Mechanics of Rating

The following procedures are to be used in rating papers for this test. More detailed directions for the organization of the rating process and procedures for rating the examination are included in the Grade 5 Elementary-Level Social Studies Test, Manual for Administrators and Teachers. The 2007 edition of the test manual can be found at www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/elintsocst.html. Click on the manual under Grade 5.

Scoring the Part I Multiple-Choice Questions

The student’s score on Part I is the total number of questions that the student answers correctly. A list of correct answers is printed on the scoring key.

The separate answer sheets provided by the Department for Part I may be either machine scored or hand scored.
**Machine Scoring:** The separate answer sheets provided by the Department can be processed only on NCS scoring equipment. If you are making arrangements with a scoring center for machine-scoring services, be sure that the scoring center is able to score the type of answer sheets submitted by your school.

**Hand Scoring:** The answer sheets supplied by the Department can be hand scored using the scoring key printed on translucent paper that is provided with the test. On the key, boxes have been printed to indicate correct answers. When the key is aligned properly with the answer sheet, each correct answer will be visible in a box. To hand score the answer sheets, use the following procedures:

1. Scan each answer sheet to make certain that the student has marked only one answer for each question. If two or more answers have been marked, award no credit for that question in scoring.

2. Place the scoring key on the answer sheet so that the box indicating the correct answer for each question corresponds to the row of answer circles for that question.

3. To obtain the total raw score for Part I of the test, count the number of correct answers. The maximum score for Part I is 35.

Record the Part I score in the space provided on the Part I answer sheet.
(The score may also be recorded at the end of Part I in the student’s test booklet and on the back cover of test booklet 2.)

**Rating the Part II Constructed-Response Questions**

This rating guide contains a question-specific rubric for the Part II constructed-response questions. Follow your school’s procedures for training raters. This process should include:

*Introduction to the constructed-response questions—*
- Raters read the questions
- Raters identify the answers to the questions
- Raters discuss possible answers and summarize expectations for student responses

*Introduction to the rubric—*
- Trainer leads review of specific rubric for constructed-response questions

*Rating the constructed-response questions—*
- Answers to the constructed-response questions need only be scored by one rater
- Scores for each constructed-response question may be recorded in the student’s test booklet

The scoring coordinator will be responsible for organizing the movement of papers, calculating a Part II score for each student, and recording that score on the student’s Part I answer sheet.
(The score may also be recorded at the end of Part II in the student’s test booklet and on the back cover of test booklet 2.)
Branches of the National Government (Questions 1–3)

Question 1 Which branch of government decides how much money is to be spent on national parks?

Score of 1:
- Identifies legislative as the branch of government that decides how much money to spend on national parks
  
  Other acceptable responses: Congress; legislative branch; congressional branch

Score of 0:
- Incorrect response
  Examples: any branch other than legislative; executive branch; judicial; the president; justices; the 100 senators and 435 representatives
- Vague response that does not address the question
  Examples: the one that decides spending; senators; representatives; congressman; legislators
- No response

Question 2 What is the role of the United States Supreme Court?

Score of 1:
- Identifies the role of the United States Supreme Court
  Examples: making sure our laws follow the Constitution; make sure our laws are constitutional; interprets the Constitution

Score of 0:
- Incorrect response
  Examples: carries out laws; leads the military; makes laws for our country; nine justices; to convict criminals; they are judicial; to be the judicial branch
- Vague response that does not address the question
  Examples: Constitution; a major one; an important role
- No response
Question 3  Who is the commander in chief of the United States military?

Score of 1:
• Identifies the president as commander in chief of the United States military
  Other acceptable responses: George Bush; George W. Bush; President Bush; U. S. President

Score of 0:
• Incorrect responses
  Examples: George Washington; vice-president; Congress
• Vague response that does not address the question
  Examples: executive branch; the leader of the military; the guy in charge
• No response
Grassland Areas of the World (Questions 4–6)

Question 4  Name the two continents shown on this map with grasslands along the equator.

Score of 1:
• Identifies South America and Africa as the two continents shown on the map with grasslands along the equator

Note: The two continents may be listed on the lines for question 4 in either order. Both correct answers may be listed on either line for 1 credit. No partial credit should be awarded for naming only one correct continent. Only the first two continents listed may be considered in deciding whether to award credit. For example, if Africa is listed along with an incorrect answer on line a, and South America is listed on line b, award no credit.

Score of 0:
• Incorrect responses
  Examples: Australia; Europe; India; any continent other than Africa or South America
• No response

Question 5  Name the continent with the most grassland areas.

Score of 1:
• Identifies Africa as the continent with the most grassland areas

Score of 0:
• Incorrect response
  Examples: Europe; South America; Germany; Nigeria; Australia
• Vague response that does not address the question
  Example: the center one; the middle one; the one by the compass
• No response

Question 6  Why are there no grasslands in Antarctica?

Score of 1:
• States a reason there are no grasslands in Antarctica
  Examples: Antarctica has no grasslands because it is covered in snow; it is too icy; too cold; it is too far from the equator; it is below/south of the Antarctic Circle; the climate in Antarctica is cold and icy

Score of 0:
• Incorrect response
  Examples: because it has too many mountains; because no one lives there; because it is in the south
• Vague response that does not address the question
  Examples: because it is always snowing; it has a bad climate; the weather is bad
• No response
First Amendment Freedoms (Questions 7–9)

Question 7  List two freedoms found in the First Amendment.

Score of 2 or 1:
• Award 1 credit (up to a maximum of 2 credits) for each different first amendment freedom listed in the chart
  Examples: freedom of speech; freedom of the press; petition; religion; freedom of assembly; the right to speak your ideas and opinions; the right to practice your own religion; the right to say what you think; the right to be a Hindu/Catholic/Muslim, etc.

Note: To receive maximum credit, two different freedoms must be stated. For example, freedom of speech, freedom to say what you think, and the right to speak your ideas and opinions are the same freedom expressed in different words. In similar cases, award only 1 point.

Score of 0:
• Incorrect response
  Examples: the right to bear arms; the right to vote; the right to go to school; any freedoms other than those listed in the chart
• Vague response that does not address the question
  Examples: right to do what you want; Catholic; Protestant; freedom to do stuff
• No response

Question 8  Which freedom allows citizens to write their senators asking for a law to correct something they think is wrong?

Score of 1:
• Identifies the freedom that allows citizens to write to their senators
  Examples: freedom of petition; petition

Score of 0:
• Incorrect response
  Examples: freedom of speech; freedom of religion; assembly; press
• Vague response that does not address the question
  Examples: the right to ask the government to correct things they think are wrong; the right to vote
• No response
Question 9  Which important document includes the Bill of Rights?

Score of 1:
• Identifies the document that includes the Bill of Rights
  
  Examples: Constitution; the Constitution of the United States; the U. S. Constitution;
  N. Y. State Constitution

Note: While the focus of this question is the first amendment of the Bill of Rights in the federal constitution, the New York State Constitution has a Bill of Rights in Article 1. Therefore, the New York State Constitution may also be accepted as a correct response.

Score of 0:
• Incorrect response
  
  Examples: Bill of Rights; the petition; Declaration of Independence; first amendment
• No response
New York State Governors (Questions 10–12)

Question 10  List the names of the two governors missing from this time line.

Score of 2 or 1:
• Award 1 credit (up to a maximum of 2 credits) for identifying W. Averell Harriman and Nelson Rockefeller as the governors missing from the time line
  Other acceptable responses: Rockefeller; Harriman; Nelson A. Rockefeller; Governor Rockefeller; Averell Harriman

Note: The governors missing from the time line may be listed on the lines for question 10 in either order. Only the first two governors listed may be considered in deciding on the number of credits to award. For example, if Averell Harriman is listed along with an incorrect answer on line a, and Nelson Rockefeller is listed on line b, award only 1 credit.

Score of 0:
• Incorrect response
  Examples: Mario Cuomo; Dewey; George Washington; George Pataki; any name other than Harriman or Rockefeller
• Vague response that does not address the question
  Examples: the 2nd governor; the sixth governor; the ones from the 1950s
• No response

Question 11  Who was governor of New York State in 1980?

Score 1:
• Identifies Hugh L. Carey as the governor of New York State in 1980
  Other acceptable responses: Carey; Governor Carey

Score of 0:
• Incorrect response
  Examples: George Pataki; Mario Cuomo; any governor or individual other than Hugh Carey; 1975–1982
• Vague response that does not address the question
  Example: Hugh; the middle governor
• No response
Question 12  Who is the current governor of New York State?

Score of 1:
• Identifies **Eliot Spitzer** as the current governor of New York State
  
  *Other acceptable responses:* Governor Spitzer; Spitzer

Score of 0:
• Incorrect response
  
  *Examples:* George Bush; any individual other than Eliot Spitzer; 2007
• Vague response that does not address the question
  
  *Example:* Eliot; the guy at the end
• No response
# Grade 5 Social Studies Specifications Grid
## November 2007

### Part I
#### Multiple-Choice Questions by Unit and Standard

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