

# FOR TEACHERS ONLY

The University of the State of New York  
REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

VOLUME  
**1 OF 2**  
MC & THEMATIC

## UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

Thursday, January 26, 2017 — 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.nysesd.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 ..... 1 .....	13 ..... 2 .....	26 ..... 2 .....	39 ..... 4 .....
2 ..... 2 .....	14 ..... 4 .....	27 ..... 3 .....	40 ..... 2 .....
3 ..... 1 .....	15 ..... 3 .....	28 ..... 2 .....	41 ..... 1 .....
4 ..... 3 .....	16 ..... 3 .....	29 ..... 4 .....	42 ..... 4 .....
5 ..... 1 .....	17 ..... 1 .....	30 ..... 3 .....	43 ..... 3 .....
6 ..... 3 .....	18 ..... 1 .....	31 ..... 3 .....	44 ..... 1 .....
7 ..... 2 .....	19 ..... 4 .....	32 ..... 4 .....	45 ..... 4 .....
8 ..... 1 .....	20 ..... 2 .....	33 ..... 2 .....	46 ..... 3 .....
9 ..... 4 .....	21 ..... 4 .....	34 ..... 1 .....	47 ..... 4 .....
10 ..... 3 .....	22 ..... 2 .....	35 ..... 4 .....	48 ..... 1 .....
11 ..... 4 .....	23 ..... 3 .....	36 ..... 2 .....	49 ..... 1 .....
12 ..... 3 .....	24 ..... 1 .....	37 ..... 2 .....	50 ..... 2 .....
	25 ..... 3 .....	38 ..... 1 .....	

## **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.**

**United States History and Government**  
**Content-Specific Rubric**  
**Thematic Essay**  
**January 2017**

**Theme: Cultural and Intellectual Life—Influence of Mass Media**

Since the earliest days of the nation, mass media have significantly influenced the political, economic, and social life of the United States and American society. These media include pamphlets, newspapers, books, magazines, posters, photographs, radio, films, and television.

**Task:** Select *two* examples in which mass media have influenced the United States and for *each*

- Describe the historical circumstances surrounding the issue addressed by mass media
- Discuss *positive and/or negative* effects of this use of mass media on the United States and/or American society

You may use any example in which mass media have influenced the political, economic, and/or social life of the United States. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include:

*Common Sense*—Thomas Paine

*Uncle Tom's Cabin*—Harriet Beecher Stowe  
yellow journalism—William Randolph Hearst

and Joseph Pulitzer

*How the Other Half Lives*—Jacob Riis

*The Jungle*—Upton Sinclair

fireside chats—President Franklin D. Roosevelt

photo journalism—civil rights protests

televised nightly newscasts—Vietnam War

*Washington Post*—investigation of the Nixon administration

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Scoring Notes:**

1. This thematic essay has a minimum of *six* components (for *each* of *two* examples in which mass media have influenced the United States, discussing the historical circumstances surrounding the issue addressed by mass media and *at least two* positive *and/or* negative effects of *each* use of mass media on the United States and/or American society).
2. The historical circumstances surrounding the issue addressed by mass media may be discussed from a broad or a narrow perspective, e.g., the publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was prompted by the evils of slavery or by the passage of a stronger fugitive slave act in 1850 or a combination of both.
3. The description of the historical circumstances surrounding the issue may or may not include details about the specific mass media, but the specific mass media and relevant details should be included in the discussion of the effects.
4. Two examples of mass media with similar historical circumstances and effects, such as muckraking exposés, may be discussed as long as the response includes distinct and separate information for each.
5. The positive and/or negative effects of the use of mass media may be discussed from any perspective as long as the position taken is supported by relevant historical facts and examples.
6. Any combination of positive and/or negative effects may be used to address the task.
7. The effects of the use of mass media do not need to be identified as positive or negative as long as the position is implied in the discussion.
8. The positive and/or negative effects of the use of mass media may be immediate or long term.
9. If more than two examples of mass media influencing the United States are discussed, only the first two examples may be scored. However, an exception to this may occur when a student signals the intent to write about two examples, such as muckraking exposés and televised nightly newscasts, and then includes relevant information from multiple examples of muckraking exposés before discussing televised nightly newscasts. In such circumstances, the student has chosen a broader example for one of their two examples and should not be penalized. Please see Anchor Level 3C for an example.

### **Score of 5:**

- Thoroughly develops **all** aspects of the task evenly and in depth for **each** of **two** examples in which mass media have influenced the United States by discussing the historical circumstances surrounding the issue addressed by mass media and *at least two* positive and/or negative effects of **each** use of mass media on the United States and/or American society
- Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates\* information), e.g., *Uncle Tom's Cabin*: connects the brutality of slavery, increasing abolitionist propaganda, and the passage of a stronger fugitive slave act to Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti-slavery novel that strengthened public demand for abolition, escalated sectional tension, and culminated in a bloody civil war that ended slavery; *The Jungle*: connects the laissez-faire attitude toward business, the horrid working conditions faced by immigrant labor, and the activism of the Progressive movement to Upton Sinclair's exposé of the unsanitary meatpacking industry that triggered public outrage, hastened passage of the Meat Inspection Act, and spurred a consumer protection movement with increasing regulation of business.
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details, e.g., *Uncle Tom's Cabin*: slave auctions; families separated; westward expansion of slavery; Compromise of 1850; Simon Legree; Eliza; humanized slaves; condemned by southerners; international best-seller; English reluctance to support the Confederacy; President Abraham Lincoln; Emancipation Proclamation; 13th amendment; *The Jungle*: era of big business; robber barons; Philip Armour; Chicago stockyards; muckrakers; tainted meat; rats; long hours; low pay; socialist; President Theodore Roosevelt; special investigating commission; Pure Food and Drug Act; truth in labeling; FDA; product recalls for e-coli and salmonella
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

### **Score of 4:**

- Develops **all** aspects of the task but may do so somewhat unevenly by discussing one aspect of the task less thoroughly than the other aspects of the task or by discussing one example in which mass media had an influence more thoroughly than the other
- Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates\* information), e.g., *Uncle Tom's Cabin*: discusses how the cruelty of slavery and the passage of a stronger fugitive slave act prompted Harriet Beecher Stowe to write about the terrible treatment of slaves that strengthened abolitionism, increased sectional tension, and led to civil war; *The Jungle*: discusses how the lack of regulations on business and harsh working conditions in the meatpacking plants led Upton Sinclair to write gruesome descriptions of mass-produced meat that shocked the public, prompted the passage of the Meat Inspection Act, and led to further consumer protection legislation
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

### **Score of 3:**

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

**Note:** If **all** aspects of the task have been thoroughly developed evenly and in depth for **one** example in which mass media had an influence and if the response meets most of the other Level 5 criteria, the overall response may be a Level 3 paper.

**Score of 2:**

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

**Score of 1:**

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

**Score of 0:**

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

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

**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.**

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – A

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The development of mass media was significant and instrumental in giving publicity to certain events the general public may have been unaware of. "Common Sense" for example, by Thomas Paine, fortified the cause for independence against Britain by rallying support from the general public. Similarly "The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair made the majority of Americans aware of the atrocities of the meat packing industry. As a result of these publications people felt obliged to fight for change.

In the years of colonialism by the British, America was being exploited for its resources, and the American citizens limited in their rights. The notion of independence from this dominating mother country was not widespread until the mid 1770s, after years of growing tension. There were loyalists who defended Britain and saw this mother country as beneficial because of the defense, association, and markets it provided. Furthermore they could not foresee success in a war against the world's strongest nation. Thomas Paine wrote "Common Sense" almost a year after the Revolutionary War began in order to appeal to typical Americans in the vernacular or in ordinary terms so that they could comprehend why fighting for complete independence was a better choice than just fighting for their rights as Englishmen. In this pamphlet, Paine wrote about all of the negatives of being tied to a dominant mercantilist country. He accused the British King of exploitation and asked Americans "why should a continent be tied to an island?" Paine's widely circulated pamphlet informed Americans of their true position and inspired them to support independence; it made independence seem like the most logical choice in hopes of achieving their rights, having less taxes, and

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – A

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expanding opportunities for open trade with other nations besides Britain. Because of this pamphlet, independence became a popular cause for which to fight and in the succeeding months American representatives courageously voted for independence as the Declaration of Independence of 1776 was accepted. While Paine helped spark the actual step toward independence, the reality was that declaring independence was easier than winning it. That took years of fighting, many deaths, and an alliance with France. In his persuasive pamphlet, Paine had asked America to become an example for other colonies, and in the decades that followed numerous Latin American colonies revolted against oppressive Spanish rule. President Monroe issued his famous doctrine in an attempt to protect our interests and guard against the recolonization of the newly free neighboring nations.

The late nineteenth century was a time where the United States experienced rapid growth of industry as it was introduced to the innovations of the Industrial Revolution and the rise of big, impersonal businesses. These corporations grew without restriction under the government policy of laissez faire. The meat packing industry was an example of one such profit-driven industry that expanded in urban areas like Chicago, taking full advantage of the huge influx of cheap immigrant labor. People consumed food unaware of the filthy process by which it was produced. Upton Sinclair wrote "The Jungle" in order to expose the horrific practices of the meat packing industry. Vivid descriptions created imagery that depicted the horrors faced by the workers. But what became known to the public was the magnitude of the unsanitary, disgusting processes used to package meat and how deleterious this all was to human health. Readers did

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – A

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not focus on the dangerous conditions of the workers which were also revealed—their long hours, low wages, lack of benefits, and often risky/dangerous environment but instead, they focused on impurities, the rodents and rat poison, in their sausage. Upton Sinclair's novel made President Teddy Roosevelt and other Progressives passionate about initiating change. As a result of popular support, acts were quickly passed to improve consumer safety. The Meat Inspection Act added federal inspectors as industry watchdogs and the Pure Food and Drug Act established rules for labeling food products. "The Jungle" dealt a big blow to laissez faire and caused Americans to accept the idea of government regulation of industry. Sinclair's exposing the abuses of the meat industry had the advantage of hitting all consumers—from rich to poor—in the stomach. Anyone and everyone was being harmed, which helped Teddy Roosevelt force real reform through Congress.

The pamphlet "Common Sense" and the novel "The Jungle" caused a significant shift in public opinion—one for independence, the other for government regulation to protect consumers. Paine's pamphlet inspired many patriots to hold colonial conventions urging a break with the mother country. The Declaration of Independence approved by the Continental Congress reflected Paine's ideas. The legacy of "The Jungle" continues today as there are stringent laws regulating and protecting our food supply. The Food and Drug Administration, formed in the early 1900s still acts to protect the public from tainted food and drugs. National consumer watchdog groups also sprouted from what was learned from "The Jungle". Mass media today continues to influence the public's opinion on important issues both positively and negatively.

## Anchor Level 5-A

### The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth for *Common Sense* and *The Jungle*
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Common Sense*: the notion of independence from this dominating mother country was not widespread until the mid-1770s; in order to appeal to typical Americans in the vernacular or in ordinary terms so that they could comprehend why fighting for complete independence was a better choice than just fighting for their rights; he accused the British king of exploitation and asked Americans “why should a continent be tied to an island?”; widely circulated pamphlet informed Americans of their true position and inspired them to support independence; in the succeeding months American representatives courageously voted for independence as the Declaration of Independence of 1776 was accepted; Paine helped spark the actual step toward independence; reality was that declaring independence was easier than winning it; asked America to become an example for other colonies, and in the decades that followed numerous Latin American colonies revolted against oppressive Spanish rule; *The Jungle*: corporations grew without restriction under the government policy of laissez-faire; the meatpacking industry was an example of one such profit-driven industry that expanded in urban areas like Chicago, taking full advantage of the huge influx of cheap immigrant labor; what became known to the public was the magnitude of the unsanitary, disgusting processes used to package meat; novel made President Teddy Roosevelt and other Progressives passionate about initiating change; as a result of popular support, acts were quickly passed to improve consumer safety; dealt a big blow to laissez-faire and caused Americans to accept the idea of government regulation of industry; Sinclair’s exposing the abuses of the meat industry had the advantage of hitting all consumers—from rich to poor—in the stomach)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Common Sense*: colonialism; Loyalists; world’s strongest nation; Revolutionary War; mercantilist; President Monroe; famous doctrine; newly free neighboring nations; *The Jungle*: Industrial Revolution; rise of big, impersonal businesses; vivid descriptions created imagery; Meat Inspection Act; industry watchdogs; Pure Food and Drug Act; labeling on products; Food and Drug Administration; protect the public from tainted food and drugs)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that states both publications motivated people to fight for change and a conclusion that recognizes a significant shift in public opinion caused by both works

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. Well-placed analytic statements connect *Common Sense* to support for independence in the Americas and beyond and connect *The Jungle* to increased regulation of business to protect consumers. Supporting details are integrated throughout the discussion demonstrating a strong understanding of the task.

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

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The use of Mass Media has had a dramatic impact on American society socially, politically, and economically. The Mass Media includes pamphlets, newspapers, books, magazines, posters, photographs, radio, films, and television. "Yellow Journalism" in newspapers owned by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer as well as nightly television newscasts during the Vietnam War were two forms of Mass Media which altered the views of the American public.

Thirty-three years after the end of the Civil War, another war was on the horizon. The people of Cuba were pushing for independence from Spain. Before 1898, they had staged several revolts against the Spanish. In 1898, Cuba looked to the United States for help. However, President McKinley declined their plea—he wanted to help bring peace, but did not want a war to do it. Soon after, Cuban guerrillas started burning sugar cane plantations. The businessmen who owned those plantations urged McKinley to take action. During this time period, competing journalists William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer devised a new breed of sensational media that became known as "Yellow Journalism". Their papers carried a series of headlines and included drawings to demonize Spain and arouse American outrage. In early 1898, the Navy sent the battleship Maine to Havana to protect Americans. Soon it was blown to bits and the "yellow" newspapers claimed that a Spanish mine had sunk the ship. The newspaper coverage of the incident had the public calling for revenge of the over 200 sailors who were killed. This built up public pressure thus urging the U.S. to declare war on Spain. The Spanish American War only lasted for six months. The furor created by Joseph Pulitzer's and William Randolph Hearst's newspapers caused the public to despise

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

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Spain. As a result of this war, Cuba gained its independence but became a protectorate of the United States. A naval base was established to protect American interests. Most importantly, the United States military power and grand victory made it a world power. The United States gained the Philippines and Guam extending its military power and business interests beyond the Western Hemisphere. This led to a major argument between supporters of imperialism and those against it. One unintended result was a bloody war against Filipinos who demanded their own independence. This was a very dark episode in U.S. history, which made the United States into a real empire.

During a forty-six year conflict between the U.S and the Soviet Union known as the Cold War, Vietnam became a hot spot covered nightly on television news. Vietnam was once a French colony but on May 7, 1954, France was defeated by the Communist Ho Chi Minh and withdrew from Vietnam. The United States stepped in to contain communism, because they feared all of Southeast Asia would be lost. The U.S. tried to strengthen South Vietnam, but the poor results kept forcing the U.S. to increase support. Economic and military aid went up and military advisors were sent, but South Vietnam remained weak and unable to stand on its own. When open war broke out, American ships thought they were attacked. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution passed by Congress gave Lyndon B. Johnson a blank check to stop communist aggression and the war escalated. LBJ believed if he lost the Vietnam War all of Southeast Asia would fall like dominoes. He sent tens of thousands of troops to Vietnam, many were 18 to 20 year old men. Graphic images of war were broadcast

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

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and watched on T.V. screens in living rooms across the nation. In late 1967, General Westmoreland told the troops that the "light could be seen at the end of the tunnel." That claim was destroyed by the TET offensive in 1968 because the U.S then realized that this would be a very long and bloody conflict. Television news informed the public of how many G.I.s were killed each day changing support for the war effort into a growing feeling of resentment and distrust of those in power. People had begun to protest against the war early on, but as the war dragged on, the protests grew and grew. Every time LBJ gave a speech, the crowd would shout "hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids have you killed today." In 1968 President Johnson gave in to public pressure and shocked the nation with his televised announcement that he would not seek re-election. This period of time forever changed public trust of the government. TV news helped increase anti-war feelings and bring down a president and his dream of a "Great Society." In the 1960s the nightly newscasts were a major source of news, delivered by anchors who were trusted by the public. The unending coverage of the war, a war that went on for years, helped turn the public against Johnson.

Mass Media has affected American society in both positive and negative ways. The destruction of the Maine and sensational news stories led the public to call for war with Spain. Today historians believe that Spain may not have caused the destruction of the Maine. It may just have been an accident. The Vietnam War drastically changed the way America would deal with foreign wars. The images on the public's T.V. screens saw to that. Mass Media continues to influence the minds of the American public today.

## **Anchor Level 5-B**

### **The response:**

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth for yellow journalism and televised nightly newscasts
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*yellow journalism*: competing journalists devised a new breed of sensational media; carried a series of headlines and drawings to demonize Spain and arouse American outrage; newspaper coverage of the incident had the public calling for revenge; built up public pressure, thus urging the United States to declare war on Spain; as a result of this war, Cuba gained its independence but became a protectorate of the United States; most importantly, the United States military power and grand victory made it a world power; unintended result was a bloody war against Filipinos; very dark episode in United States history which made the United States into a real empire; *newscasts*: Vietnam became a hotspot covered nightly on television news; South Vietnam remained weak and unable to stand on its own; Johnson believed if he lost the Vietnam War all of Southeast Asia would fall like dominoes; claim was destroyed by the Tet Offensive in 1968 because the United States then realized that this would be a very long and bloody conflict; informed the public of how many GIs were killed each day, changing support for the war effort into a growing feeling of resentment and distrust of those in power; Johnson gave in to public pressure and shocked the nation with his televised announcement that he would not seek reelection; helped increase antiwar feelings and bring down a president and his dream of a Great Society; nightly newscasts were a major source of news delivered by anchors who were trusted by the public; period forever changed public trust of government)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*yellow journalism*: William Randolph Hearst; Joseph Pulitzer; the *Maine* is blown to bits; Spanish mine; the Philippines and Guam; imperialists and anti-imperialists; *newscasts*: Cold War; communist Ho Chi Minh; contain communism; United States tried to strengthen South Vietnam; Gulf of Tonkin resolution; General Westmoreland; “hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids have you killed today?”)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and an analytical conclusion that notes the destruction of the *Maine* may have been an accident and the Vietnam War changed the way America dealt with wars

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response includes good details and strong analysis related to yellow journalism and televised nightly newscasts, effectively developing the task.

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – A

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The media has always been an integral part of American life, spreading ideas and affecting change. Mass media has had both positive and negative effects on our society, as it deals with prominent issues of the time. Two examples of media influencing policy, the economy, or society in the United States are reactions to Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle" and the nightly newscasts during the Vietnam War.

The Jungle was written by Upton Sinclair to reveal the plight of poor factory workers and immigrants but in writing it, he revealed the disgusting atrocities of the meat-packing industry at the time, which caught the attention of the public. Before Upton Sinclair's book, there was very little regulation in the meat-packing industry, as the federal government generally followed a laissez faire philosophy. Meat-packing factories had unsafe conditions for their workers and produced unsafe products for the general populace. When everyone learned of this via his book, there was an uproar and US policy was changed in a positive way. Public outrage was widespread, as most people bought their meat and now felt swindled and endangered. President Roosevelt met with Sinclair and sent his own people to investigate the real conditions in the meat plants. Roosevelt then pushed Congress to pass the Meat Inspection Act which mandated federal inspection of meat-packing plants and the Pure Food and Drug Act that created the FDA to make sure American foods met safe standards. Upton Sinclair's book had a long lasting effect on consumer protection. The public expects the government to keep it safe from bad products, food, or harmful drugs. The media has the ability to influence legislation and politics in the United States in a good way.

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – A

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It also has the ability to influence society and public opinion. The nightly newscasts during the Vietnam War, with live scenes of actual violence from the battlefields helped to turn public opinion against the war. The Vietnam War was not an officially declared war, but young men were still being drafted to fight many miles from home. The United States wanted to keep Vietnam from becoming a communist country, and due to a strong communist leader, Ho Chi Minh, and the U.S.'s unwillingness to accept his leadership in South Vietnam, it turned into an undeclared war. American support expanded over time, with actual combat starting in 1964. As part of the Cold War, most Americans supported the war when President Johnson escalated it. As people saw the damage and destruction on TV, they began to question why they were interfering half-way around the world at such a high cost. Furthermore there were protests that ignited anti-war feeling on college campuses, such as the one at Kent State University, where peaceful protestors were shot. TV coverage by reporters continued to bring the war too close to home. Media influenced American opinion to the point that there was turmoil on the homefront. It shocked society in America and caused ripples within it, having negative effects for those caught in the controversy and causing mistrust of the government leaders who were claiming that final victory was near while the TV showed otherwise. The public became divided during wartime, as never before in our nation's history (not including the Civil War). Perhaps it was a good thing, a positive effect of the media that people were informed, but the changing of public opinion lead to some negative societal results.

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The media has the ability to be used to produce positive and negative

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – A

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effects on a nation. In the United States, Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle" had a good, positive effect on US policy and American society. However, the effects of the nightly newscasts during the Vietnam war are somewhat more complicated, producing many negative effects. Either way, mass media has had a large impact on America.

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### Anchor Level 4-A

**The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing *The Jungle* less thoroughly than televised nightly newscasts
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*The Jungle*: written to reveal the plight of poor factory workers, but in writing it, he revealed the disgusting atrocities of the meatpacking industry at the time; there was very little regulation in the meatpacking industry as the federal government generally followed a laissez-faire philosophy; most people bought their meat and now felt swindled and endangered; Roosevelt pushed Congress to pass the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act; book had a long-lasting effect on consumer protection; public expects the government to keep it safe from bad products, food, or harmful drugs; *newscasts*: live scenes of actual violence from the battlefields helped to turn public opinion against the war; not an officially declared war, but young men were still being drafted to fight many miles from home; as part of the Cold War, most Americans supported the war when President Johnson escalated it; as people saw the damage and destruction on television, they began to question why they were interfering halfway around the world; protests that ignited antiwar feeling on college campuses; mistrust of the government leaders who were claiming that final victory was near while the television showed otherwise; public became divided during wartime as never before in our nation's history; positive effect of the media that people were informed but the changing of public opinion led to some negative societal results)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*The Jungle*: unsafe conditions; Roosevelt met with Sinclair; FDA; safe standards; *newscasts*: communist country; Ho Chi Minh; South Vietnam; high cost; Kent State University; peaceful protesters)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that labels the effects of *The Jungle* as positive while the effects of televised newscasts were more complicated

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response discusses the televised nightly newscasts during the Vietnam War using good details and well-placed analytic statements. The discussion of *The Jungle* is developed with fewer details and less depth.

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – B

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All throughout history, the media has often informed the masses of noteworthy issues throughout the nation. With the evolution of the media comes an increased amount of knowledge that can be shared, as well as how those acquiring such knowledge feel about the issue. Throughout American history, the media has influenced the people's way of thinking by provoking emotional responses to important issues. Two such examples are yellow journalism in the late 1800s and the media's graphic photographs of nonviolent protests during the Civil Rights Movement from the 1960s–1970s. The media can influence how its audience thinks about the event it is covering in a negative light, like yellow journalism did, or in a sympathetic light, like the black protests.

In the late nineteenth century, yellow journalists Joseph Pulitzer and William Hearst wrote about the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine and the comments of a Spanish politician against President McKinley in order to agitate the masses. Prior to this, Spain had been trying to regain full control in Cuba, where they faced a rebellion by Cubans who wanted independence. The United States had gotten involved in Cuba when American lives and interests were threatened. Since the U.S. was on the side of the Cubans, the Spanish harbored negative feelings toward the U.S. A Spanish politician criticized President McKinley in a letter, calling him a weak leader. Hearst published this letter and yellow journalists working for Pulitzer and Hearst wrote extensively about the slander against the president, thus enraging U.S. citizens. Many were angered to the point of wanting to declare war on Spain. Yellow journalism influenced the masses again when the U.S.S. Maine sank in Havana harbor, killing more than two hundred

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – B

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Americans. Pulitzer and Hearst, as well as other journalists, argued that the ship was attacked by the Spanish, despite the lack of evidence proving such a claim. Yellow journalism continuously showed the Spanish in a negative way and influenced the American people to feel hatred towards them. Because of the massive outcry for war, the US entered a war with Spain in 1898 and won in a few months. But new fighting broke out in the Philippines, which we had seized, but which itself wanted independence. Media representation of events influenced their audiences to hate and to declare war on another nation.

The media presence during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s helped the protesters to gain support by portraying them in magazine photos. The lives of blacks had been harmed by Jim Crow laws and restrictions on political rights since the late 1800s. While some progress started with the victory in Brown v. Board of Education, segregation was still the way of life throughout the South. Efforts to challenge this grew from the mid 1950s on, but progress was slow. The black protesters who took to the streets to attain their civil rights were photographed as nonviolent victims. However, the same could not be said for the opposition. The mobs of segregationists, who were strongly against civil rights for black people, often carried clubs to disrupt the protests. Police officers either did nothing, allowing terrorist groups like the KKK to freely harm the protesters, or they joined in on the beating. While it seemed like all were against the protesters, news reporters helped them by showing audiences nationwide the brutality of the police breaking up protests in Birmingham with their high-powered fire hoses and vicious police dogs. By showing the protesters as advocates of peace, and the segregationists as unnecessarily violent,

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – B

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those seeing the pictures could sympathize with the protesters. This media portrayal encouraged more people to join the movement, including non-segregationist white people. The influx of supporters allowed the protesters' message to spread further and allowed for the integration of white people into the Civil Rights Movement. An example of this is the March on Washington in 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial where tens of thousands of both black and white people listened peacefully to the message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Because of the graphic photographs of peaceful protesters, the Civil Rights Movement grew to include more citizens to help the cause and encouraged Congress to pass laws to end segregation like the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Media coverage has played an important role in American history. The role of the media has shaped the public's reaction to an issue based mostly on the connotations the media has provided. By portraying a certain issue in a certain way, the audience may be persuaded to act either positively or negatively depending on the message conveyed.

## **Anchor Level 4-B**

### **The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing yellow journalism less thoroughly than photo journalism during the civil rights movement
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*yellow journalism*: wrote about the sinking of the USS *Maine* and the comments of a Spanish politician against President McKinley in order to agitate the masses; argued that the ship was attacked by the Spanish, despite the lack of evidence proving such a claim; continuously showed the Spanish in a negative way and influenced the American people to feel hatred toward them; because of the massive outcry for war, the United States declared war on Spain in 1898; *photo journalism*: efforts to challenge this grew from the mid-1950s on but progress was slow; black protesters who took to the streets to attain their civil rights were photographed as nonviolent victims; police officers either did nothing, allowing terrorist groups like the KKK to freely harm the protesters, or they joined in on the beating; while it seemed like all were against the protesters, news reporters helped them by showing audiences nationwide the brutality of the police breaking up protests in Birmingham with their high-powered fire hoses and vicious police dogs; by showing the protesters as advocates of peace, and the segregationists as unnecessarily violent, those seeing the pictures could sympathize with the protesters; allowed the protesters' message to spread further and allowed for the integration of white people into the civil rights movement; encouraged Congress to pass laws to end segregation)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*yellow journalism*: on the side of the Cubans; slander against the president; sank in Havana Harbor; fighting broke out in the Philippines; *photo journalism*: 1960s; magazine photos; Jim Crow laws; *Brown v. Board of Education*; March on Washington in 1963; Lincoln Memorial; message of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; 1964 Civil Rights Act)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that point out Americans can be influenced by the media to respond to an event either positively or negatively

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response analyzes the role of the media in inciting the Spanish-American War and in increasing sympathy for African Americans and the civil rights movement during the 1960s, demonstrating a good understanding of the task. The effects of yellow journalism are not as fully developed as the effects of photo journalism.

Mass media has made a great impact on history, and in many cases the impact is positive. Two examples of this positive influence are a book called 'The Jungle' written by Upton Sinclair, and fireside chats during the presidency of Franklin Roosevelt. Both of these examples represent the positive impact mass media (books, radio, etc.) had on history, and in both cases mass media helped change American society for the better.

The first example of the positive impact of mass media is through the book 'The Jungle' by Upton Sinclair. In this book Sinclair, a socialist, took a special look into dangerous working conditions of factories which produced meat for the entire country. During this time the assembly line had been made popular and in the early 1900s conveyor belts were used to move animal carcasses, and big business exploited workers for long hours to increase profits. In 'The Jungle' Sinclair explores the horrid sights, smells and over all conditions of the meat packing industry, and he exposes to the public what truly goes on behind closed doors. Once this book hits, the public is outraged, horrified by what Sinclair had written about the unsanitary conditions and the disgusting meat products they were actually buying and eating. Up until this point the government had been very reluctant to regulate industry as a matter of belief and policy. But the economy and country had changed, with big business having too much power and as 'The Jungle' showed, a willingness to abuse the public with tainted food. The best-selling book prompted acts by president Theodore Roosevelt and congress ensuring food would be properly produced, preserved, and treated. The meat packing industry changed due to Sinclair's work as the new laws forced companies to

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Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – C

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undergo inspections. They also had to follow regulations set down by the FDA, such as labeling ingredients, in order for pure food and drugs to be put on the market. Sinclair's book changed an entire production system and influenced the American government to regulate the food and drug industry. Thus Sinclair's book had a great positive influence on improving the quality and safety of the American food supply.

Another example of the positive and powerful impact of media on history, was during the presidency of Franklin Roosevelt. In the 1930's the American economy had crashed, and people were out of jobs, money, homes, and out of hope. This time was called The Great Depression. The Great Depression had a major impact on American society as it demoralized the American people. In the early 1930's FDR became president and promised to make drastic changes as part of his New Deal. One important aspect of FDR, in addition to his ability to get the legislation passed, was his ability to personally connect with the American people. He was one of the first presidents to use the radio to directly speak to the American people. His voice and his words resonated deeply within the American people. Individuals described the experience as inspirational, and life altering because he used the radio as a means to calm and maintain order among the American people who were under intense duress. He gained support for his initiatives like the bank holiday by explaining to the people that banks would reopen when they were financially sound. The use of the radio greatly impacted FDR's connection to the American people and encouraged people to gain more hope which helped revive confidence in the banks and other businesses. Throughout the depression and World War II,

## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – C

these fireside chats over the radio gained him increased support and even the loyalty of the American people.

In conclusion both the influences of Sinclair's book and the fireside chats given during FDR's presidency led to positive changes in American society. Both forms of media opened the eyes of the American people and demonstrated the government could act against injustices and could better the country of United States of America.

### Anchor Level 4-C

#### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing *The Jungle* more thoroughly than fireside chats
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*The Jungle*: took a special look into the dangerous working conditions of factories which produced meat for the entire country; big business exploited workers for long hours to increase profits; exposes public to what truly goes on behind closed doors; written about the unsanitary conditions and the disgusting meat products they were actually buying and eating; until this point the government had been very reluctant to regulate industry as a matter of belief and policy; the meatpacking industry changed due to Sinclair's work as new laws forced companies to undergo inspections; changed an entire production system and influenced the American government to regulate the food and drug industry; a great positive influence on improving the quality and safety of the American food supply; *fireside chats*: economy had crashed and people were out of jobs, money, homes, and out of hope; one important aspect of Roosevelt was his ability to personally connect with the American people; one of the first presidents to use the radio to directly speak to the American people; his voice and his words resonated deeply within the American people; individuals described the experience as inspirational and life altering because he used the radio as a means to calm and maintain order among the American people; gained support for his initiatives like the Bank Holiday by explaining to the people that banks would reopen when they were financially sound; gained him increased support and even the loyalty of the American people)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*The Jungle*: socialist; assembly line; conveyor belts were used to move animal carcasses; best-selling book; President Theodore Roosevelt; Congress; FDA; labeling ingredients; *fireside chats*: 1930s; Great Depression; demoralized; New Deal; helped revive confidence; World War II)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that emphasize the positive impact of mass media helping to make America better

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response shows an understanding of the historical circumstances of *The Jungle* and fireside chats. However, the discussion of *The Jungle* is more detailed and developed than the discussion of fireside chats.

Mass media has always been the key factor in shaping public opinion. Various mediums have been used to reach the American people and different viewpoints are available. In some cases, a specific book, article, or newscast will inspire action from the people. In other cases, it is an entire genre that will ingrain itself in the culture. Examples of both such situations are Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe and the yellow journalism of the late nineteenth century.

Stowe published Uncle Tom's Cabin in the mid 1800s, just as the issue of slavery was beginning to boil over. At the time, millions of slaves were kept in bondage in the South, but the majority of people saw it as either a positive good or a necessary evil. Stowe's novel, though fictional, drastically altered such a perspective. She portrayed slaves as the human beings they were, not as the unintelligent brutes slave owners made them out to be. The idea that slaves were treated so cruelly outraged many Americans and the abolitionist movement swelled to the biggest it had ever been. The book was so inflammatory that President Lincoln believed it to be one of the biggest sparks to light the Civil War's fuse.

Equally inflammatory was the yellow journalism of the Spanish-American War era. Two newspapermen, William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer, were competing for the widest readership of their respective papers. As such, they cared little about the truth in their articles, just so long as the papers would sell. In describing Spanish treatment of island natives, some that were in active revolt, they created scenes of torture and barbarity that far exceeded the real situation. When the ship Maine sank (due to a boiler accident), they blamed the Spanish and suddenly America believed an act of war had

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 3 – A

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been committed against them. This over dramatization of events became commonplace, and yet Americans continued to act upon and believe what such papers told them.

Media has inflicted both positive and negative effects on society. Uncle Tom's Cabin awakened the nation to the great evil of slavery and further pitted the North against the South. In writing it, Mrs. Stowe did a great service to the public by exposing slavery as an institution that needed to be ended. Yellow journalism, on the other hand, clouded America's vision. It portrayed Spain as an enormous threat and focused the public's anger toward it. It brought America into another war, though seemingly for a noble cause. In reality, this war resulted in thousands of unnecessary deaths by disease and the creation of an American empire, contrary to its principles of democracy.

Media has always been the principle factor in shaping the public's perspective. For better or worse, Uncle Tom's Cabin and nineteenth century yellow journalism greatly affected the course of American history, socially and politically, as similar forms of media will continue to do in the future.

## **Anchor Level 3-A**

### **The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task in some depth for *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and yellow journalism
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Uncle Tom's Cabin*: at the time, millions of slaves were kept in bondage in the South, but the majority of people saw it as either a positive good or a necessary evil; novel, though fictional, drastically altered such a perspective; portrayed slaves as the human beings they were; idea that slaves were treated so cruelly outraged many Americans and the abolitionist movement swelled to the biggest it had ever been; awakened the nation to the great evil of slavery and further pitted the North against the South; *yellow journalism*: they cared little about the truth in their articles just so long as the papers would sell; in describing Spanish treatment of island natives, some that were in active revolt, they created scenes of torture and barbarity that far exceeded the real situation; portrayed Spain as an enormous threat and focused the public's anger toward it; war resulted in thousands of unnecessary deaths by disease and the creation of an American empire, contrary to its principles of democracy)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Uncle Tom's Cabin*: mid-1800s; inflammatory; President Lincoln; light the Civil War's fuse; *yellow journalism*: competing for the widest readership; *Maine* sank; boiler accident; blamed the Spanish; act of war)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that state mass media have always been the key factor in shaping public opinion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response includes good analysis of the historical circumstances and inflammatory nature of both *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and yellow journalism. However, while the effects of each example of mass media are stated and logically flow, they are not fully developed.

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

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Over the course of American history, mass media has had tremendous effects on society. The novel Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe, as well as the photographs in How the Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis greatly affected American society by bringing to the forefront the issues they addressed.

Harriet Beecher Stowe was an abolitionist who wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin just before the outbreak of the Civil War. In fact, many people even argue that the novel was a main factor that led to the war. President Lincoln apparently even said to Ms. Stowe that she was the little woman who started the great war. Uncle Tom's Cabin, although a novel, had a profound effect on Americans at the time it was published. At this time, America was extremely divided by sectionalism, mainly due to the issue of slavery. While Southerners wanted to keep their slaves and expand slavery westward into new territory, Northerners, like Lincoln, wanted to limit the expansion of slavery and some even wanted to abolish it completely. So, when the book was published, the sectional tension was aggravated even further because the novel focuses on the cruelty of slave owners. To Northerners, this book provided them with the knowledge of how cruel slave owners can be, while simultaneously humanizing slaves – making people think of them as people rather than property. However, to Southerners, the book was seen as full of lies and as a misrepresentation of the slaveowner-slave relationship. For these reasons, the novel Uncle Tom's Cabin was banned from Southern states. The novel had positive effects because it enlightened Northerners of the cruelty of slavery and ultimately led to the abolishment of slavery. However, Uncle Tom's Cabin did dramatically increase

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Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 3 – B

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sectional tension and probably made war over the issue of slavery inevitable.

How the Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis had a profound impact on residents of American cities in the early 1900s. Riis photographed and detailed the living conditions of the poor residents, mostly immigrants, living in New York City's slums. At this time, these people were living in very cramped, disease-ridden, almost uninhabitable tenements: and no one was helping them. Many died from diseases they contracted from living in these conditions. Jacob Riis's photographs exposed just how terrible the immigrants' plight was at this time. Riis's work led to significant change in American city slums. Sanitation departments not only employed many immigrants, but were responsible for cleaning up the garbage that covered the streets of the slums. By cleaning up the garbage and sewage that flooded the streets of the slums, the sanitation departments were able to drastically increase the overall health of the people inhabiting these areas. How the Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis had positive effects on American society because it made the government and the wealthier classes see how the other half was living and it facilitated change.

Both Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe and How the Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis led to significant change in American society by exposing the conditions of different people to the entire nation.

## Anchor Level 3-B

### The response:

- Develops most aspects of the task in some depth for *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *How the Other Half Lives*
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Uncle Tom's Cabin*: America was extremely divided by sectionalism, mainly due to the issue of slavery; Southerners wanted to keep their slaves and expand slavery westward into new territory; Northerners, like Lincoln, wanted to limit the expansion of slavery and some even wanted to abolish it completely; provided them with the knowledge of how cruel slave owners can be, while simultaneously humanizing slaves—making people think of them as people rather than property; to Southerners, the book was seen as full of lies and as a misrepresentation of the slave owner-slave relationship; ultimately led to the abolition of slavery; dramatically increased sectional tension and probably made war over the issue of slavery inevitable; *How the Other Half Lives*: photographed and detailed the living conditions of the poor residents, mostly immigrants, living in New York City's slums; many died from diseases they contracted from living in these conditions; by cleaning up the garbage and sewage that flooded the streets of the slums, the sanitation departments were able to drastically increase the overall health of the people inhabiting these areas; made the government and the wealthier classes see how the other half was living)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Uncle Tom's Cabin*: little woman who started the great war; banned from Southern states; *How the Other Half Lives*: cities in the early 1900s; tenements)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes a brief introduction and conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response shows an understanding of the historical circumstances surrounding both publications. The effects of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* are more strongly developed than the effects of *How the Other Half Lives*.

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

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Ever since America was born, the media has played a significant role. Mass media has impacted politics, the economy, and our culture as a whole. Both the muckrakers during the Progressive Era and the nightly newscasts during the Vietnam War had positive and negative effects on American society.

In the early 20th century, the United States entered a period known as the Progressive Era. During this time, progressive authors made it their primary objective to improve society and eliminate its evils through their books and articles. In How the Other Half Lives, progressive Jacob Riis used his own photographs to show and describe the awful living conditions in apartments in the inner city, especially for immigrants. Another progressive, Upton Sinclair, wrote of the disgusting state of the meat-packing industry in The Jungle. His vivid descriptions shocked the citizens and politicians of the United States. These muckrakers and their stories were both a benefit and a curse on society. The positive effect of these evils being revealed prompted direct action from the government and the people themselves. As a result, Theodore Roosevelt, the president in the early 20th century, put the Square Deal into effect. Under this program were the 3 Cs, one of which being consumer protection. To prevent these ills of society, like the ones mentioned in The Jungle from recurring, Roosevelt passed the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act. Also, to help immigrants in the urban areas, settlement houses like "Hull House" were established, and many women reformers came to the aid of these immigrants, teaching them English and setting up child care. Muckraking authors in the Progressive Era sparked many important reforms and helped change citizens' expectations. People came to expect

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

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a more active role for government and expected that societal problems would be fixed.

Mass media was also a significant factor in the late 1960s and early 1970s during the Vietnam War. President Lyndon Baines Johnson (1964–1968) told the American public that it was necessary to escalate the conflict and send more troops to Vietnam. Then, he said that the U.S. was winning the war, and not that many American troops were being killed. Nightly newscasts from Vietnam, hosted by famous evening anchors like Walter Cronkite, connected the American public to the war. The public saw on their TVs that many U.S. troops were dying. The war was certainly not being won and as a result, they questioned the U.S. commitment to the conflict. The good that came of this was the public was being truthfully informed, and not lied to. As a result, scrutiny of politicians, especially the president increased, and the war-making powers of the president were restricted by Congress beginning with President Richard Nixon. On the other hand, this war created serious division in the United States. This inspired many young adults to be doves/hippies and protest the war. There was still a "silent majority" of older people who supported the war, though.

Mass media had an immense impact on society during the Progressive Era, and during the turbulent years of the Vietnam War. This wasn't anything new, though, as media had always been an important factor in American society. Media can help push something along, or be the cause of its demise. Either way, it will always affect major aspects of our lives.

## **Anchor Level 3-C**

### **The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task in some depth for books by muckrakers and televised nightly newscasts
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*books by muckrakers*: progressive authors made it their primary objective to improve society and eliminate its evils through their books; Riis used his own photographs to show and describe the awful living conditions in apartments in the inner city, especially for immigrants; Sinclair wrote of the disgusting state of the meatpacking industry; vivid descriptions shocked citizens and politicians; Roosevelt passed the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act; to help immigrants in the urban areas, settlement houses like Hull House were established and many women reformers came to the aid of these immigrants, teaching them English and setting up child care; sparked many important reforms and helped change citizens' expectations; *newscasts*: told the American public that it was necessary to escalate the conflict and send more troops to Vietnam; connected the American public to the war; public saw on their televisions that many United States troops were dying; the war was certainly not being won; public was being truthfully informed; scrutiny of politicians, especially the president, increased, and the war-making powers of the president were restricted; war created serious division in the United States; inspired many young adults to be doves/hippies and protest the war)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*books by muckrakers*: Square Deal; the 3 Cs; *newscasts*: Lyndon Baines Johnson; Walter Cronkite; Richard Nixon; silent majority)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that clearly states the examples to be discussed in the response and a conclusion that states media will always affect major aspects of people's lives

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response discusses books by muckrakers by treating *How the Other Half Lives* and *The Jungle* as examples of that form of media and providing the effects of these books on American society. The second media example discusses televised nightly newscasts during the Vietnam War. The historical circumstances for televised nightly newscasts during the Vietnam War are more thoroughly developed than those for books by muckrakers.

## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – A

Media has influenced the American people since the start of the nation. This influence has come from news, propaganda, shows, entertainment, and numerous other sources. This power that comes from mass media has surrounded some of the most important events in American History. From the birth of our country to war, media has swayed popular opinion both for good and potentially for bad.

One of the earliest examples of media's influence in America was Thomas Paine's Common Sense. This was one of the earliest examples as well as one of the most influential. It can be considered early as it was written before the United States was a country. It was influential as it is largely considered one of the main persuasions for American's to support the independence movement. Before it was written growing animosity towards the British was felt in America. However not everyone agreed independance was the next step to solve the problems with British Rule. To truly have a chance for independance the leaders of the movement needed popular support as well as support from all the colonies. Thomas Paine's Common Sense garnered this support. By explaining that independance was their right and most logical option, Paine persuaded the people to break away from Britain. This allowed for the writing of the Declaration of Independance, the revolution, and eventually the United States of America.

Another example of Media's influence is the start of "yellow journalism" and its effect and role with the Spanish American war. William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer were both well known journalists and the fathers of "yellow journalism". This type of journalism is often traced back to the Spanish American War. These journalists created wild head lines and often exaggerated stories of

## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – A

spanish atrocities in latin America and the phillipines. This radical journalism became known as yellow journalism and persuaded many people into supporting the war. Not only did it obtain societal support it also gained businesses' support and was a large factor in how involved the U.S got in fighting the spanish.

In almost every major event in American history the media surrounds it. From influencing the move towards independance and starting our nation, with Common Sense; to gaining support for war, Media has an immense impact on events. This impact can be positive such as the birth of America, but also negative with many lives being lost in war. No matter the case the power the media holds can be staggering and one person can decide and start a chain of events that can change history.

### Anchor Level 2-A

#### The response:

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for *Common Sense* and yellow journalism
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Common Sense*: influential as it is largely considered one of the main persuasions for Americans to support the independence movement; not everyone agreed independence was the next step to solve the problems with British rule; leaders of the movement needed popular support as well as support from all the colonies; by explaining that independence was their right and most logical option Paine persuaded the people to break away from Britain; allowed for the writing of the Declaration of Independence; *yellow journalism*: created wild headlines and often exaggerated stories of Spanish atrocities in Latin America; persuaded many people into supporting the war)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Common Sense*: written before the United States was a country; growing animosity; *yellow journalism*: Spanish-American War; obtain societal support); includes inaccuracies (*yellow journalism*: Spanish atrocities in the Philippines; radical journalism; gained businesses' support)
- 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 2. The response develops the historical circumstances for *Common Sense* and provides some information about the historical circumstances for yellow journalism. The effects of both *Common Sense* and yellow journalism are mentioned but are not developed.

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – B

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Mass media have significantly influenced the political, economic, and social life of the United States and American society. These media came in the form of books, newspapers and posters. "The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair and "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe have greatly influenced the United States.

During the Progressive era, there were many issues dealing with corruption, poverty and unhealthy food processing. Muckrakers are writers who publicized corrupt practices in business and politics. Monopolies, low wages, dangerous working conditions and poor housing conditions were a huge issue. Rockefeller was a huge industrialist, who did not support competition and promoted trusts. Workers were paid very low for a long working period and in a dangerous working environment. Upton Sinclair addressed these working conditions in his book, "The Jungle." "The Jungle" reveals how foods are processed in an unsanitary way. Furthermore, the book became very popular. Its popularity helped bring attention to the harsh working conditions, and the unsanitary food processing. The book led to the Pure Food and Drugs Act. Nowadays, foods that are delivered to citizens of the U.S. are cleanly processed and healthy produced.

Harriet Beecher Stowe is an abolitionist. Her views against slavery led to the creation of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." During this period, the north and south argued over slavery being spread into new territories. Thus leading to the new states having popular sovereignty on slavery. "Bleeding Kansas" is a tragic event, which occurred during this period between antislavery and pro-slavery people. Moreover, Harriet addressed that slavery should be abolished. Slavery is inhuman, and it is an advantage toward the south. Due to the vast plantation in the south,

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – B

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more slaves are required than the north. Stowe believed that these slaves' mistreatment is unreasonable. This book had a huge impact on the American society. Anti-slavery views became highly supported, many more people helped slaves escape and were working toward to ending slavery. However, the book has caused a division in the American society. The south (supporting slavery) began clashing with the north (against slavery). Therefore, leading to the secession of the southern states and forming a country known as the Confederates.

Stowe and Sinclair are hardworking reformers that have led to positive and negative changes on America. They are the founders of justice, influencing American citizens and shaping the U.S. to what is now.

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### Anchor Level 2-B

#### The response:

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for *The Jungle* and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- Is primarily descriptive (*The Jungle*: during the Progressive Era there were many issues dealing with corruption, poverty, and unhealthy food processing; workers were paid very low for a long working period and in a dangerous working environment; its popularity helped bring attention to the harsh working conditions and the unsanitary food processing; led to the Pure Food and Drug Act; nowadays, foods that are delivered to citizens of the United States are cleanly processed; *Uncle Tom's Cabin*: the North and the South argued over slavery being spread into new territories; Stowe believed that these slaves' mistreatment was unreasonable; antislavery views became highly supported; caused a division in the American society; leading to the secession of the Southern states and forming a country)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*The Jungle*: muckrakers; monopolies; Rockefeller; *Uncle Tom's Cabin*: abolitionist; popular sovereignty; "Bleeding Kansas"; slavery is inhumane; plantation; people helped slaves escape)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a brief conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The discussion of *The Jungle* includes broad statements and details about the historical circumstances while little is developed regarding the effects. The discussion of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* includes more details about the effects. However, the response suffers from a lack of accurate chronology.

## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – C

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair and fireside chats given by Franklin Roosevelt were both forms of media that had an impact on society during that time. The Jungle was about food manufacturing and the condition of the cities. The fireside chats were conversations FDR had with the US citizens over the radio.

When The Jungle was written Chicago was not a pleasant place to be. The streets were filthy and there was no regulation on food services. So Sinclair decided to write a book to present the issues for all to see. Written based on a day in the factories he described rats, and bugs all over. Meat stacked on the dirty ground. He touched on how the meat could be left out for days before it was used. Also how the animals and bugs would live in it. This is what was causing Americans to become so sick from the food.

This had both a positive and negative impacts. Negative because it made Americans hesitant about the food they were buying and the cleanliness of the factories it was coming from. It was positive because it helped make changes and brought awareness to problems. The FDA was brought into the picture to make sure food was handled properly. The factories and cities were also cleaned up. This allowed for less people to become sick.

Roosevelt's fireside chats came during and after the Great Depression. America was struggling and many people were losing hope. Roosevelt held these fireside chats frequently to ensure Americans that the country was moving forward and we would be okay. These chats brightened many spirits and gave them hope.

This had positive effects on the citizen's. It gave them hope and motivation to keep going and find a job even when the market was

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – C

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tough. It gave people the idea that eventually the Depression would be over and things would get better. It also united America because when the chats were on everyone would listen and discuss them. It also made the people feel included in the country and in its decisions.

Both medias provided a positive impact that kept America moving forward in the right direction. Without them Americans could have given up hope. Or we would still be eating contaminated and unregulated food. So both helped America grow stronger.

### Anchor Level 2-C

**The response:**

- Minimally develops most aspects of the task for *The Jungle* and fireside chats
- Is primarily descriptive (*The Jungle*: there was no regulation on food services; meat could be left out for days before it was used; brought awareness to problems; the FDA was brought into the picture; *fireside chats*: America was struggling and many people were losing hope; gave people the idea that eventually the Depression would be over and things would get better; it also made the people feel included in the country and in its decisions); includes faulty application (*The Jungle*: cities were also cleaned up)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*The Jungle*: rats and bugs; *fireside chats*: the market was tough); includes an inaccuracy (*The Jungle*: written based on a day in the factories)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes a brief introduction and conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response demonstrates some basic understanding of the task. However, the discussions about *The Jungle* and fireside chats rely on generalizations and repeated information. Lack of development weakens the effort.

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 1 – A

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Since the nation began, the media world has affected the economic, and social life of United States citizens. Some of the media includes books, television, radio, newspaper, and posters. Two media "icons" that really stirred the nation was yellow journalism, and the book "The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair.

"The Jungle" explained the hard truths of the meat packing industry. The area, or building, the meat was made at was horrifying. There were rats and other animals crawling on the meat, if the meat fell on the floor, which was disgusting, they would just put it back. None of the workers washed their hands either. Since, "The Jungle" was published, big changes started happening. The "Pure Food and Drug Act" was passed, making it mandatory to check the meat BEFORE it was shipped. By doing this, it was a lot safer for the public to ingest. The factory was filthy, so now by checking the meat, little-to-no bad or spoiled meat leaves the factory for the public to ingest. Before "The Jungle", people were dying because of the chemicals from the factory in the meat. So now by just publishing one book, there were far less deaths from food poisoning. However, some "icons" that hit the nation are not for the better, but for worse.

Yellow journalism is when people start rumors about a business to shut them down, even well that business did nothing wrong. For example, if two businesses are fighting for people and their money, one business might say that the other business is nothing but a scam, just to get the public on their side. Since it is a rumor, not a fact, it is difficult to catch the people who do this. So, this goes on for awhile with several different businesses.

In conclusion, the media that hits the nation is not always good.

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 1 – A

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Yellow journalism was a very bad thing that lasted a while. Yet, other media makes the public overjoyed, like "the jungle" by upton sinclair. By publishing his book, he saved a lot of people from the horrifying concept which was the meat packing industry. Also because of his book, the main reason he saved lives, the "Pure Food and Drug Act" was passed, making manatory to inspect the meat for flaws, that would harm the public. There are two types of people in the world: the good guys and the villains.

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### Anchor Level 1-A

**The response:**

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for *The Jungle*
- Is descriptive (*The Jungle*: explained the hard truths of the meatpacking industry; there were rats and other animals crawling on the meat; a lot safer for the public to ingest); includes faulty analysis (*The Jungle*: Pure Food and Drug Act was passed, making it mandatory to check the meat before it was shipped)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*The Jungle*: factory was filthy; chemicals; food poisoning); includes inaccuracies (*yellow journalism*: when people start rumors about a business to shut them down, even when that business did nothing wrong; one business might say that the other business is nothing but a scam, just to get the public on their side)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that states *The Jungle* saved a lot of people

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The discussion of *The Jungle* shows a basic understanding of the task and attempts to develop related facts. However, the discussion of yellow journalism shows no understanding.

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 1 – B

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Since this nation was born people have used mass media to get information out to other people. Mass media has greatly influenced the citizens of the United States of America through economic, political, and social aspects of their lives. Some of these medias include pamphlets, newspapers, books, magazines, posters, photographs, radio, films, and television. Throughout history both Upton Sinclair and Jacob Riis have both used mass media to show everyone something important.

Upton Sinclair wrote the book called The Jungle. He wrote this book and exposed the meat and food packing industry. He did this because he thought that everyone should know what they are buying and eating when they purchase processed and packed foods. Once his book was out for sale and on display for everyone to see some people were mad and upset by it because they trusted these food processing and packing people to make sure thier food is safe to eat. So in result there was laws that were put in place so the food packing industry is safe and the people buying it are safe to eat it. Next, Jacob Riis made a book called How the Other Half Lives. This book showed people the living conditions of the lower class people in big cities. It was a series of pictures and captions showing the horrors of their living conditions. This helped those people because the rich and powerful people of big cities got ahold of this book and read it. This means that they couldn't believe that was happening in thier own city so they wanted to help these people. They helped these people by building shelters for them to live in and also places for them to eat for free so they could survive. Although mass media had a big effect on the lives of American citizens it wasn't always a good effect sometimes it was a bad one. It

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## Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 1 – B

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was bad sometimes because once tvs and radios were made people didn't go outside and do as much it was like these electronics were taking over Americans youth. Some positive things was that once something got out it spread like wildfire. Also it helped inform people of things that were important to know. Lastly, like President Franklin D. Roosevelt fireside chats it gave people a hope for life to change. That is how mass media has effected the lives of American citizens both positively and negatively.

Throughout American history ever since this nation was born people were using mass media to inform people about things. They used this to inform them about the economic, political, and social aspects of their everyday life. Mass media has and always will have a big effect on American society whether it be a good one or a bad one.

### Anchor Level 1-B

#### The response:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task for *The Jungle* and *How the Other Half Lives*
- Is descriptive (*The Jungle*: exposed the meat- and food-packing industry; some people were mad and upset by it because they trusted these food processing and packing people to make sure their food is safe to eat; laws were put into place so the food-packing industry is safe; *How the Other Half Lives*: showed people the living conditions of the lower class people in big cities; series of pictures and captions showing the horrors of their living conditions); includes faulty analysis (*The Jungle*: he did this because he thought that everyone should know what they are buying and eating; *How the Other Half Lives*: they helped these people by building shelters for them to live in and also places for them to eat for free)
- Includes no additional relevant facts, examples, or details
- Demonstrates a weakness in organization; includes an introduction and conclusion that restate the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. A basic understanding of the task is demonstrated in the limited discussion of *The Jungle* and *How the Other Half Lives*. The discussion of other forms of media cannot be rated.

## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – A

Mass media is an underestimated strategy that is often used to impact political, economic, and social aspects of society. As technology has become more advanced, different types of mass media have been discovered. Some types of mass media include the use of television programs, radios, books, posters, comics and many more. During times of crisis in the United States, mass media is often seen the most. When the United States was dealing with many consumer and work related problems, a famous writer, Upton Sinclair, as well as a famous political cartoonist, Thomas Nast, helped to influence some needed reforms.

After the industrial revolution, the United States was left in a fragile, or not steady, state. Little to no work laws existed, which meant that long hours, low pay and unsafe conditions were still present at the work place. A majority of U.S. workers were financially broke and exploited. Also, no work laws in the workplace left many of the workers job settings in unsanitary conditions. Upton Sinclair, after investigating a meat factory, was able to expose some shocking news about the production of meat. Sinclair, using his novel *The Jungle*, showed consumers that rats were being processed into the meat factories meat, which was being served to many consumers families. The uproar, caused by Sinclair, helped to achieve new reforms that would benefit consumers. These reforms were only brought about due to the global attention caused by Sinclairs mass media project. One reform in particular, the Drug and Food Act, required that factories put labels on their products, allowing consumers to be able to see first-hand what it was that they were purchasing. The labels included what ingredients were used when producing the consumer goods. Another

## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – A

change that was brought about was the act that forced meat factories to allow government officials to inspect their work place at any time in order to be sure that it was clean and sanitary. These two laws gave consumers safer products through government regulations. Sinclair used mass media to expose some social problems faced during the 20th century.

Another mass media, unlike Sinclairs, was Thomas Nasts political cartoons. Thomas Nast worked for a New York newspaper in the late 1800s. Nast was widely praised by many for his well-designed cartoons. Nast was a man that believed that government officials should not be able to take bribes from businessmen for big city contracts. One New York City boss in particular was often accused of doing this exact thing. Therefore, Nast was able to use the power of the multimedia to turn his viewers against the corrupt political party machines. Nast would draw cartoons that pictured the boss in terrible positions, such as a criminal and robber of New York city taxpayers. After Nast was offered a bribe to stop his cartoons, he became even more determined to expose corruption. Nast's cartoons helped create public outrage and successfully force the city boss from his position. Multimedia is a powerful tool that allows for all citizens of the U.S. to bring about certain changes.

Massmedia is powerful, in that it allows certain individuals to be able to point out a flaw and bring attention to that flaw. Thomas Nast and Upton Sinclair were successfully able to use the power of massmedia in order to bring needed reforms.

## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – B

Throughout the history of the United States, it has been shown that mass media has a great affect on the general public. Mass media has proven to be successful in influencing political, economic, and social aspects of American society. Two forms of media that have created lasting effects in America would be "Common Sense" by Thomas Paine and "The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair.

By publishing the pamphlet "Common Sense," Thomas Paine was able to deliver his important message to the American colonists regarding Great Britain. During the Revolutionary War period, colonists were obviously unhappy with the British due to the taxation without proper representation. However, the colonies didn't seek independence from Great Britain; they merely wanted better treatment as British subjects. "Common Sense" by Thomas Paine was able to persuade many American colonists that they did in fact need to break away from Great Britain. Thomas Paine listed the reasons as to why America should seek independence. His pamphlet plainly stated that America should renounce the monarchy and become a republic because all Kings were tyrants. "Common Sense" heavily influenced public opinion and the Continental Congress, within the same year the Declaration of Independence was written. This document, which was influenced and perhaps even inspired by "Common Sense," basically explained to Great Britain why the colonies were declaring independence and why they required a republic with a government whose powers should be based on the consent of the governed. The Declaration's list of grievances reflected the sentiments of "Common Sense" and provided concrete reasons for separation from the King. The Declaration established the defining

## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – B

values of the new republic.

"The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair was an exposé that changed sanitary food practices in the United States. The progressive movement was a time during which people sought out reform. Muckrakers were individuals who utilized journalism as a way of informing the public about the wrongs in society in order to bring about change. Upton Sinclair, a socialist, was one of these muckrakers who mostly cared about the plight of the immigrant workers in the Chicago meatpacking plants. Horrified by what he saw, Upton Sinclair wrote in disturbing detail about the conditions they worked in. As part of his novel, he added short descriptions of the meatpacking process including the incorporation of rat feces into sausage. By writing "The Jungle", Upton Sinclair captured the attention of both the general public and President Theodore Roosevelt. Theodore Roosevelt was a progressive president and realized the need for immediate government action to insure consumer safety. Soon after the publication of "The Jungle", two landmark laws were passed to encourage better food quality assurance. The Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act challenged the old belief that government was not responsible for the public's safety. These laws were the first steps toward effective government regulation of the food industry. Ingredients are now listed on manufactured food and drugs and government inspectors enforce safety regulations. "The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair successfully made people aware of a problem in order to fix it and better society.

The major purpose of mass media is to bring up an issue in the hope of creating a new reform. Two examples of mass media influencing

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## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – B

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reform are "Common Sense" by Thomas Paine and "The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair. Both of these had political, economic, and social influences on the lives of Americans. If it wasn't for mass media, people might be less informed about problems in society.

## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – C

Mass media has often been used to spread news to people all over the country. Whether it was a muckracker in the early 1900s or a president talking to his citizens everyone has used mass media. Both Upton Sinclair's The Jungle + president Franklin D Roosevelt's fireside chats best exemplify how mass media can impact the lives of Americans.

Sinclair published The Jungle in the 1900s as a response to the unsanitary meat packing industry. Sinclair can therefore be characterized as a Muckracker because he exploited the injustices of an industry in order to gain public attention. At this time, the meat packing industry had little to no regulation: companies were misadvertising their products and packing their products as rodents crawled around. By publishing The Jungle, Sinclair drew national attention to this issue. As a result, the government passed two laws: the Meat Inspection Act and the Food - Drug Act to regulate these industries. After these laws were passed, the companies had to advertise all of its ingredients in addition to a more sanitary method of packing its products. Therefore, Sinclair's The Jungle helped positively shape and regulate the food industry.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt also used mass media to gain support for his programs. FDR became president at a time when the nation was at its worst economically and the people of the US had little faith in their government. Speaking for the times, FDR used his radio, fireside chats to reach people all across the country: from cosmopolitan New York City to a rural farm town in Kansas. In these fireside chats, FDR tried to boost American morale and faith in their government. He advertised his New Deal Programs and explained to the public what his administration was doing to combat the Great Depression. Through

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## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – C

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these chats, FDR increased America's faith in him while also trying to get Americans out of the Great Depression.

Mass media can be used for all different things. Upton Sinclair used it to prompt reform of an industry while President FDR used it to increase America's faith in him as president. Both men got what they desired and also changed the ways mass media could be used in the future.

## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – D

Throughout history, forms of communication, such as books, photographs, and newspapers have influenced the views of people and the course of history. Mass media such as the book The Jungle by Upton Sinclair had many positive effects, while journalism such as yellow journalism by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer had a negative and positive effect. Nevertheless, mass media continues to affect society.

As a muckraker, Upton Sinclair exposed the ills of the meatpacking industry through his book called The Jungle. Throughout the early 1900s, the meatpacking industry allowed certain dangerous and unsanitary practices. One particular practice involved rats. Since rats proliferated in meat-processing factories, rat poison was strewn across the factory floor. The ground became littered with rat corpses and rat poison. Workers would then put everything on the ground into the actual meat, allowing this disgusting mixture to be sold to the public. As a result of the work of Upton Sinclair, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act (1920s). These acts set certain standards for the meatpacking industry to get rid of these unsanitary practices. They also required that the ingredients of a food or medicine be labeled on the package, so consumers could see what they would be ingesting.

The practice of yellow journalism by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer negatively and positively affected society. Abrasive headlines that shouted that the U.S.S. Maine was sunk in Havana Harbor by Spain caused increasing tensions between the U.S. and Spain and was one of the main causes of the Spanish American War. In reality, Spain was not responsible for the sinking of the U.S.S.

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## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – D

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Maine; the ship's engine combusted itself. However the U.S still declared war on Spain (1898). This was a negative effect of yellow journalism, since the U.S was still a relatively young country. However the positive effects were that the U.S was able to gain its first colonies or land claims (imperialism) as a result of winning the war. These included the Phillipines, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the right to "protect" Cuba as we see fit. These land claims allowed for more resources, new markets, and more military bases.

Mass media such as books and newspapers allowed for the spread of ideas, good or bad. Upton Sinclair's work allowed for reform that increased the public's health and safety, while yellow journalism allowed for the rapid increasing of tensions. Mass media continues to affect people's views on events and issues today.

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## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – E

Mass media has been used to expose wrongdoings and shameful acts throughout American history. The exposure of those evils has positively influenced society by allowing solutions to be made. How the Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis and The Jungle by Upton Sinclair had exposed the horrors of living in an industrial era.

During the Industrial Era, the population of cities sharply increased. Immigrants from all parts of Europe were pouring into the country in search of a better life. There was not enough housing in the cities for the amount of people moving there to work in the huge factories that began to dominate business. This need for housing resulted in the birth of tenements. Tenements were buildings that distributed living space as efficiently as possible across five or six floors. By doing so, they stuffed entire families into single windowless rooms. For some families, their room also served as a work room where children and adults worked on piece work to earn money. These buildings were very unsanitary and unsafe, causing disease to spread rapidly. Although construction companies were able to very efficiently use space to provide housing for a large number of people, they sacrificed the health and the well-being of the people.

Jacob Riis acted as the whistleblower that exposed these rancid living conditions. His book, How the Other Half Lives used photographs which showed real families and the horrors of tenement living in personalized detail. He created an image that the readers would never forget. This led to state and city governments stepping in and creating laws that regulated the size of the rooms and the ventilation in each building. It also mandated fire escapes. These new changes greatly benefitted those on the lowest level of American society as it

## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – E

made living in city tenements a safer experience.

Also during the industrial era, the meat-packing industry was booming. New technology and techniques allowed factories to mass produce meat products. However there were no laws in place to regulate this mass production due to the laissez faire attitude of the government. The factories were not clean, the process was very unsanitary, and sick animals were slaughtered along with healthy ones. Workers didn't need to wear gloves and were in danger of injuries while working in the factories. Thus, the meat products being made posed a hazard to society's health but the public was unaware of that danger.

Upton Sinclair was another crucial whistleblower in American history. The Jungle describes the unsanitary practices of the meat packing industry. Sinclair later said he aimed at the public's heart but hit it in the stomach because his description of poor working conditions was not what people remembered. The improper handling of the meat horrified the public because millions of Americans had unknowingly consumed contaminated meat. Teddy Roosevelt intervened and sent his own trusted investigators to check on conditions. The results confirmed Sinclair's claims. The Roosevelt Administration decided to create and enforce new laws regulating the meat factories. Frequent inspections by government officials became normal as did labeling of ingredients. It had an enormously beneficial effect on the American society as it gave the people healthy food to eat. Today, Americans simply expect that their food is clean and safe. Sinclair's book played a key role in starting this process.

Whistleblowers use the media to create attention for issues which

## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – E

they hope lead to reforms for the American society. Upton Sinclair's The Jungle and Jacob Riis's How the Other Half Lives brought attention to unsanitary conditions and this attention influenced government to make sanitation reforms that benefited the American people.

### Practice Paper A—Score Level 3

#### **The response:**

- Develops most aspects of the task in some depth for *The Jungle* and for Thomas Nast's political cartoons
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*The Jungle*: little-to-no work laws existed, which meant that long hours, low pay, and unsafe conditions were still present at the workplace; able to expose some shocking news about the production of meat; the uproar, caused by Sinclair, helped to achieve new reforms that would benefit consumers; required that factories put labels on their products, allowing consumers to be able to see firsthand what it was that they were purchasing; forced meat factories to allow government officials to inspect their workplace at any time in order to be sure that it was clean and sanitary; *political cartoons*: believed that government officials should not be able to take bribes from businessmen for big-city contracts; pictured the boss in terrible positions, such as a criminal and robber of New York City taxpayers; after Nast was offered a bribe to stop his cartoons, he became even more determined to expose corruption; cartoons helped create public outrage and successfully force the city boss from his position)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*The Jungle*: exploited workers; unsanitary conditions; novel; rats; government regulations; *political cartoons*: New York newspaper; late 1800s; corrupt political party machines); includes a minor inaccuracy (*The Jungle*: Drug and Food Act)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that calls mass media an underestimated strategy and a brief conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response includes a very general overview of the historical circumstances surrounding issues exposed in *The Jungle* and describes the effects of its publication on consumer safety. The response also recognizes the targets of Nast's most famous cartoons but provides a limited discussion of the effects these cartoons had on American society.

## Practice Paper B—Score Level 4

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing *Common Sense* less thoroughly than *The Jungle*
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Common Sense*: the colonies did not seek independence from Great Britain, they merely wanted better treatment as British subjects; able to persuade many American colonists that they did in fact need to break away from Great Britain; pamphlet plainly stated that America should renounce the monarchy and become a republic because all kings were tyrants; heavily influenced public opinion and the Continental Congress, within the same year the Declaration of Independence was written; *The Jungle*: muckrakers were individuals who utilized journalism as a way of informing the public about the wrongs in society in order to bring about change; he added short descriptions of the meatpacking process including the incorporation of rat feces into sausage; realized the need for immediate government action to ensure consumer safety; challenged the old belief that government was not responsible for the public's safety; laws were the first steps toward effective government regulation of the food industry)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Common Sense*: Revolutionary War period; taxation without proper representation; consent of the governed; list of grievances; *The Jungle*: exposé; Progressive movement; President Theodore Roosevelt; Meat Inspection Act; Pure Food and Drug Act; ingredients are now listed; government inspectors)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that states if it were not for mass media people might be less informed about problems in society

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response uses analytic statements to demonstrate an understanding of the task and the role played by *Common Sense* and *The Jungle* in influencing American society. However, the discussion of the effects of *Common Sense* would benefit from further development.

## Practice Paper C—Score Level 2

### The response:

- Develops some aspects of the task in some depth for *The Jungle* and fireside chats
- Is primarily descriptive (*The Jungle*: characterized as a muckraker because he exploited the injustices of an industry in order to gain public attention; meatpacking industry had little-to-no regulation; drew national attention to the issue; after these laws were passed, the companies had to advertise all of the ingredients; a more sanitary method of packing products; *fireside chats*: became president at a time when the nation was at its worst economically and the people had little faith in their government; used his radio fireside chats to reach people all across the country; he advertised his New Deal programs and explained to the public what his administration was doing to combat the Great Depression; increased America's faith in him)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*The Jungle*: misadvertising of their products; rodents; Meat Inspection Act; Food-Drug Act; regulate the food industry; *fireside chats*: cosmopolitan New York City to a rural farm town in Kansas)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes a brief introduction and a brief conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response shows some knowledge of *The Jungle*. However, the discussion of fireside chats is brief, general, and undeveloped.

## Practice Paper D—Score Level 3

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth for *The Jungle* and yellow journalism
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*The Jungle*: the meatpacking industry allowed certain dangerous and unsanitary practices; workers would then put everything on the ground into the actual meat, allowing this disgusting mixture to be sold to the public; acts set certain standards for the meatpacking industry to get rid of these unsanitary practices; required that the ingredients of a food or medicine be labeled on the package so consumers could see what they would be ingesting; *yellow journalism*: abrasive headlines that shouted that the USS *Maine* was sunk in Havana Harbor by Spain caused increasing tensions; in reality, Spain was not responsible for the sinking; United States still declared war; able to gain its first colonies; land claims allowed for more resources, new markets, and more military bases)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*The Jungle*: muckraker; rat poison; President Theodore Roosevelt; Pure Food and Drug Act; Meat Inspection Act; *yellow journalism*: Spanish-American War; ship's engine combusted; imperialism; Philippines, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the right to protect Cuba); includes an inaccuracy (*The Jungle*: Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act in 1920s)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes a brief introduction and a conclusion that states Sinclair's work increased the public's health and safety while yellow journalism increased tensions

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response introduces the main ideas for each aspect of the task but lacks depth and analysis.

## Practice Paper E—Score Level 4

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the historical circumstances surrounding *How the Other Half Lives* and *The Jungle* more thoroughly than the effects of the books on American society
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*How the Other Half Lives*: during the industrial era, the populations of cities sharply increased; used photographs which showed real families and the horrors of tenement living in personalized detail; led to state and city governments stepping in and creating laws that regulated the size of the rooms and the ventilation in each building; new changes greatly benefited those on the lowest level of American society as it made living in city tenements a safer experience; *The Jungle*: new technology and techniques allowed factories to mass produce meat products; factories were not clean, the process was very unsanitary, and sick animals were slaughtered along with healthy ones; said he aimed at the public's heart but hit it in the stomach because his description of poor working conditions was not what people remembered; Teddy Roosevelt intervened and sent his own trusted investigators; frequent inspections by government officials became normal as did labeling of ingredients; today Americans simply expect that their food is clean and safe)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*How the Other Half Lives*: immigrants; huge factories; disease; whistle-blower; fire escapes; *The Jungle*: laissez-faire; danger of injuries; whistle-blower; contaminated meat; Roosevelt administration; new laws regulating the meat factories)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that states both authors exposed some horrors of living in the industrial era and a conclusion that links the books to sanitary reform

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response connects both books to negative aspects of industrialization and includes some well-placed analytic statements. The discussion of the reforms each book encouraged is less detailed and more descriptive than analytical.

# **United States History and Government Specifications**

## **January 2017**

### **Part I**

#### **Multiple-Choice Questions by Standard**

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

#### **Parts II and III by Theme and Standard**

	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Standards</b>
Thematic Essay	Cultural and Intellectual Life; Reform Movements; Places and Regions; Change	Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5: United States and New York History; World History; Geography; Economics; Civics, Citizenship, and Government
Document-based Essay	Presidential Decisions and Actions; Foreign Policy; Citizenship; Places and Regions; Constitutional Principles; Government	Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5: United States and New York History; World History; Geography; Economics; Civics, Citizenship, and Government

#### **Notes:**

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

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

**The *Chart for Determining the Final Examination Score for the January 2017 Regents Examination in United States History and Government* 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 United States History and Government examination must NOT be used to determine students' final scores for this administration.**

### **Submitting Teacher Evaluations of the Test to the Department**

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

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