

# FOR TEACHERS ONLY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

# GRADE 5

## ELEMENTARY-LEVEL SOCIAL STUDIES TEST

### RATING GUIDE

#### BOOKLET 2 DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION (DBQ)

NOVEMBER 17, 2009

Updated information regarding the rating of this examination may be posted on the New York State Education Department's web site during the rating period. Visit the site <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/> and select the link "Examination Scoring Information" for any recently posted information regarding this examination. This site should be checked before the rating process for this examination begins and at least one more time before the final scores for the examination are recorded.

#### Contents of the Rating Guide

For **Part III A** (scaffold questions):

- A question-specific rubric

For **Part III B** (DBQ) essays:

- A content-specific rubric
- Prescored anchor papers. Score levels 4 and 1 have two papers each, score levels 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 with scoring commentaries

## 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 2009 edition of the test manual can be found at [www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/elintsocest.html](http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/elintsocest.html). Click on the manual under Grade 5.

### Rating the Part III B 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 specific 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 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. Do *not* round up essay scores.

### Rating the Part III A (Scaffold) Questions

(1) Follow a similar procedure for training raters.

(2) The scaffold questions need only be scored by one rater.

(3) The scores for each scaffold question may be recorded in the student's test booklet.

(4) Each correct response in Part III A has a score of 0.5.

(5) If the total Part III A score ends in .5, round **up** to the *nearest* whole number before recording the total Part III A score.

The scoring coordinator will be responsible for organizing the movement of papers, calculating a final score for each student's essay, recording that score on the student's Part I answer sheet *or* on the last page of test booklet 2, and determining the student's final test score. The conversion chart for this test is located on the Department's web site <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/>. Only the chart for the November 2009 test may be used for determining the final test score.

**Grade 5 Elementary-Level Social Studies**  
**Part III A—Content-Specific Rubric**  
**Short-Answer Questions**  
**November 2009**

**Scoring Notes:**

1. Correct responses in Part III A are awarded  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit. The maximum number of credits for this part of the test is **6**.
2. If a student's **total** credits for Part III A ends in 0.5, round **up** to the *nearest* whole number. For example, if the total credit is 4.5, round up to 5 and place that score on the student's Part I answer sheet *or* on page 10 of test booklet 2 *and* on the back cover of test booklet 2.

**Document 1**

**1777**



**1959**



Source: Patricia Ryon Quiri, *The American Flag*, Children's Press, 1998 (adapted)

**The Flag's Birthday**

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress authorized the use of a new flag to symbolize [represent] the newly formed United States of America. At the time, the flag consisted of thirteen stripes, alternating red and white, and a union of thirteen white stars on a blue field. Although Congress changed the flag several times between 1777 and 1959, June 14 is considered the “birthday” of the original American flag. . . .

Source: Editors of Sharpman.com, *The Care and Display of the American Flag*, Stewart Tabori and Chang, 2004 (adapted)

**Question 1 What did the first American flag represent?**

**Score of 0.5:**

- States that the first American flag represented **the newly formed United States of America**  
*Other Acceptable Responses:* United States of America; United States; a union of states; our country/my nation

**Note:** Although not mentioned in documents 1a and 1b, for the purposes of this question, the response **freedom** is a reasonable inference and should be accepted for credit.

**Score 0:**

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* Second Continental Congress; June 14th
- Vague response  
*Examples:* birthday; change; union of stars
- No response

## Document 2

After 1818, more and more states joined the Union. But if a new stripe were added for each new state, the flag would get too big. Congressman Peter H. Wendover of New York City had an idea. He suggested that the number of stripes should always be thirteen in honor of the thirteen original [colonies] states, and that a star should be added for each new state that joined the Union. . . .

Source: Patricia Ryon Quiri, *The American Flag*, Children's Press

### Question 2a What do the stripes on the flag represent?

#### Score of 0.5:

- States that the stripes on the flag represent the **thirteen original states**  
*Other Acceptable Responses:* original states; thirteen original colonies; thirteen colonies

#### Score of 0:

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* 50 states; new states that joined the Union
- Vague response  
*Examples:* thirteen; states; colonies
- No response

### Question 2b What do the stars on the flag represent?

#### Score of 0.5:

- States that the stars on the flag represent **states that joined the Union**  
*Other Acceptable Responses:* all the states; states

#### Score of 0:

- Incorrect response  
*Example:* union; honor
- Vague response  
*Examples:* things; places; cities and states; 50; joined the Union
- No response

### Document 3

Every part of our [United States] Flag has a meaning which we American citizens should be able to read. The blue field and its fifty white stars stand for the Union of our fifty states, that is, for the United States of America. The thirteen stripes of red and white stand for the thirteen original colonies, which became the first thirteen states of the United States. The colors of the Flag are also symbolic. For hundreds of years red has been the color for courage. The red in our Flag represents courage, too — the courage of our forefathers who fought for independence, the courage of patriots who died for their country, and the courage of all the brave men and women who helped to build our nation. White stands for liberty — the spirit of America. Blue, true blue, is the color of the heavens and stands for loyalty — the loyalty of all Americans to their country and their Constitution. Courage, liberty, loyalty — this is the message that the “Red, White, and Blue” has for us. . . .

Source: Brown and Guadagnolo, *America Is My Country*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1961 (adapted)

#### Question 3a What does the red on our flag represent?

##### Score of 0.5:

- States that red on our flag represents **courage**  
*Other Acceptable Responses:* courage of our forefathers who fought for independence; courage of the brave men and women who helped build our nation; courage of patriots who died for their country

##### Score of 0:

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* liberty; loyalty; stripes
- Vague response  
*Examples:* the message; America; spirit
- No response

**Question 3b What does the white on our flag represent?**

**Score of 0.5:**

- States that white on our flag represents **liberty**  
*Other Acceptable Responses:* spirit of America; freedom

**Score of 0:**

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* courage; loyalty; stars; stripes; original 13 colonies
- Vague response  
*Examples:* the message; America; spirit
- No response

**Question 3c What does the blue on our flag represent?**

**Score of 0.5:**

- States that blue on our flag represents **loyalty**  
*Other Acceptable Responses:* loyalty of all Americans to their country/to their Constitution;  
color of the heavens

**Score of 0:**

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* liberty; courage; union of our 50 states
- Vague response  
*Examples:* Constitution; to all Americans; our country
- No response

## Document 4

The original pledge to the flag was written and published in 1892. When people recite the Pledge of Allegiance, they are promising to be loyal to the United States of America.

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Source: <http://www.ushistory.org>

### Question 4 What are people promising to do when they say the Pledge of Allegiance?

#### Score of 0.5:

- States that people are promising **to be loyal to the United States** when they say the Pledge of Allegiance  
*Other Acceptable Responses:* loyalty to the United States; allegiance to America/the flag; be loyal to our country; be loyal

#### Score of 0:

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* liberty and justice for all; one nation; republic; loyalty to a state; flag
- Vague response  
*Examples:* promising; pledge; allegiance
- No response

### Displaying the Flag



Source: Patricia Ryon Quiri, *The American Flag*, Children's Press, 1998 (adapted)

- Raise it quickly and lower it slowly with ceremony
- Do not let it touch anything beneath it — the ground, the floor, or water
- Do not place an object or symbol of any kind above the flag
- Display it from sunrise to sunset
- Display it at night only if properly lighted
- Do not display it in bad weather unless it is waterproof

**Question 5** Based on this document, list *two* rules for displaying the flag.

**Score of 1.0 or 0.5:**

- Award  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit (up to a maximum of 1 credit) for each *different* rule for displaying the flag as listed in the document

*Examples:* Raise it quickly/lower it slowly  
Raise it quickly and lower it slowly with ceremony  
Do not let it touch anything beneath it—the ground, the floor, or water  
Do not place an object or symbol of any kind above the flag  
Display it from sunrise to sunset  
Display it at night only if properly lighted  
Do not display it in bad weather unless it is waterproof

**Note:** To receive maximum credit, *two different* rules must be stated. For example, *do not display it in bad weather* and *don't use when it's raining* are the same rule expressed in different words. In similar cases, award only  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit.

**Score of 0:**

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* display it; put the flag on a ship/by water; allow it to touch the ground; place it below another flag
- Vague response  
*Examples:* rain; lights; ceremony; at night; raise it
- No response

## Document 6

“The Star-Spangled Banner” became our national anthem in 1931. The words were written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812. He was happy to see the flag still flying at the end of a battle with Great Britain. He described the flag as a star-spangled banner.

The Star-Spangled Banner  
*Words by Francis Scott Key*

O say, can you see, by the dawn’s early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,  
O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming!  
And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there:  
  
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave? . . .

Source: Library of Congress

**Question 6 Which symbol of freedom is being described in our national anthem?**

**Score of 0.5:**

- States the symbol of freedom being described in our national anthem  
*Examples:* our flag; the Star-Spangled Banner; United States flag; the stars and stripes

**Score of 0:**

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* land of the free; home of the brave; rockets; bombs
- Vague response  
*Examples:* broad stripes; bright stars; banner
- No response

## Document 7

Raising our flag is a symbol of our country and our freedom. The flag has been raised in battle, at events symbolizing our accomplishments, and lowered during times of great sadness. It reminds us of the sacrifices and achievements many people have made for our country.



### Question 7a What does raising our flag symbolize?

#### Score of 0.5:

- States that raising our flag symbolizes **our country/our freedom**  
*Other Acceptable Responses:* sacrifices or achievements made for our country; a victory in battle; the achievement of the United States landing on the Moon; accomplishments made by our country

#### Score of 0:

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* people in our country; U.S. marines; Alan Shepard; American presidents; Apollo 14; Iwo Jima
- Vague response  
*Examples:* lowered during times of great sadness; good things
- No response

### Question 7b What does a flag flown at half-staff symbolize?

#### Score of 0.5:

- States that a flag flown at half-staff symbolizes **times of great sadness**  
*Other Acceptable Responses:* honors the death of someone important/Senator Edward Kennedy/New York State soldier serving in Iraq; shows that someone important has died; honors a president who has died; great sadness

#### Score of 0:

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* our accomplishments; freedom; our country; raising the flag at Iwo Jima
- Vague response  
*Examples:* someone important; a president; bad things
- No response

**Grade 5 Elementary Level Social Studies**  
**Part III B—Content-Specific Rubric**  
**Document-Based Question**  
**November 2009**

**Historical Background:**

Throughout the history of the United States, the American flag has been an important symbol of freedom and democracy for its citizens.

**Task:** Write about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States

**Scoring Notes:**

1. The response to this document-based question should discuss the history of the United States flag *and* its importance as a symbol of the United States.
2. Using separate or multiple pieces of information from a graphic and/or text found on the same page constitutes the use of *only one* document.

## *Key Ideas from the Documents*

### History of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol

<b>Document 1</b>	<p><i>History</i>—Flag authorized to represent the newly formed United States of America          Authorized by the Second Continental Congress in 1777          Consisted of 13 red and white stripes and 13 white stars on a blue field in 1777          Consisted of 13 red and white stripes and 50 white stars on a blue field in 1959          Birthday celebrated on June 14</p>
<b>Document 2</b>	<p><i>History</i>—New stripes are not added for new states joining the Union          Stripes will always be 13 in honor of the thirteen original states          Star is added for each new state</p>
<b>Document 3</b>	<p><i>History</i>—Blue field and its 50 white stars stand for the Union of 50 states          Thirteen stripes of red and white stand for the original 13 colonies/states  <i>Symbolism</i>—Colors of the flag          Red—courage of our forefathers that fought for independence              courage of patriots who died for our country              courage of all the brave men and women who helped build our nation          White—liberty; spirit of America          Blue, color of the heavens—loyalty              loyalty of all Americans to their country and their Constitution</p>
<b>Document 4</b>	<p><i>History</i>—Pledge of Allegiance written and published in 1892  <i>Symbolism</i>—Pledge of Allegiance to the flag promises loyalty to the United States of America</p>
<b>Document 5</b>	<p><i>Symbolism</i>—Rules for displaying the flag to honor it</p>
<b>Document 6</b>	<p><i>History</i>—“The Star Spangled Banner” written because the flag was still flying at the end of a battle with Great Britain          Written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812          Became national anthem in 1931  <i>Symbolism</i>—Described as a star-spangled banner          Became a symbol of freedom</p>
<b>Document 7</b>	<p><i>History</i>—Raised by U.S. marines at Iwo Jima in 1945          Raised by Alan Shepard on the Moon in February 1971          Flown at half-staff for important people who have died, such as presidents  <i>Symbolism</i>—Raised as a symbol of our country and our freedom          Raised in battle and at events that symbolize accomplishments          Lowered in times of great sadness/flown at half-staff in times of great sadness          Reminds us of the sacrifices and achievements many people made for our country</p>

#### **Score of 4**

- Thoroughly develops the task of writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Consistently includes accurate information from at least *four* documents (see Key Ideas chart); may include portions of the documents that support specific points made in the essay
- Provides supporting evidence, using many relevant examples, reasons, and details; may include relevant outside information related to the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization, including a beginning (introduction), middle (body), and ending (conclusion)

#### **Score of 3**

- Develops the task of writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Includes accurate information from some of the documents; may include portions of the documents that support specific points made in the essay
- Provides supporting evidence, using some relevant examples, reasons, and details; may include some minor inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; may lack an introduction or a conclusion

#### **Score of 2**

- Develops the task of writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Includes limited information from the documents *or* consists primarily of relevant information copied from the documents
- Provides little supporting evidence, using few relevant examples, reasons, and details; may include some inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a weakness in organization (may go off the topic; may list information without tying it together; may lack an introduction and/or a conclusion; may lack focus)

#### **Score of 1**

- Minimally develops the task *or* shows a limited understanding of the task
- Lacks information from the documents *or* makes vague or unclear references to the documents *or* consists of relevant and irrelevant information copied from the documents
- Provides little or no supporting evidence; may include inaccuracies
- Lacks a plan of organization

#### **Score of 0**

Fails to develop the task; *OR* is totally unrelated to the topic; *OR* provides no accurate information; *OR* includes only the historical background and/or task as copied from the test booklet; *OR* includes only entire documents copied from the test booklet; *OR* is illegible; *OR* is a blank paper

Throughout history of the United States of America, the American Flag has remained an important symbol of freedom and democracy to its citizens.

Since June 14, 1777, America has been represented by our Stars and Stripes, our American Flag. Although the flag has had alterations, it still stands for the same thing. At first the American Flag had thirteen stripes, alternating from red to white and thirteen stars representing the thirteen colonies. In 1818, it came to be the flag we see today. In 1818, new states were added to America. If there were one

stripe for each state, the flag would be way too big. Wadsworth of New York decided it would make more sense to add a star for every state. We would still keep the stripes of red and white representing the original thirteen colonies. The flag's colors would be the same and still represent the same thing. Red represents courage, white represents liberty and blue represents loyalty. Courage, liberty and loyalty, our country!

We have two major ways to show our loyalty to our flag. In school every morning, we say a pledge of allegiance. You may not think anything about it, but that is the best way to show loyalty to our country. The pledge

of allegiance was originally written and published in 1892. The other major way to show our loyalty is to sing the "Star Spangled Banner." The Star Spangled Banner" was written by Francis Scott Key during the war of 1812 against the British. He was amazed to see our flag still waving even after all the bombs that hit their fort.

Displaying the flag is very important too. The flag should be raised at sunrise and lowered at sunset. The American flag should never touch anything beneath it. It shouldn't be raised in bad weather unless it is water proof. When the flag is raised, it symbolizes an accomplishment. A flag at half-staff

stands for a death. A lowered flag  
stands for great sorrow.

Our American Flag has  
represented its freedom and democracy  
throughout history. The American Flag  
is an amazing representation of our  
country!

**Anchor Level 4-A**

**The response:**

- Thoroughly develops the task by writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Consistently includes accurate information from all the documents
- Provides supporting evidence, using many relevant examples, reasons, and details (since June 14, 1777, America has been represented by our stars and stripes, our American flag; courage, liberty, and loyalty, our country); includes relevant outside information (in school every morning, we say a pledge of allegiance; our flag was still waving after all the bombs that hit their fort)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction, body, and conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response is well written with a logical sequence that integrates accurate data from different documents and some outside information into each paragraph. The facts are restated in an original manner with sufficient supporting details.

Our flag is a very important symbol. It has been through good times and bad times, wars and depression, and a lot of changes. This is its history.

Our flag was put into use on June 14, 1777. It symbolized the new USA, with 13 stars and 13 stripes to represent the 13 original states. As more and more states joined the Union, the flag got more stars and stripes. Eventually, the flag got crowded. Then, Congressman Peter H. Wendover had an idea. "Why don't we have 13 stripes to represent the original 13 states and 1 star for each state in the Union?" he suggested. Everyone liked his idea, and they changed the flag. The flag is a very important symbol. How important, you ask? It's so

important, it has it's own rules for displaying it! Every part of it symbolizes something! The 50 stars stand for the 50 states. The 13 stripes represent the original 13 states. The red stands for the courage of everyone who helped build our nation. The white stands for our liberty. Finally, the blue symbolizes our loyalty to our country. That's why our flag is so important. That's why you should treat it with respect.

**Anchor Level 4-B**

**The response:**

- Thoroughly develops the task by writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Consistently includes accurate information from documents 1, 2, 3, and 5
- Provides supporting evidence, using many relevant examples, reasons, and details (the flag symbolized the new USA with 13 stars and 13 stripes to represent the 13 original states; red stands for the courage of everyone who helped build our nation); includes relevant outside information (the flag has been through good times and bad times, wars and depression; you should treat the flag with respect)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization, lacks a formal introduction and conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 4. Information chosen from the documents is expressed in an original essay with some outside information. This response is a good example of separating the discussion of the history and the symbolism of the flag.

Throughout the history of the American flag it has remained an important symbol of our freedom and democracy. I am writing about our flag's history.

On June 14, 1777 the second Continental Congress authorized use of a new flag. At that time there were only 13 states. Congress changed the flag many times between 1777 and 1959. June 14 is the birthday of the flag.

After 1818 a lot of states joined the Union. If a new stripe was added for each new state the flag would be huge. Congressman Peter A. decided that the number of stripes should stay at thirteen and add a star for each new state.

All the colors on our flag

have a meaning. Red stands for courage. Blue stands for loyalty. White stands for liberty. The stripes on our flag stand for the original 13 states. The blue field and the fifty white stars stand for the Union of our states.

There are certain ways you have to use the flag. You have to raise it up quickly and lower it slowly. You can't let it touch the ground, floor, or water. You can't place any symbol over it. You have to display it from sunrise till sunset. Only display it at night if there are lights on it. Don't put it in bad weather unless it is waterproof.

The flag is a very important symbol of our country. That is why it is called the flag of the United States of America.

### Anchor Level 3-A

**The response:**

- Develops the task by writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Includes accurate information from documents 1, 2, 3, and 5; includes portions of the documents that support specific points
- Provides supporting evidence, using some relevant examples, reasons, and details (Congress changed the flag many times between 1777 and 1959; red stands for courage; blue stands for loyalty; white stands for liberty)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes a good introduction and conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response shows an understanding of the task and the documents. When addressing the history of the flag, the response uses sufficient facts and supporting details with some copied information. When addressing the symbols of the flag, most of the facts are listed as they appear in the relevant documents.

There are many way to write about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States. Apollo 14 commander Alan Shepard placed the United States flag on the moon. Francis Scott Key wrote the Star-Spangled Banner during the war of 1812. On June 14, 1777 the Second continental congress authorized the use of a new flag to represent the newly formed United States of America.

One way the United States flag and its symbol is important

to us is the colors, there are three colors on the flag. All the colors mean something. Red means the courage of our fore fathers who fought for independence. White stands for liberty—the spirit of America.

Another way the United States flag and its symbol is important to us is its stripes, there are 50 stars and 13 stripes. The stripes and stars mean something. The stars mean a new state. The stripes mean the 13 original States.

The last way the United States flag and its symbol is important to us is Displaying it, there

we things you can and cant  
do with the flag. You can never  
drop it. You should raise it quickly.  
You should also lower it slowly.  
You should display it from sunrise  
and sunset.

All in all, now you can see  
many importances about our  
flag.

Anchor Level 3-B

**The response:**

- Develops the task by writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Includes accurate information from documents 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7
- Provides supporting evidence, using some relevant examples, reasons, and details (Apollo 14 commander Alan Shepard placed the United States flag on the Moon; you should raise it quickly); includes some minor inaccuracy (the stars mean a new state)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a weak conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 3. The history of the flag is addressed by using accurate facts, but this portion lists key facts without tying them together. The portion relating to the symbols of the flag is well-written with accurate facts and supporting details.

My essay is mainly about the history of the American flag. Also its importance symbol of the United States.

Using the details from the photograph in document 1. The first American flag had 13 stars and 13 strips. Those stars and strips stood for the newly formed United States.

According to the information in document 2 after 1818 more and more states joined the Union. 50 more strips had to be added to the flag but the flag was starting to get too big. So a man named Peter H. Wendover of New York City came up with an idea, add stars instead of strips. The 13 strips are in honor of the original states.

In document 7 it shows that when an America flag is lowered it is a time of great sad. When an American flag is put up our raised that is a symbol of our country and its freedom.

The information in document 5 explains that there are rules to the American flag like Do not place an object or symbol of any kind above the flag.

In conclusion you can see that The American has a lot of symbolic meaning it is very important.

**Anchor Level 3-C**

**The response:**

- Develops the task by writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Includes accurate information from documents 1, 2, 5, and 7; includes portions of the documents that support specific points
- Provides supporting evidence, using some relevant examples, reasons, and details (the first American flag had 13 stars and 13 stripes; those stars and stripes stood for the newly formed United States; flag is a symbol of our country and its freedom)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes a brief introduction and conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response selects pertinent facts from the documents, but lacks continuity in placing the information together.

Throughout the history of United States, the American flag has remained an important symbol of freedom and democracy for its citizens. In these paragraphs you will read about the flag and about what it presents.

The flag has 13 stripes for 13 colonies. In 1818 the congressman Peter A. Wendover suggested to keep the 13 stripes for 13 colonies and add more stars for more states. The Pledge of Allegiance was that the people promised to be loyal to United States of America. That is what the Pledge is all about.

Each color stripe on the flag means something else. The red stripes stand for the courage of our

forefathers who fought for independence. The white represents liberty. The blue represents loyalty. Raising the flag symbolizes our country and our freedom. The flag flown at half staff symbolizes the honor to someone who has died, such as an American President. This is what the flag symbolizes.

In conclusion, you just read about the flag and about what it presents.

**Anchor Level 2-A**

**The response:**

- Develops the task of writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Includes limited information from documents 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7
- Provides little supporting evidence, using few relevant examples, reasons, and details (the Pledge of Allegiance was that people promised to be loyal to the United States; the flag flown at half-staff symbolizes the honor to someone who has died, such as an American President)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the historical background and a weak conclusion.

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response consists primarily of relevant information from the documents in a list format with only limited supporting details.

The American flag is important because it symbolizes freedom and democracy for its citizens. This happened throughout the history of the United States. The flag represents a lot of things. The following documents support that the U.S flag was so important.

First the flag symbolizes many things shown in document 7. It symbolizes our freedom and democracy. Next the flag represents courage, loyalty and liberty as shown in documents 3 and 2. Courage, loyalty and liberty come from the colors red, white and blue. The 13 stripes represent the 13 original states. The Stars represent each of the States. Another thing, is why the flag is so important, this is shown in documents 3 and 1. The flag shows freedom and loyalty to our country. Finally the flag means our

Country is strong, <sup>is</sup> a free country and that we have courage, loyalty and freedom. This is all shown in documents 3 and very little in document 6.

In conclusion the flag is very important and represents our country very well. It has always been their risen proud, even through battles.

**Anchor Level 2-B**

**The response:**

- Develops the task by writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Includes limited information from documents 2, 3, and 7
- Provides little supporting evidence, using some relevant examples, reasons, and details (13 stripes represent 13 original states; courage, loyalty, and liberty come from the three colors red, white, and blue)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response accurately rephrases facts and details about the symbolism of the flag. However, the response becomes repetitious, mentioning the same information multiple times. References are made to documents 1 and 6, but no information from these documents is included.

Through the years the flag was a symbol of freedom. The flag means a lot to us. But this is the history and how the flag is a symbol of the U.S.A

In document 3 it says blue stands for being loyal. Red is for the courage of our fore fathers. White is for is for the spirit of America.

That is a symbol. In document 2 they decided to keep 13 stripes for the original thirteen colonies and 50 stars for a state that will join the union. In

document 1 in June 14 1777 the flag was going to be changed insted of thir teen stars to 50 stars. On

June 14 the flag was changed. In document 7 it says our flag

stands for our accomplishments

That's why we raise it. But it gets lower when an American president dies.

Our Flag stands for America. But it really stands for more things. That is my essay on the American flag.

**Anchor Level 2-C**

**The response:**

- Develops the task of writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Includes limited information from documents 1, 2, 3, and 7
- Provides little supporting evidence, using few relevant examples, reasons, and details (blue stands for being loyal; they decided to keep 13 stripes for the original 13 colonies); includes some inaccuracies (on June 14, 1777, the flag was going to be changed instead of thirteen stars to 50 stars; on June 14, the flag was changed)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 2. It demonstrates an understanding of the task by paraphrasing random facts without tying them together. The inaccuracies indicate a limited understanding of some of the documents.

Our flag represents our culture, freedom and rights. Our flag is a big symbol of freedom. The following documents support the American flag.

Document 7 shows that our flag gives us freedom. Our flag gives us freedom because there are flags all over. Also many states joined our union. That created 13 colonies and 50 states.

Document 4 supports that the flag supports our country. The flag supports our country because all the states joined together and made one big country.

The flag supports our country because the president agreed on a new flag. Another reason why the flag supports our country is because it survived World War Two.

Document 3 clearly states that the flag also represents sacrifices. The flag represents sacrifices because the forefathers fought for independence and they

Another reason why the flag supports  
sacrifices is because the white  
on the flag stands for freedom.  
One more reason is that the blue  
on the flag represents loyalty.  
Document 5 supports that the  
four fathers fought for independence  
and they died. Another reason is that  
the flag has rules like don't display it  
in bad weather. Another reason is  
do not place any symbol above the  
flag. In conclusion the American  
flag is very important. It represents  
our country. It represents our freedom.

Anchor Level 1-A

**The response:**

- Minimally develops the task
- Makes unclear references to several documents
- Provides little supporting evidence (it represents our country); includes inaccuracies (our flag gives us freedom because there are flags all over; the flag supports our country because the president agreed on a new flag)
- Demonstrates a weak plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 1. The reference to the meaning of the flag colors is randomly placed between many unrelated statements. The few accurate facts are often attributed to the wrong document.

Red Represents Courage.  
White stands for Liberty,  
Loyalty. they're promising to  
be loyal to the united states  
of America Raise it quickly  
and lower it slowly and with  
ceremony. Do not Place  
any object or symbol above  
the flag. the original pledge to  
the flag was written and  
published 1892. When people recite  
the pledge of allegiance they are  
promising to be loyal to the  
united states of America. Us  
marines raise the flag at  
Iowajama  
~~Iowa Jima~~ the famous battle during  
world war two. My conclusion is  
have freedom for our country.

## Anchor Level 1-B

### **The response:**

- Shows a limited understanding of the task
- Consists of relevant information copied from documents 3, 4, 5, and 7
- Provides little supporting evidence (US marines raise the flag at Iwo Jima, the famous battle during World War II)
- Lacks a plan of organization

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response consists of a random list of facts copied from the documents without tying them together.

The American flag has remained as a symbol of freedom and democracy throughout the history of it. This'll be about the American flag.

Information of the American flag is that every part of the flag has a meaning. The red of the flag represents the courage. The white of the flag represents liberty. The blue of the flag represents loyalty. The red and white stripes represent the first thirteen colonies. Also the stars represent the states.

More information of the American flag is how to display the flag. One thing you have to do is raise the flag quickly and bring it down slowly. Do not let the flag touch anything lower than what it is. Don't put anything above the flag at all time. Only display it from sunrise to sunset. You can only display it at night correctly lighted. Do not show it with bad weather unless it is waterproof.

More information is why "Star Spangled Banner" is our national anthem. The reason "Star Spangled Banner" is our national anthem is Francis Scott Key was happy to see the flag still up after the battle with England in 1812. He described how happy he was.

Last information is how, when, and why the flag symbolizes in different ways. The American flag represent

our country and freedom. If you see a flag half raised it symbolizes someone who died with honor. During battles and wars the flag is up. Astronauts put the American flag on planets.

The American flag still symbolizes the accomplishments of the United States. Also symbolizes the freedom and democracy.

On June 14, 1777 the Second Continental Congress authorized the use of our new flag, to represent our country and our freedom. This flag has thirteen alternating stripes (Red and White). These stripes represent the original thirteen states. Some of the stripes are red to represent courage. The other stripes are white to represent liberty. This flag also has a blue field with fifty white stars on it to represent the fifty states of the United States of America. This field is blue to represent loyalty. If something sad happens or somebody important dies the flag is lowered to half staff to honor the person that died. When the flag is raised it is a symbol of our country and our freedom. If the flag is displayed it should not be in bad weather unless it is waterproof. Never let the flag touch anything beneath it. The American Flag is a

important symbol to the United States because it symbolizes our freedom and helps us remember the men and women who sacrificed their lives defending our country.

Throughout the history of the United States, the American flag has remained an important symbol of freedom and democracy for its citizens. This essay will tell you about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States.

On June 14, 1777, the Second Congress authorized the use of a new flag to represent the newly formed United States of America. June 14 is the "birthday of the original American flag said

document 1. Doc 2 said because more and more states became part of the union then we would have to put 1 star for each state. They were going to put one stripe per state but the flag would get too big. So they kept 13 stripes for the 13 original states. Doc 3 said that every color on the American flag has a meaning. The color red means courage. Courage of our forefathers who fought for independence. The color white stands for liberty. The spirit of America. The color blue, true blue means the heavens and stands for loyalty. The loyalty of

all Americans to their country and their Constitution. Document 4 explains that people promise something and that it was first written in 1892. People promised to be loyal to the United States of America.

Now you know about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States.

On June 14, 1777 the second continental congress authorized the use of a new flag to represent the newly formed United States of America. The flag consisted of thirteen stripes. Congress changed the flag several times between the years of 1777-1959. After 1818 more and more states joined the union. In 1892 the original pledge to the flag was written and already published. The star spangled banner became our national anthem in 1931. U.S. Marines raised the flag at Iwo Jima during World War II, 1945. Apollo 14 commander Alan Shepard placed the United States flag on the moon in 1971 in February.

Throughout the history of the United States the American flag has remained an important symbol of freedom and democracy for its citizens. The history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States.

In Document 2 the people put 13 stars for 13 states on June 14, 1777

In Document 5 people need to make rules for the flag that way people could show respect for the flag.

In Document 3 the people made the colors of the flag what it means the red flag means it stands for courage.

In Document 4 they were saying to pledge of allegiance to our flag they were promising to the flag so they will not do nothing bad. The history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States

### Practice Paper A —Score Level 3

**The response:**

- Develops the task by writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Includes accurate information from documents 3, 5, 6, and 7
- Provides supporting evidence, using some relevant examples, reasons, and details (red and white stripes represent the first thirteen colonies; if you see a flag half raised it symbolizes someone who died with honor); includes a minor inaccuracy (astronauts put flag on planets)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes both an introduction and conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 3. This response has a satisfactory organization with an original introduction and conclusion. Both aspects of the task are developed with supporting details. Although parts of the response are written in a list format, there is enough explanation given to tie the facts together.

### Practice Paper B—Score Level 4

**The response:**

- Thoroughly develops the task by writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Consistently includes accurate information from documents 1, 2, 5, and 7
- Provides supporting evidence, using many relevant examples, reasons, and details (flag has a blue field with fifty white stars to represent the fifty states of the United States of America; flag is lowered to half-staff to honor the person that died; symbolizes our freedom and helps us remember the men and women who sacrificed their lives defending our country)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization, lacks a formal introduction and conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response uses carefully selected and accurate data as it rephrases important details with supporting evidence. Despite its brevity, a thorough understanding of the task is demonstrated.

### Practice Paper C—Score Level 3

**The response:**

- Develops the task by writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Includes accurate information from documents 1, 2, 3, and 4
- Provides supporting evidence, using some relevant examples, reasons, and details (they were going to put one stripe per state but the flag would be too big; they kept 13 stripes for the 13 original states; white stands for liberty, the spirit of America)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response is a fairly well-organized essay that demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the task by summarizing key ideas from the documents.

### Practice Paper D—Score Level 1

**The response:**

- Minimally develops the task
- Consists of relevant and irrelevant information copied from documents 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7
- Provides little supporting evidence (Congress changed the flag several times between the years 1777 and 1959; U.S. Marines raised the flag at Iwo Jima during World War II)
- Demonstrates a weakness in organization; lacks an introduction and a conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response strings together random information from the documents, demonstrating a limited understanding of the task.

### Practice Paper E—Score Level 2

**The response:**

- Develops the task by writing about the history of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States
- Includes limited information from documents 2, 3, 4, and 5
- Provides little supporting evidence, using few relevant examples, reasons, and details (the people put 13 stars for 13 states on June 14, 1777; red flag means courage); includes an inaccuracy (saying the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag, they were promising to the flag they will not do nothing bad)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; copies the introduction from the historical background and task; lacks a conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 2. It demonstrates an understanding of the task by summarizing some documents.



## Grade 5 Elementary-Level Social Studies

### Descriptions of Performance Levels

Performance Level	Range of Final Scores	Descriptions
4  Meeting the Standards with Distinction	85-100	Shows evidence of superior understanding of the content, the concepts, and the skills required for elementary-level achievement in each of the learning standards and key ideas assessed in social studies.  Shows evidence of superior ability to apply the social studies content, concepts, and skills required for entering intermediate-level academic environments.
3  Meeting the Standards	65-84	Shows knowledge and understanding of the content, the concepts, and the skills required for elementary-level achievement of the five learning standards that are assessed in social studies.  Shows the ability to apply the social studies content, concepts, and skills required for entering intermediate-level academic environments.
2  Not Fully Meeting the Standards	58-64	Shows only minimal knowledge and understanding of the content, the concepts, and the skills required for elementary-level achievement of the five learning standards that are assessed in social studies.  Shows only minimal knowledge of the social studies content, concepts, and skills required for entering intermediate-level academic environments.
1  Not Meeting the Standards	0-57	Is unable to show proficiency in understanding the content, the concepts, and the skills required for elementary-level achievement in any or most of the learning standards and key ideas assessed in social studies.  Is unable to show evidence of an ability to apply the social studies content, concepts, and skills required for entering intermediate-level academic environments.

### Part III

#### Specifications Chart for Document-Based Question

TOPIC	STANDARDS TESTED
History of the United States flag and its importance as a symbol	Standards: 1 and 5 Units: 6, 7, and 9

**The *Chart for Determining the Final Examination Score for the November 2009 Elementary-Level Social Studies Test*, will be posted on the Department's web site <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/> by noon of the second day of the examination. Conversion charts provided for the previous administrations of the Elementary-Level Social Studies Test 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.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/exameval>.
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.