of the Himalayas on two countries. Lack of depth and the general nature of the narrative limit the response.

# Global History and Geography Specifications January 2011

## Part I Multiple Choice Questions by Standard

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

## Parts II and III by Theme and Standard

	Theme	Standards
Thematic Essay	Human and Physical Geography	Standards 2, 3, 4, and 5: World History; Geography; Economics; Civics, Citizenship, and Government
Document-based Essay	Change; Culture and Intellectual Life; Science and Technology; Human Rights; Political Systems; Economic Systems	Standards 2, 4, and 5: World History; Economics; Civics, Citizenship, and Government

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

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

**The *Chart for Determining the Final Examination Score for the January 2011 Regents Examination in Global History and Geography* will be posted on the Department's web site <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/osa/> on the day of the examination. Conversion charts provided for the previous administrations of the Global History and Geography 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.