

FOR TEACHERS ONLY

The University of the State of New York

REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

VOLUME
1 OF **2**
MC & THEMATIC

GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 — 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 at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/> 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. **If the student's responses for the multiple-choice questions are being hand scored prior to being scanned, the scorer must be careful not to make any marks on the answer sheet except to record the scores in the designated score boxes. Any other marks on the answer sheet will interfere with the accuracy of scanning.**

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

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

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 not 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 the rating guides, 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. Teachers may not score their own students' answer papers.

Global History and Geography
Content-Specific Rubric
Thematic Essay
January 2015

Theme: Human and Physical Geography

Geographic features have influenced the political, economic, social, and historical development of countries and regions.

Task: Select *two* geographic features and for *each*

- Discuss how this geographic feature influenced the political, economic, social, *and/or* historical developments in a country or region

You may use any geographic feature from your study of global history and geography. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the influence of rivers in China, deserts in North Africa, climate in Russia, plains in Europe, islands of Japan, monsoons on India, mountains of South America, and natural resources in the Middle East.

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

Do *not* write about the United States and its geographic features in your answer.

Scoring Notes:

1. This response has a minimum of *four* components (discussing how *each* of *two* geographic features influenced *at least two* political, economic, social, and/or historical developments in a country and/or region).
2. Any combination of countries or regions *and* any combination of developments may be used in addressing the task.
3. Both a region and a country within that region may be used in the response, e.g., the response may discuss the Andes Mountains in South America and the Amazon River in Brazil.
4. The geographic feature does not need to be specifically identified, e.g., the response may discuss the influence of a river in China rather than specifying the Huang He or the Yangtze.
5. The same geographic feature may be used for both countries and/or regions, e.g., the Sahara Desert in Africa and the Gobi Desert in China. However, the discussion of each feature should differ in facts, examples, and details.
6. The classification of developments as political, economic, social, or historical does not need to be identified as long as it is implied in the discussion.
7. The influence of a geographic feature on the political, economic, social, and/or historical developments of a country and/or region may be discussed from a variety of perspectives as long as the position taken is supported by accurate historical facts and examples.
8. If more than two geographic features are discussed, only the first two geographic features discussed may be scored. However, other geographic features that relate to the selected features may be included in the discussion.

Score of 5:

- Thoroughly develops **all** aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing how **each** of **two** geographic features influenced **at least two** political, economic, social, and/or historical developments in a country and/or region
- Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates* information), e.g., *deserts in North Africa*: connects the critical impact of water and its limitations on agricultural productivity to the development of civilization near the Nile River and to the role of desertification and how its spread contributes to poverty and regional conflict in places such as Sudan; *climate in Russia*: connects the influence of the cold climate to the development of foreign policy that served as a reason for expansion to the west and south, to the role climate provided in protection by creating challenges to invaders from the west, and to the challenges of climate to economic development
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details, e.g., *deserts in North Africa*: Sahara; settlement patterns; irrigation systems; Egyptian civilization; nomads; camel caravans; oasis, sandstorms; West African kingdoms; Sahel; Darfur; *climate in Russia*: lack of warm-water ports; Peter the Great; “Window on the West”; Catherine the Great; Black Sea ports; Napoleonic Wars; “scorched earth” policy; German invasion during World War II; difficulty in accessing minerals from permafrost regions
- 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 the influence of one geographic feature more thoroughly than the influence of the other geographic feature
- Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates* information), e.g., *deserts in North Africa*: discusses the predominance of desert areas in northern Africa and the people’s dependence on the Nile River for economic survival and how population growth and human activity have strained resources, contributing to conflict in the Sahara regions threatened by desertification; *climate in Russia*: discusses how cold climate influenced efforts by Peter the Great and Catherine the Great to gain access to warm-water ports and hindered the military efforts of Napoleon and Hitler
- 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 three** 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 are thoroughly developed evenly and in depth for **one** geographic feature 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 two** 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.

All sample student essays in this rating guide are presented in the same cursive font while preserving actual student work, including errors. This will ensure that the sample essays are easier for raters to read and use as scoring aids.

Raters should continue to disregard the quality of a student's handwriting in scoring examination papers and focus on how well the student has accomplished the task. The content-specific rubric should be applied holistically in determining the level of a student's response.

Many aspects of peoples lives have been influenced by geography. In Russia, arctic climate and harsh winters led to both positive and negative impacts on the Russian people. Although Russia's climate sometimes contributed to a decrease in efficient agricultural production, it also acted as a natural barrier against outside force. Similarly, the monsoon winds of India influenced agricultural production and Indian Ocean trade.

The majority of the land in northern Russia (Siberia) is in an arctic and subarctic climate zone. This region is often extremely cold and has extreme weather conditions. This can make northern Russia very hard to live in since much of that area has permafrost (frozen soil). One of the difficulties of living in this region is the challenge of producing enough food to sustain the population. Since the majority of Russia's northern land was not suitable for crop growing, only a small percentage of it could be used for agriculture, thus impacting population settlement. Russia is most densely settled in the west near rivers in fertile regions, but not in the north which is sparsely settled. This situation is similar to settlements in China where their population is concentrated in river valleys in the east. In addition, Russia utilized a feudal system up until the 19th century with serfs working in fields using traditional methods of production. Farming was accomplished without the complex machinery and advanced farming techniques used by their western counterparts. Due to the realities of the harsh Russian climate, Russia has had a long history of food shortages, famine, and reliance on imported products. Because peasants heavily relied on bread in their diets, a failure in wheat crops would spell disaster.

The harsh winter experienced by much of Russia had some positive

impacts on Russia. This cold harsh winter climate acted as a natural barrier against enemies. For example, Napoleon's invasion of Russia failed primarily because he was unprepared for Russia's harsh winter weather. As the long winter set in on Napoleon's campaign, tens of thousands of French soldiers froze or starved to death because they were cut off from supplies. Ultimately, Russia's harsh winter climate was a major factor in the humiliating defeat of Napoleon's grand army. In the 20th century, Hitler would face similar issues with Russia's harsh winter climate and be defeated, not learning from Napoleon's error.

Similarly in India, the monsoon patterns drastically affected agricultural production. Monsoons are seasonal winds that can either bring dry weather or tremendous rains over the subcontinent depending on the time of year and the direction in which they are blowing. Indians were forced to adhere to the patterns of monsoons, and adapt their agricultural production. In response to monsoons, Indians developed irrigation systems to cope with the dry season and channeled flood waters in the wet season. In addition, they focused on growing crops such as rice that could survive under wet conditions. The monsoons didn't just affect agriculture, they also affected those who lived in cities. Often times city streets would flood knocking out transportation systems and electricity.

In the past, these monsoon patterns also affected trade. Trade ships powered by wind were forced to adjust their trading schedules and adhere to the monsoon patterns. The direction that the winds blew often affected the direction of trade. This situation could cause problems and delays in the import and export of goods. The major trade routes between India and China as well as India and Africa were influenced

by these monsoon winds. Often traders in southeast Asia and east Africa who found themselves waiting in ports for a shift in monsoon winds interacted with locals and contributed to cultural exchanges and diffusion. Ruins of Hindu temples can still be found in parts of southeast Asia. In east Africa, some Indian and Arab merchants and traders settled in the cities. This led to the rise of Swahili culture, which included elements of Indian, Arabic, and African culture. This led to the rise of not only a new language but shared customs and traditions as well.

It is evident that climate can have a vast impact on the daily lives of people across place and time. The harsh climate in Russia affected where people settled, economic development, and military threats. In India and in areas around the Indian Ocean, the monsoon winds shaped economic developments and cultural interactions. Russia and India have both benefitted and faced challenges as a result of their geographic surroundings and circumstances.

Anchor Level 5-A

The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing climate in Russia and monsoons in the Indian Ocean region and how these geographic features influenced the political, economic, social, and historical development of each region
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*climate in Russia*: difficulty of living in this region is the challenge of producing enough food to sustain the population; small amount of arable land influenced Russian population settlement; dense settlement in fertile western regions is similar to Chinese settlement of river valleys in the east; difficulties of agriculture contributed to a reliance on foreign imports; harsh climate acted as a barrier against enemies; Hitler faced similar issues with Russia's climate, not learning from Napoleon's error; *monsoons on Indian Ocean region*: Indians forced to adapt agriculture and trade to adhere to seasonal patterns of monsoons; development of irrigation systems to cope with the dry season and channel flood waters in wet season; in East Africa, traders waiting for a shift in monsoon winds contributed to cultural exchanges and diffusion; Indian and Arab merchants settled in cities of east Africa leading to the development of Swahili culture, which includes elements of Indian, Arabic, and African culture)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*climate in Russia*: Siberia; arctic and subarctic climate zones; permafrost; lack of complex machinery; famine; peasants heavily relied on bread in their diets; French soldiers froze or starved to death; *monsoons on Indian Ocean region*: seasonal winds; subcontinent; rice; urban centers; flooded city streets; electricity; trade routes; wind-powered ships; Indian trade with China and Africa; Hindu temple ruins in southeast Asia)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are slightly beyond a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response effectively analyzes the challenges as well as the benefits that both the harsh winter climate in Russia and the monsoons in the Indian Ocean region have had during various time periods. Extensive use of details demonstrates a depth of knowledge.

Geography has had tremendous impacts on the development of countries and regions. Geographic features can greatly contribute to or hinder a nation's development. Russia and China are prime examples of this. Both Russia's climate and China's deserts greatly effected their history.

Russia's frigid winter climate is one geographic feature that has influenced their historical development. Russia is challenged by low temperatures and heavy snowfalls, conditions during her harsh winter season. When Napoleon Bonaparte, and his French troops invaded Russia, they were defeated in part by these difficult conditions. Although he was immensely successful conquering other countries, the climate of Russia halted his progress. Since the French greatly underestimated the Russian winter, many of Napoleon's soldiers froze to death as a result of being unprepared. The French soldiers didn't have the proper clothing to protect them from the weather that the Russians did, and in addition, their long supply lines could not be maintained in the heavy snow and cold.

Additionally, the Russians used a "scorched-earth" policy, in which they burned any resource that could have been of use before the French armies got to them. This left the French with very few resources to use, and as a result, led to the defeat of the French.

Like in the Napoleonic wars, the bitter winter climate in Russia also contributed to their success in holding off the German's in World War II. When Hitler tried to invade Russia, he attempted to do so in the summertime so as to avoid the harsh winters of Russia. However, Russian tactics and poor decisions by German leaders kept German armies in Russia long enough so that they did have to fight in the winter. Like Napoleon, Hitler's troops were unprepared for this harsh

weather, and many died from the bitter cold. Ultimately the Russians were able to defeat the Nazis at Stalingrad, a crippling defeat for the Nazis, and a turning point of World War II. German supply vehicles, like Napoleon's horses, broke down and became ineffective when faced with the deep snow and harsh climate of the Russian winter. Although Russia was not a modernized, well-equipped country during World War II, they managed to defeat the Germans. Partly because of their frigid winter climate and scorched earth policies, Russia was able to defeat both Napoleon and the Nazis.

China's history has been greatly effected because of their geography. In addition to the Himalaya mountains and the Yellow River, China's deserts have caused many problems for its people. Western deserts like the Taklimakan helped to isolate China from the outside world, proving to be a difficult obstacle to pass. This isolation led to a growing concept of ethnocentrism in early China. This feeling of superiority has sometimes hindered the Chinese trade relations. Since the Chinese believed its products and technology were superior to that of foreigners, they sometimes refused to buy foreign products. This first major example of long-distance trade patterns involving the Chinese emerged along the Silk Road. China's western deserts served as one of the largest challenges to this long-distance trading route. To meet this challenge, cities and trade centers emerged along the route near water sources called oases. Despite the deserts, trade flourished along the Silk Road during the age of the Han.

As western China's deserts were unsuitable for large-scale agricultural production, most people settled in river locations where it was easier to survive. This has left western China's deserts sparsely

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – B

populated. Perhaps the most well-known river valley civilization in China is the Yellow River also called the Huang He. The river provided fertile soil for the cultivation of crops which led to food surpluses and growth in population. This population growth could not have been supported in the western desert regions.

Both of these examples reinforce how a country's geography can impact their history, both positively and negatively. Russia's frigid winter climate allowed them to succeed against the French and Germans. Western deserts influenced China by isolating it as well as affecting settlement patterns.

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

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing climate in Russia and deserts in China and how these geographic features have influenced the political, economic, social, and historical development of each country
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*climate in Russia*: difficulty posed to Napoleon by Russia's climate despite his other successes; French underestimated Russian winter; Napoleon's soldiers froze to death; French long supply lines could not be maintained; Hitler's troops were unprepared for harsh winter; German supply vehicles became ineffective when faced with deep snow and harsh climate; frigid winter climate helped Russia defeat both Napoleon and the Nazis; *deserts in China*: isolation led to concept of ethnocentrism; cities and trade centers emerged near water sources like oases; river provided fertile soil for the cultivation of crops that led to food surpluses; population growth in river valley civilizations could not have been supported in the western desert regions)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*climate in Russia*: low temperatures; French soldiers lacked proper clothing; horses; scorched earth policy; Stalingrad; turning point in World War II; *deserts in China*: Yellow River; Taklimakan; isolation; Silk Road; Han; unsuitable for large-scale agricultural production; sparsely populated)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that is slightly beyond a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response combines the invasions of both Napoleon and Hitler with substantial detail as a means of highlighting the effects of harsh winter climate on Russia. Likewise, the evaluation of trade and population patterns in China is clearly connected to its western deserts. All elements of the task are thoroughly addressed.

The availability of natural resources or an island location can have a profound impact on the development of a nation. Great Britain, with its abundance of natural resources and its island location, was the leader of industrialization. This allowed for eventual control of the seas and domination of trade. In contrast, Japan, a mountainous archipelago with very few natural resources, followed a policy of expansion and conquest. The history of both Great Britain and Japan was influenced politically, economically, and socially as a result of these circumstances.

A number of factors led Great Britain to become the leader of industrialization including its location, ports, available workforce and stable government. However, one of the most important catalysts of British industrialization was that the region was rich in coal and iron. Industrialization led to many social changes such as people migrating to urban cities looking for jobs. Many of these jobs were located in factories which relied on coal and iron to produce machinery and as a source of power. Conditions in early factories and the mines, from which these resources were taken, were often dangerous and became a major concern for workers, which included child laborers. Britain's working class grew and eventually their situation got better with improved factory conditions, regulation of working hours, and better sanitary conditions, and the right to form labor unions. Great Britain's location allowed for increased trade through the export of both natural resources and finished goods. Trade with other regions was accomplished by Britain's control of the sea, which gave them a great advantage and led to the rise of the British Empire. This gave the British access to additional resources for their industrialization.

Japan's geography also affected its economic and social history because it was surrounded by seas. Being an archipelago, or a chain of islands, Japan was surrounded by water and could also trade with other nations to acquire needed goods. Japanese history has strong ties to the seas that surround it. Its culture is rooted in fishing, sailing, and navigating nearby waters. Given its location, Japan traded with Asian nations such as China and selectively borrowed ideas from the Chinese. The Meiji Restoration brought change, and Japanese ports were opened to trade and exchange with the United States and Europe. This led to westernization and cultural diffusion. Under the Meiji, Japan began to industrialize. With few natural resources and an island location, Japan adopted an expansionist policy, meaning it wanted to expand its borders and acquire new lands. They built a strong navy to help them imperialize. This imperialism led to conflicts, such as the Russo-Japanese War. This war was a result of Japan's desire to seek natural resources in Manchuria and other regions, and culminated in a great war against Russian forces.

Japan and Great Britain, located on bodies of water with many ports, both had favorable positions for trade. While Japan's lack of resources led them into imperialism and conflict, Britain used its many resources to industrialize which led to imperialism. While both nations became industrial and naval powerhouses, their paths to get there were very different and affected by their geography.

Anchor Level 4-A

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the influence of resources of Britain more thoroughly than the influence of islands in Japan
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*resources of Britain*: abundance of natural resources and island location contributed to Britain becoming the leader of industrialization; many factory jobs relied on coal and iron for the production of machinery and as a source of power; export of natural resources and finished goods contributed to Britain's increased trade and led to the rise of the British Empire; led to imperialism; *islands of Japan*: with few natural resources and island location, Japan adopted an expansionist policy; Japanese culture rooted in fishing, sailing, and navigating nearby waters; Japan traded with Asian nations such as China and borrowed selectively; during the Meiji Restoration, ports were opened to trade and exchange with the United States and Europe; led to westernization)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*resources of Britain*: location, ports, available workforce, and stable government; migration to urban cities; working class; mines; child labor; improved factory conditions; regulation of working hours and sanitary conditions; labor unions; naval powerhouse; *islands of Japan*: imperialism; Russo-Japanese war; Manchuria; archipelago; cultural diffusion; strong navy)
- 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 demonstrates how geographic features contributed to Britain and Japan's development both domestically and abroad through industrialization, trade, and imperialism. The treatment of resources in Britain includes an effective analysis of the interplay between resources and location. A similar discussion about Japan is less developed.

Throughout history geographic features have had a major impact on the way a country or region develops. Both Greece and Egypt were influenced by different bodies of water, the Mediterranean Sea and the Nile River respectively. Geographic features have paved the way for societies to thrive.

Many civilizations are surrounded by water, made up of peninsulas and many small islands like Greece. Most of Greece is on a peninsula and benefits from an irregular coastline that provides natural harbors which offered easy access in and around the islands. The location near the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas gave rise to the Greeks becoming skilled sailors. They often navigated these waters for the purpose of trade. As their terrain did not allow a large variety of food to be produced, they often looked to other civilizations or the seas. Sea life thrived, so food was always in supply. The economy of Greece benefitted from this contact as well. Being able to travel to neighboring countries allowed many foods that were in surplus, such as olives and wine to be traded for other necessities.

These sea routes also allowed the Greeks to develop a strong naval tradition. This is one of the reasons why Greece was able to make a stronger, larger empire. There are many examples of the Greeks working together against common enemies across the seas as well as engaging in war with one another. The trireme, an innovation of the Greeks, provided increased power in war. Examples of these conflicts included both the Peloponnesian and Persian Wars which were partially fought on the seas. It is evident the waters near Greece had tremendous influence on their lives from food to warfare to trade.

From the beginning of the neolithic revolution to present day

society, rivers have always helped civilizations thrive. That's why, one of the longest rivers in the world helped Egyptian civilization become what it is today. The Nile River was the lifeline for all Egyptians. The flooding waters of the river were channeled by the ancient Egyptians into irrigation systems they built and eventually this fertile region produced a surplus of food. Annual floods provided rich silt along the banks of the Nile. This led to the cultivation of crops such as barley, dates, and pomegranates. Often times these products were exchanged with other societies, like the Nubians for goods they needed. Papyrus grew along the river and was used by Egyptians to make paper.

Egyptians developed a writing system, mathematical advances, astrology, and perhaps most important to them, complex religious beliefs. The Egyptians religion centered on worshipping many gods as they were polytheistic. The Nile River often affected the nature of these religious beliefs. For example, Osiris, a key Egyptian god celebrated a cycle of life and death that mimicked the seasons of flood and drought of the life-giving Nile. Partly because of the Nile's influence on religion we have the amazing pyramids and tombs of Egypt. The Nile River served as transportation for the building materials. It is evident that Egyptians believed in an afterlife based on the care they gave to the departed and their possessions buried within these tombs. The Nile River was the source around which the Egyptian civilization flourished. Without this massive geographic feature to shape the Egyptians civilization, their whole country could have developed much differently.

The geographic features of each region impact individual civilizations differently. Whether it's the great waters surrounding

Greece, or a major river in Egypt, each has some features that help it thrive. In the case of these two geographic features, the benefit to their societies outweighed the drawbacks.

Anchor Level 4-B

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task by discussing the influence of seas on Greece and rivers on Egypt
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*seas on Greece*: irregular coastlines provide natural harbors that offered easy access in and out of the islands; seas gave rise to the Greeks becoming skilled sailors; terrain did not allow a large variety of food to be produced; being able to travel to neighboring countries allowed them to trade surplus food items for other necessities; engaged in war against common enemies across the seas and with one another; innovation of the trireme provided increased Greek power in war; *rivers on Egypt*: flooding waters were channeled into irrigation systems and eventually this fertile region produced a surplus of food; products were exchanged with other societies like the Nubians; Osiris, a key Egyptian god, celebrated a cycle of life and death that mimicked the seasons of flood and drought of the Nile; Nile served as transportation for building materials for pyramids)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*seas on Greece*: Aegean and Mediterranean seas; peninsula; olives and wine; strong naval tradition; Peloponnesian and Persian wars; *rivers on Egypt*: one of the longest rivers in the world; annual floods; barley, dates, and pomegranates; papyrus; writing system, mathematical advances, astrology; polytheism; tombs)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are slightly beyond a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The strength of the response is with the depth of historical evidence provided to discuss the influence of seas on Greece and rivers on Egypt. However, the degree of analysis is slightly greater in the treatment of Egypt while the discussion of Greece is at times more descriptive.

Rivers were a huge influence on many early civilizations, providing fertile soil for surplus crops, and even causing devastation. Deserts played an important role because travelers and merchants were forced to adapt in order to travel and trade in new places. Two geographic features that greatly influenced areas were the Huang He River in China and the Sahara Desert in Africa.

It is not surprising that rivers played a huge role on everyday life in early societies. People who lived in the Huang He river valley civilization, benefitted from the fertile land which allowed for the cultivation of many crops and a surplus of food. The abundance of food helped increase the population and eventually gave rise to cities.

Rivers like the Huang-He in China, were prone to frequent and violent flooding. Even residents who moved away from the river were often affected by floods. Often when the river did overflow and flooded their lands, the people had to repair the damage done by the river and try to prevent it from happening again. Silt frequently clogged the Huang He River contributing to rising water levels. Consequently, devastating floods destroyed homes, goods and sometimes killed those who lived near the river. As a result, the river was nicknamed "The River of Sorrows." In response to the floods, the people of the Huang He valley built irrigation ditches, dikes and dams to control and channel water.

Deserts played a major role because they made it challenging to travel and gain access to other lands. Many who traveled through deserts were merchants who would profit from overland trade routes in places like North Africa for example. The Sahara Desert (located in North Africa) is the largest desert in the world. Travelers

needed to be experienced to be capable of crossing such difficult terrain. People in the Sahara learned to use one of the greatest animals for desert travel, the camel. Camels could travel long distances with little water. They had characteristics that helped them adapt to the climate of the Sahara. The camel worked as well for the people of North Africa as the wheel did for those in Mesopotamia.

Another way that the deserts affected the people of North Africa was through the resources this region held such as salt deposits. Traders sold the salt to others for gold and profited from the sale. Eventually, this region saw the rise of the trans-Saharan trade network under the West Africa kingdoms of Ghana, Mali and Songhai. Many traders utilized the camel across this terrain.

Both rivers and deserts have played large roles in shaping the societies they are located near. Both positive and negative circumstances resulted from these geographic features. Both the people of China and North Africa did the best they could with the geographic features they had.

Anchor Level 4-C

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the influence of deserts in North Africa more thoroughly than the influence of rivers in China
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*rivers in China*: Huang He civilization benefitted from the fertile land; led to a surplus of food and increased population; river was prone to frequent and violent flooding; in response to the floods, the people of the Huang He built irrigation ditches, dikes, and dams to control the water; *deserts in North Africa*: many who traveled through deserts were merchants who would profit from overland trade routes; travelers needed experience to be capable of crossing such difficult terrain; camels could travel long distances and had characteristics that helped them adapt to the climate of the Sahara; camel worked as well for the people of North Africa as the wheel did for the people of Mesopotamia; North Africans profited from sale and trade of salt deposits)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*rivers in China*: rise of cities; floods destroyed homes, goods, and people; River of Sorrows; *deserts in North Africa*: Sahara is the largest desert in the world; trans-Saharan trade network; West African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are slightly beyond a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The strength of the response is the quality of analysis about the Sahara Desert of North Africa especially in regard to the people's ability to overcome the challenges presented. However, the discussion of the Huang He in China is less fully developed.

Throughout history, geographic features have had profound impacts on the human experience. Barriers, resources, and location have directed the path of human civilization since the start of it. In Mesopotamia and in North Africa, rivers and deserts have been especially important politically, economically, socially, and also impacted historical development over time. In particular, the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and the Sahara Desert have shaped the societies that surrounded them.

In Mesopotamia, also known as the land between two rivers in modern day Iraq, the Tigris & Euphrates rivers have influenced the settlement of the area. This is where the Neolithic Revolution was said to have happened first, with the development of agriculture. This is because this area, part of the Fertile Crescent, had soil full of nutrients and an abundance of water. Floods were common in this region. Consequently, the people of Mesopotamia built dikes and dams to control the waters and often moved their homes further away from the river.

The rivers influenced the development of agriculture and food supplies allowing societies to become more sedentary, no longer nomadic. Politically, it created a need for a sort of government to manage the budding city-states. With sedentary society came social stratification. The creation of classes, such as a priest class, an upper class, and a lower class, in a previously classless society totally transformed the Sumerian city states in the area. Mesopotamia also was home to a civilization with the first codified law, the Babylonians had the code of Hammurabi. These developments occurred first due to favorable geographic conditions in the area, with the fertility around

the rivers. Without this geographic advantage, the course of history would be completely different.

The Sahara Desert in Africa has been a major geographic barrier over the course of history. Before it was possible to easily cross it, it essentially separated sub-Saharan African civilizations from other civilizations. This isolation made sub-Saharan Africa develop differently from North Africa. The Sahara served as a geographic barrier for the ancient Egyptian civilization, which benefitted from the protection offered by the Sahara.

Economically, when trans-Saharan trade developed, civilizations such as Ghana, Mali and Songhai were able to widely trade gold & salt in the Middle East. This was only possible because North and West African peoples learned to domesticate the camel and to use it in desert trade. They built trade networks through the desert using oases as resting and watering stations. On his pilgrimage from Mali, Mansa Musa was said to have brought so much gold to Cairo using these routes, that its economy was inflated significantly. Islamic religious travelers and traders used the desert trade routes to spread ideas and products. This shows that the Sahara served a dual role as both a facilitator and a barrier for cultural diffusion.

In Mesopotamia and North Africa, geographic assets & barriers impacted the development of cultures, politically, economically, and socially. The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers as well as the Sahara Desert were both a blessing and a curse to the people who encountered them. Overall, geographic features impacted many places overtime.

Anchor Level 3-A

The response:

- Develops some aspects of the task in some depth and others in little depth by discussing the influence of rivers in Mesopotamia and deserts in North Africa
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*rivers in Mesopotamia*: the Neolithic Revolution occurred here first; soil full of nutrients and abundance of water; floods caused people to build dikes and dams to control water; societies became sedentary because of food surpluses; created a need for a government to manage city-states; *deserts in North Africa*: Sahara served as a geographic barrier for the ancient Egyptian civilization; trans-Saharan trade developed; civilizations traded gold and salt in the Middle East; domesticated the camel for use in the desert trade; Islamic religious travelers and traders used desert trade routes to spread ideas and products; Sahara served a dual role of facilitator and barrier for cultural diffusion)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*rivers in Mesopotamia*: land between two rivers; modern day Iraq; Fertile Crescent; social stratification; codified law; Babylonians; code of Hammurabi; *deserts in North Africa*: Nile; sub-Saharan Africa; Ghana; Mali; Songhai; trade networks; oases; pilgrimage; Mansa Musa; Cairo)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are slightly beyond a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response uses accurate information and limited analysis to discuss rivers in Mesopotamia and deserts in North Africa demonstrating an understanding of the task. Additional details to support some of the generalizations and better integration of the facts would have strengthened the response.

Geographic features are often responsible for a country's development whether it is politically, socially, or economically. Two examples of countries whose development has been affected by geography are Russia and China. The climate of Russia and mountains of China shaped the history of each region.

Russia's frigid climate and vast size has been an important factor in its development. This northern climate is extremely cold. Heavy snowfall, long winters, and frozen rivers made transportation and communication difficult. In Russia's early history, the nation's year-round frozen ports made sea trade nearly impossible. Russia fell behind Europe in terms of modernization and technological advancement. Both Peter and Catherine the Great wanted to acquire warm-water ports on the Baltic or Black Seas to improve contact with Europe. While Peter was able to claim a port near the Baltic, only Catherine succeeded in getting a Black Sea port. Russia's lack of modernization greatly affected their way of life. As other European countries began to flourish in the 1600s, Russia was still way behind. It took many years for Russia to modernize, as Russia had limited European influence until Peter the Great adopted westernized ideas from western Europe.

Russia's climate did prevent the invasion of its borders. The icy, terrible weather meant that travel would be very difficult for invaders especially with Russia being so vast. For example, Napoleon Bonaparte's attempt at capturing Russia failed due to the fact that his army could not survive the harsh weather. "General Winter" managed to destroy over half of Napoleon's army. Brutal temperatures made horses ineffective while troops lacked the clothing and supplies to survive in

such a harsh climate. Many lives were lost during Napoleon's invasion.

China was also greatly influenced by its geography. China's mountainous terrain helped to contribute to its isolation. Another affect of China's mountains was the challenge of living in a region that was difficult to farm. Although China's leaders also caused its isolation from the outside world, the mountainous region influenced people's capability to travel to other regions. The Himalayas served as a natural barrier between China and India. Limited travel took place through this region.

The mountains of China shaped population patterns. Mountainous regions were less populated while cities and civilizations emerged in river valley plains and coastal regions. Living on the coast meant that inhabitants of China were more likely to have a diet of seafood. Fishing was also a very popular industry because of this.

Geographic features can sometimes become a main contributor to a region's development. A region's geography directly effects its inhabitants way of life and often how fast a country is able to modernize. If it wasn't for the variety of Geographic features, all countries and regions might not be as diverse as they are today.

Anchor Level 3-B

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task by discussing the influences of climate in Russia in more depth than the influence of mountains in China
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*climate in Russia*: extremely cold climate in northern Russia; heavy snowfall, long winters, and frozen rivers; made transportation and communication difficult; frozen ports made sea trade nearly impossible; as a result of climate, Russia fell behind Europe in technological advancement; Napoleon’s attempt at capturing Russia failed because his army could not survive the harsh winter; *mountains in China*: mountains contributed to China’s isolation; challenge of living in a region difficult to farm; limited travel took place in mountainous regions; mountains shaped population patterns; cities and civilizations emerged in river valley plains and coastal regions)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*climate in Russia*: vast size; Peter the Great; Catherine the Great; warm-water ports; Baltic and Black Seas; “General Winter”; westernized ideas; horses ineffective; troops lacked clothing; *mountains in China*: Himalaya; natural barrier between China and India; seafood diet; fishing)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that is a restatement of the theme and a conclusion that is slightly beyond a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The strength of the response is the discussion of climate in Russia, demonstrating knowledge of a variety of historical circumstances and how they were influenced by climate. More details and discussion of the effect of mountains in China would have strengthened the response.

In periods of time, geographic features have altered political, economic, and social aspects of countries or regions. These geographic features also altered the historical development of countries and regions. Both the mountains in Greece and the Nile River in Egypt have had a major impact on the regions they are located in.

One geographic feature that influenced the political, economic, and social aspects of a society are mountains in Greece. Many mountains in Greece divided the country up into different city-states. Two main city-states in Greece were Athens and Sparta. Since the mountains had split them up, they were very different. Sparta was all about military. When men became about 14 years old they started to train for the Spartan military. On the other hand, Athens was all about education. Its main purpose was to produce thinkers. These mountains have divided these two city-states up and influenced their political and social aspects of Greece.

Another way that the mountains of Greece influenced the development was that the mountains served as a natural boundary against foreign invaders. This geographic feature helped the city-states and country of Greece because foreign enemies faced difficulties provided by the mountains. The mountains assisted the Greeks in defending their homeland against invading Persians. The mountains provided an advantage to the Greeks during times of conflict.

Another geographic feature that influenced the political, economic and social aspects of a society was the Nile River in Egypt. The Nile River in Egypt was a central part of Egyptian life. For example, every year that the River flooded, it would leave behind silt which was very fertile for farming. This altered the economic aspect of the civilization

because more fertile soil led to better farming which led to a surplus of food and a growing population. The Egyptians produced grains and fruits using the water from the Nile. They sold and traded these foods which helped them prosper.

Another development that altered their society on the Nile River was that the water acted as a mode for transportation. It helped their society because it could be used for trade and to supply fish. The Egyptians traded on the river with people to the south for goods like animal skins. The cataracts on the river also hindered their society and often served as a boundary between different groups of people.

As you can see, there were many natural/geographic features, such as mountains and river valley's that influence and/or alter the political, economic, social, and historical development of a country. Greece and Egypt's geographic features influenced their society and the results of these features included natural barriers, fertile soil, and sometimes protection from foreign invaders.

Anchor Level 3-C

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth by discussing the influence of mountains in Greece and the Nile River in Egypt
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*mountains in Greece*: mountains divided the country into different city-states; two main city-states were Athens and Sparta; mountains served as a natural boundary to invaders; mountains assisted the Greeks in defending their homeland; *Nile River in Egypt*: yearly flooding of the Nile left behind fertile soil for farming; farming led to a surplus of food and a growing population; Egyptians sold and traded foods on the river, which helped them prosper; acted as a mode for transportation; cataracts often served as a boundary between groups of people)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*mountains in Greece*: military in Sparta; education in Athens; Persians; *Nile River in Egypt*: central part of life; silt; produced grains and fruits; supplied fish); includes a minor inaccuracy (*mountains in Greece*: men about 14 years old started to train for Spartan military)
- 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. Although facts and generalizations are employed, analysis is isolated. Elaboration on the influences of the geographic features and development of generalizations would have strengthened the response.

Geography often plays a big role in a country's development. Whether it be isolating the country or making it more open to trade, it has an enormous impact. A country may have to adapt to its geography in order to modernize. Geographic features influence the development of countries and regions.

One country that has been influenced by its geography is Russia. The climate in Russia is very cold and harsh. It has influenced the country's development. For one, it has protected Russia. The winters that Russia experiences has been a factor in wars. When Napoleon Bonaparte attacked Russia he found himself trapped there in the middle of winter. His French army was not prepared for the winter. Many soldiers froze to death or starved because they were not ready for such a long journey out of Russia. Although Napoleon and some of his soldiers lived, the winter protected Russia. The climate also influenced Russia socially. People have to wear lots of clothing and coats to stay warm. The low temperatures made it hard for Russia's citizens because it caused a lot of sickness. Russia was also influenced economically by its climate. Before Peter the Great gained a warm water port, Russia's ports were froze over for most of the year. This made trade very difficult.

Another country that has been influenced by its geography is Japan. The coastline in Japan has been an important factor involving trade. The long coastline and excellent harbors made Japan a center for trade. When Japan ended its policy of isolation it began trading with many of the strong countries in the world, including the U.S. The U.S. was able to trade with Japan because Matthew Perry demanded its ports to be open to U.S ships. Trade also helped Japan modernize. All of these

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – A

factors helped the economy. The coastline in Japan also played a role in their diet. Since seafood was abundant it became a staple in Japanese meals.

Geographic features influence the development of countries and regions. Whether it be opening a country up to the world or isolating it, a big impact is made. Russia's climate protected and isolated them. Japan's coastline made them a perfect area for trade. The geography of Russia and Japan influenced their development.

Anchor Level 2-A**The response:**

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for the influence of climate in Russia and the coastlines of Japan
- Is primarily descriptive (*climate in Russia*: Russia is very cold and harsh; climate has protected Russia and been a factor in war; Napoleon attacked Russia in the middle of winter with an unprepared army; many soldiers froze to death or starved; Russia's ports were frozen most of the year; *coastlines of Japan*: long coastline and excellent harbors made Japan the center for trade; when Japan ended its policy of isolation, it began trading with strong countries; Matthew Perry demanded Japanese ports be opened to United States ships; coastline played a role in their diet; seafood became a staple in Japanese meals); includes weak application (*climate in Russia*: people have to wear lots of clothing; low temperatures caused a lot of sickness)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*climate in Russia*: French army; ports frozen over; *coastlines of Japan*: trade helped Japan modernize); includes an inaccuracy (*climate in Russia*: Peter the Great gained a warm-water port)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are slightly beyond a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The discussion demonstrates some understanding of the task, but a lack of development weakens the response. Additional facts, examples, and details would have strengthened the response.

The geography of the world is very complex. There are many aspects to the geography of various places that are advantages or disadvantages to that culture. Geography may also largely affect a country's historical development as well as political, social and economic features.

One country that has a predominant economic feature is Japan. Japan is an archipelago, which means it's a chain of islands. Japan has an irregular coastline, but that works as an advantage for trading because it makes natural harbors. This affects its economy positively because Japan doesn't have a lot of natural resources and its coastline makes trade easier. It's an advantage politically because islands are harder to try and attack, which has been proved in historical events.

Another country whose geography affects them highly is Greece. Greece is a peninsula which means it's surrounded by a body of water on 3 sides. Which, same as Japan makes natural harbors making it socially easy for trade. Greece is also very mountainous making the country politically have to split into separate city-states. Economically, Greece prospers due to its placement in the Mediterranean so it makes trade with other thriving countries more likely.

All in all, geography is an important factor for any country.

Anchor Level 2-B

The response:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task in some depth for the influence of the islands of Japan and the peninsula of Greece
- Is primarily descriptive (*islands of Japan*: Japan is a chain of islands with an irregular coastline; Japan has many natural harbors, which is an advantage for trading; Japan lacks natural resources; Japanese islands are harder to attack as proven in history; *mountainous peninsula of Greece*: Greece is surrounded by water; many harbors making it easy for trade; Greece is mountainous; split into separate city-states; Greece prospers through trade with other thriving countries)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*islands of Japan*: archipelago; *mountainous peninsula of Greece*: Mediterranean)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; has a limited introduction and a brief conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The treatment of the islands of Japan and the mountainous peninsula of Greece is comprised of a general narrative that outlines each topic but lacks detail.

Climate plays a big role in society and everything else. Depending where you are in the world climate can affect you differently. Russia's climate has effected not only the Russians but troops who try to invade them.

Russia is located towards the European side of the world and is farther away from the equator meaning its winters will be coldest. Russian winters are very cold and can have temperatures to 30° below.

When World War One was happening Napoleon and his troops tried to invade them. When they invaded the Russians were moving farther into to Russia. The seasons began to change and when it became winter it was very cold for the French troops. The Russians used the warfare technique called scorched Earth policy and they burnt everything down and killed livestock. This made the Russian climate to deadly and unbearable for the French because now they have no food, no shelter so the climate will cause them to freeze and have no shelter.

Not only does climate play a role in society but so does your natural resources. A major and popular resource people wanted was oil. There was a lot of oil in the Middle East. Kuwait in the Middle East had a plentiful supply of oil. Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait because he wanted their oil. The U.S. said no he needed to get out of there. When Iraq was forced out of Kuwait, Saddam lit the oilfields on fire and caused huge air pollution.

Climate and natural resources both make a big difference on societies. They can both limit and help a society.

Anchor Level 2-C

The response:

- Develops some aspects of the task in little depth for the influence of climate in Russia and natural resources in the Middle East
- Is primarily descriptive (*climate in Russia*: Russian winters are very cold; invaders attacked Russia; Russians used scorched earth policy and burnt everything and killed livestock; French had no food or shelter; climate caused French to freeze; *natural resources in the Middle East*: there was a lot of oil in the Middle East; invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein; lit oil fields on fire causing huge air pollution)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*climate in Russia*: below zero temperatures; Napoleon; *natural resources in the Middle East*: plentiful supply of oil); includes an inaccuracy (*climate in Russia*: Napoleon invaded during World War I)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; does not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addressed; contains a brief introduction and a brief conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response demonstrates some understanding of the task. However, the discussion of a single development for each geographic feature limits the response. The inclusion of more relevant facts and details would have enhanced the response.

Human Geography and the culture of Humans are well influenced by the physical geography of the earth. Deserts, mountains & oceans have affected the way civilizations have grown.

The Nile River is an excellent example of geography affecting a civilization. Ancient Egyptians created their empire in the Nile River Delta and on the sides of the river. The first form of paper was created with papyrus that was found in the Nile river delta. The way that the Nile flooded every year in spring time affected the way the Egyptians farmed and traveled. To transport goods they would have used sailboats to get up and down the river.

The Climate in Russia has also helped and hurt the nation of Russia many times. During the Second World War Adolph Hitler's forces attempted to invade Russia. While many made it to battle and died fighting the Russians even more died on the way over into Russia. Since the peasants of Russia scorched the land and left no food behind when they fled to get away from the Germans it was very easy for the extreme temperatures to kill off many men before even getting into battle. During the winter in Russia temperatures can reach -80° . These extreme temperatures have hurt the progress of Russians industrialization. Since Russia's only ports are on the Baltic Sea, the ports have to be closed 2/3 of the year because they are frozen.

The Physical geography of planet earth has affected human geography as well as human culture. The frigid lands of Russia and the lush areas by the Nile River have greatly affected the course of history.

Anchor Level 1-A

The response:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task for the influence of rivers of Egypt and climate in Russia
- Is descriptive (*rivers of Egypt*: Egyptians created their empire near the Nile River; Egyptians created first form of paper; the way the Nile River flooded affected Egyptian farming and travel; *climate in Russia*: the climate of Russia helped defend against invaders; peasants of Russia scorched the land when they fled to get away from the Germans)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*rivers of Egypt*: delta; papyrus; *climate in Russia*: Adolf Hitler; World War II); includes inaccuracies (*climate in Russia*: extreme temperatures have hurt progress of Russian industrialization; Russia's only ports are on the Baltic; frozen ports have to be closed $\frac{2}{3}$ of the year)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes a very brief introduction and a conclusion that is a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response shows a limited understanding of the task in the treatment of rivers of Egypt and climate in Russia.

Overgeneralizations and lack of clear connections weaken the response.

Throughout history social, political, and economic have been affected by geographic features. This happened in Great Britain, and also in Russia.

In Great Britain, there was a surplus of natural resources. This led to the industrial revolution. The industrial revolution was a major event for Britain because its economy flourished. For the first time, products were mass produced in factories. These factory produced goods were then sold at a lower price than before. The industrial revolution also led to imperialism. Because Britain revolutionized and became a powerful nation. They were able to easily conquer other countries.

In Russia, there are extreme weather conditions. In the winter, temperatures fall below freezing. The Russians were able to adapt to this, and therefore become accommodated. The extreme weather was able to protect Russia and all of its citizens. For example, Napoleon tried to invade Russia with his army and failed because he and his military were not used to the harsh winter.

In conclusion, geography affect countries in many different economic, political, and social ways.

Anchor Level 1-B

The response:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task by mentioning the influence of natural resources in Great Britain and climate in Russia
- Is descriptive (*natural resources in Great Britain*: Great Britain had a surplus of natural resources, which led to the Industrial Revolution; *climate in Russia*: Russia has extreme weather conditions; Russians have adapted to climate; weather protected Russia and its citizens)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*natural resources in Great Britain*: economy flourished; factories; *climate in Russia*: Napoleon)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; contains a very brief introduction and conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response is unevenly developed, but some relevant details indicate limited knowledge. It mixes relevant and irrelevant information. The response lacks a clear understanding of the task in the treatment of the natural resources of Great Britain.

Geography has played an important role throughout all of history. It impacts certain regions and nations differently, depending on the geographic features involved. Some features may be advantageous to a civilization, while others can hinder them either socially, economically, or politically. The Andes mountains of South America and the Yellow River of China have influenced the Inca society and the people of the Shang Dynasty, but in different ways.

In South America, the Andes mountains are located on the west coast in much of what is modern day Peru and Chile. Mountains can often limit agriculture because of the elevation, ruggedness and soil that may not be fertile enough for farming. This could be a potential negative feature for people in South America, however some like the Inca developed ways to overcome this obstacle. Inca farmers invented a method called Terrace Farming. Terrace Farming involved cutting steps into the side of a mountain, making a series of flat garden beds on the mountainside. On these terraces, many crops like corn were grown. This agricultural achievement was able to help support a growing population and also at times led to surpluses that could be stored as well as traded. The Inca were able to find a solution to their issue that ended up benefitting them in the end.

In addition to the Andes mountains being adapted for food production, the geographic feature also proved to be a barrier between highland and lowland regions. The Inca built hundreds of miles of road networks, which also included suspension bridges. In doing so, communication and trade between the regions increased. Runners, military warriors, and traders all utilized these roads contributing to the rise of the Empire. The Inca's modifications to the Andes Mountain's region eventually led to the growth of an empire.

Rivers are geographic features with many advantages which is why they were often the basis of many early civilizations. Rivers were not only good for trade and transportation, but they were very helpful in growing crops. The Yellow and Yangtze river in China are great examples of this. The silt at the bottom of the river was full of nutrients that could support crop growth when the rivers overflowed. However, there was often violent floods which occurred. This was devastating because it would ruin crops, destroy villages, and sometimes cause famine. The Chinese developed irrigation systems as an answer to this problem. The irrigation systems which included dikes, dams, and village cooperation existed to control water flow from rivers to prevent flooding and to aid crop production. This was very helpful to the Chinese agriculturally, and economically.

As flooding was more controlled and agricultural techniques improved, the Yellow River served as a lifeline to early Chinese civilizations and the rise of the Shang dynasty. The river allowed for a large production of crops as well as the domestication of animals. As a result, the Chinese population increased and a flourishing civilization developed with complex institutions of government and religion. Without this feature, the sedentary agricultural societies of China may have evolved differently.

Geography played a huge role in the development of civilization, and both helped and hindered societies. Both the Andes mountains and Yellow River provided obstacles to the societies that developed near them, yet these civilizations came up with solutions to overcome these challenges. Nations are still going through steps to improve issues from geographic features today, and will continue to do so.

Geographic features of certain regions have effected the development of cultures. This has contributed to the rise of different customs, traditions, and beliefs. Two civilizations particularly influenced by their geographic features are Greece and Egypt. Mountains have shaped the development of Greece and rivers have shaped Egypt.

The main geographic feature that influenced Greece was its mountains. The mountains played a huge part in creating a history of separate city-states in ancient Greece. Most of the Balkan peninsula is covered with rugged mountain ranges which made trade, travel, and communication challenging for the early peoples of Greece. As a result, many city-states grew independent of one another with diverse political and social institutions. This is shown through the diversity of Sparta and Athens. Athens eventually developed a direct democracy which allowed many older male citizens to participate in government. They also developed advanced architecture and influential philosophies. They had one of the largest navies in the ancient world. Sparta however developed a strict military-based society. This provided them with a powerful and well trained army. However, their expansion by conquest of nearby states to increase available farmland and food supplies sometimes led to the suppression of the people they conquered.

Mountains also influenced the Greeks in their religious beliefs. For example, Mt. Olympus was a peak where Greeks believed the gods lived. Greeks often met at Mt. Olympus to worship their many gods. This was one facet of Greek life that assisted in unifying city-states despite the way that mountains physically divided Greek people and cultures.

As mountains has an effect on the Greeks, a major river had lasting effects on Egyptian development. The Nile River, which flows north into the Mediterranean Sea, had the most significant impact on the rise of Egyptian civilization and culture. It allowed them to build an empire in the ancient world. First, it provided food in several ways including attracting animals, providing fish, and flooding the land annually resulting in good soil for growing crops. As a result, the Egyptians developed a strong agricultural society with frequent surpluses of food. With a surplus of food, Egyptians could focus on developing architecture, religion and customs. The Nile also offered transportation and was used to transport limestone blocks for constructing pyramids. The bodies of Egyptian leaders were mummified and entombed in these pyramids. The navigable portions of the Nile with the exception of the hassle of the cataracts allowed quick movement between upper and lower Egypt allowing a unified empire to be created. Finally, the Nile influenced society. Many jobs and duties were related to the river including controlling the Nile's floods, and gathering papyrus which was used to make paper. This allowed scribes who could read and write to create official papers and documents for communication between cities and regions. The Nile River brought life and abundance and it also brought death and destruction. It was an integral part of Egyptian culture.

The Mountains in Greece and the Nile in Egypt clearly had lasting effects on their civilizations. The Greek and Egyptian civilizations developed customs, cultures, and societies that would serve as models for future civilizations. They used these geographic features to their advantage and adapted them to develop advanced civilizations.

Geographic features that have influenced in the political, economic, social, and historical development of countries and regions.

In the South America mountains had an expansion of slave trade of the "silk roads". South America nations were united into a single political unit, many independent nations were created from former colonial empires. The leader of South America was Simon Bolívar. The mountains are large and fertile soil for cropping. The Russia climate is mild and hot. Russia had enlightened despot where they had to learn to read and write. The climate helps and them having rivers and grass for cropping and water to survive. Knowing how to read and write is very good, so they know how to speak to each other. Also, South America had lots of land to grow food on to eat and survive. A lot of immigration happened in South America with the British, Dutch, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. These immigrants traveled to Brazil, Guianas, New Granada, Peru, La Plata, Columbia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Bolívia, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay.

Human and physical geography between Russia, and South America and how they survive, historical development.

Throughout history there have been many geographic features that have influenced the political, economic social and historical development of countries and regions. Two geographic features are the islands of Japan and the natural resources in the middle east. The geography greatly influences the people around it.

One geographic feature was the islands of Japan. Japan is known to be an archipelago. An archipelago is a group of island's in the shape of an arch. Japan is very mountainous. Which mean's little farming area and limited natural resources. The people of Japan are influenced to go take over different lands to find the natural resources they need.

Another geographic feature is the natural resources in the middle east. The middle east is very rich in oil. By having a lot of oil the middle east can regulate who they give there oil to and also how much they want to sell it for. Saudi arabia is the richest because they have the most oil. Oil has a great influence on the middle east because since they have the oil they may think that they can win friends over and have alliances because of selling oil. It also influences the price because if more oil is being demanded then the price will go up and people will be forced to buy it because there really is no other place to get it.

Geographic features had a great influence on political, economic, social and historical development of countries and regions. Natural resources greatly influence the geography around because it forces people to adapt or change.

For thousands of years, geographic features of places in the world have effected the way countries and cities develop there, what their social development was like, and what their economy was like. Geographic features such as what types of landforms were in certain regions can influence how food is grown, and how safe and/or possible it is for humans to prosper there. Two cases in which the effect is from such features were lasting economically and socially are the deserts in North Africa; and the mountains in South America. Both features have effected the ability to grow crops, and the ability to have communication with other regions. The question, though, is how?

For years, many different tribes have occupied Africa, most of them living in their own, designated territories. However, people living in Africa's desert have faced a difficult but sustainable lifestyle choice. Communication across vast deserts like the Sahara was somewhat difficult. Traveling hundreds of miles without easy access to food or water supplies was challenging. Africans were able to overcome the desert conditions by using camels as a method of transportation and oases as stopping points for food and water. Over time people from northern and western Africa exchanged goods and ideas with one another. Another difficulty in the Sahara was finding a way to grow crops in the desert. One solution to this challenge was the construction of irrigation canals connected to rivers like the Nile. This channeling of water allowed crops to be grown in places that would have otherwise been too dry. The deserts of Africa were clearly an obstacle for early civilizations yet they came up with successful solutions.

In South America, some of the same issues have occurred, only not with deserts, but with mountains. Mountains play a large role in the

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – E

social and economic development and growth of any region or culture. Mountains like the Andes of South America, often acted to separate people of civilizations. In the Andes mountains, elevation changes drastically, making them difficult and sometimes impossible to navigate. This can cause a lack of communication, socially, and a lack of trade economically. There were two ways the Inca people of South America solved problems of the Andes. First, they built terraces into the side of the mountains for flat places to farm different crops at different elevations. Second, they built roads that connected different parts of the mountains so people could communicate and so they could move food to where it was needed. Those factors play large roles in the development of Inca culture. Their solutions helped overcome obstacles to trade and communication.

All in all, it seems as though geographic features can cause a lack of communication and trade and sometimes difficulty in growing food unless solutions to these challenges are found. The deserts of Africa and mountains of South America are two examples of this.

Practice Paper A—Score Level 4

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the influence of mountains on South America more thoroughly than the influence of rivers in China
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*mountains of South America*: mountains limited agriculture in South America and led to the Inca inventing new agricultural methods; new methods were able to sustain a growing population and at times led to surpluses; mountains were a barrier between highland and lowland regions; Inca built hundreds of miles of road networks resulting in increased communication and trade; *rivers in China*: rivers were good for trade and transportation and helpful in growing crops; violent floods were devastating and destroyed crops and villages, and sometimes caused famine; irrigation projects involved village cooperation; as flooding was more controlled and agricultural techniques improved, the Yellow River served as a lifeline to Chinese civilization; river allowed for large production of crops as well as domestication of animals; population increased and a flourishing civilization developed)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*mountains of South America*: Andes; Peru; Chile; elevation; terrace farming; garden beds; corn; suspension bridges; runners, military warriors, and traders; empire; *rivers in China*: Shang dynasty; Yellow and Yangtze rivers; silt; irrigation systems; dikes; dams; complex institutions of government and religion)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are slightly beyond a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. A good understanding of geography and its impact on civilizations is shown through the use of details throughout the response. However, the discussion of the mountains of South America is more analytical than the discussion of the rivers in China.

Practice Paper B—Score Level 5

The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing mountains in Greece and rivers of Egypt and how these geographic features influenced the political, economic, social, and historical development of these regions
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*mountains in Greece*: mountains led to the creation of separate city-states; city-states grew independent of each other; Athens developed a direct democracy; Sparta’s military-based society expanded by conquest to increase arable farmland and food supplies, sometimes leading to the suppression of the people they conquered; religion assisted in unifying city-states of Greece despite the mountains that divided the peoples and cultures; *rivers of Egypt*: the Nile River contributed to the rise of Egyptian civilization; Nile attracted animals, provided fish, and flooding resulted in good soil for farming; the river allowed for unification of upper and lower Egypt; with a surplus of food surpluses, Egyptians could focus on developing architecture, religion, and customs; jobs and duties were related to the river, including controlling floods and gathering papyrus; the river provided abundance and it brought death and destruction; integral part of culture)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*mountains in Greece*: Balkan Peninsula; travel and communication challenging; diverse political and social institutions; influential philosophies; Mount Olympus; *rivers of Egypt*: annual flooding; agricultural society; transportation; pyramids; scribes; mummified bodies)
- 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 demonstrates a good knowledge of subject matter, using numerous facts and details to discuss the influence geographic features had on both the city-states of Greece and the Egyptian civilization. The response uses analysis to discuss the growth of civilization in both regions despite the challenges presented by geography.

Practice Paper C—Score Level 0

The response:

Includes no relevant facts, examples, or details

Conclusion: The response fits the criteria for Level 0 because the information is inaccurate and fails to address the task.

Practice Paper D—Score Level 1

The response:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task
- Is descriptive (*islands of Japan*: Japan is very mountainous with little farming and limited natural resources; Japan influenced to take over different lands to find natural resources; *natural resources in the Middle East*: very rich in oil; Middle East can regulate how much they want to sell oil for; demand for oil can affect prices)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*natural resources in the Middle East*: Saudi Arabia); includes an inaccuracy (*islands of Japan*: an archipelago is a chain of islands in the shape of an arch)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are restatements of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. A few facts, examples, and details frame the brief discussion. The response also lacks a discussion of a second influence that these geographic features had on the development of Japan and the Middle East. The archipelago of Japan is described without developing its influence.

Practice Paper E—Score Level 3

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth by discussing the influence of deserts in North Africa and mountains of South America
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*deserts in North Africa*: communication across deserts like the Sahara was somewhat difficult; traveling hundreds of miles without easy access to food and water was challenging; Africans overcame desert conditions by using camels and oases; over time, people from northern and western Africa exchanged goods and ideas; constructing irrigation canals from rivers like the Nile allowed crops to be grown; *mountains of South America*: mountains often acted to separate people; mountains caused a lack of communication and trade; the Inca built terraces into the side of mountains for flat places to farm; Inca built roads to connect different parts of the mountains)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*deserts in North Africa*: dry; vast deserts; stopping points for food and water; *mountains of South America*: Andes; elevation changes; sometimes impossible to navigate; grew different crops at different elevations)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are slightly beyond a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. In discussing ways that societies overcame geographical obstacles, the response contains a few analytical statements and demonstrates an understanding of the task. The response relies on broad generalizations and would have been strengthened by additional relevant examples and details.

Global History and Geography Specifications January 2015

Part I Multiple Choice Questions by Standard

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

Parts II and III by Theme and Standard

	Theme	Standards
Thematic Essay	Human and Physical Geography	Standards 2, 3, and 4: World History; Geography; Economics
Document-based Essay	Change; Conflict; Human Rights; Imperialism; Justice; Power; Movement of People and Goods; Interdependence; Nationalism; Belief Systems	Standards 2, 3, 4, and 5: World History; Geography; 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 2015 Regents Examination in Global History and Geography* will be posted on the Department's web site at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/> 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.