

FOR TEACHERS ONLY

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

UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

Thursday, January 24, 2013 — 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., only

VOLUME
1 OF **2**
MC & THEMATIC

SCORING KEY FOR PART I AND RATING GUIDE FOR PART II (THEMATIC ESSAY)

Updated information regarding the rating of this examination may be posted on the New York State Education Department's web site during the rating period. Visit the site at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/> and select the link "Scoring Information" for any recently posted information regarding this examination. This site should be checked before the rating process for this examination begins and several times throughout the Regents Examination period.

Scoring the Part I Multiple-Choice Questions

Follow the procedures set up by the Regional Information Center, the Large City Scanning Center, and/or the school district for scoring the multiple-choice questions. **If the student's responses for the multiple-choice questions are being hand scored prior to being scanned, the scorer must be careful not to make any marks on the answer sheet except to record the scores in the designated score boxes. Any other marks on the answer sheet will interfere with the accuracy of scanning.**

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

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

United States History and Government
Content-Specific Rubric
Thematic Essay
January 2013

Theme: Government (Congressional Legislation)

Throughout United States history, Congress has passed legislation to address important political, social, or economic issues. These laws have often had a significant impact on American society.

Task: Select *two* laws passed by the United States Congress and for *each*

- Discuss the historical circumstances that led to the passage of the law
- Discuss the impacts of the law on American society

You may use any federal law that was intended to address an important issue from your study of United States history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include:

Embargo Act (1807)

Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)

Indian Removal Act (1830)

Social Security Act (1935)

Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)

GI Bill/Servicemen's Readjustment Act (1944)

Interstate Commerce Act (1887)

Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)

You are not limited to these suggestions.

You may *not* discuss constitutional amendments.

Scoring Notes:

1. This thematic essay has a minimum of *six* components (discussing the historical circumstances that led to the passage of *two* specific pieces of federal legislation and *at least two* impacts of *each* law on American society).
2. Amendments to the Constitution may *not* be used as examples of congressional legislation.
3. State and local laws may *not* be used as examples of congressional legislation.
4. The discussion of the historical circumstances that led to the passage of a law may be from a broad or a narrow perspective (e.g., Interstate Commerce Act resulting from farmers' demands for fair shipping rates or resulting from the Supreme Court ruling in the *Wabash* case).
5. The specific terms of the law do not need to be stated, although they may be included in the discussion as either historical circumstances or as an impact of the law.
6. Two laws passed by Congress with similar historical circumstances and/or impacts may be selected as long as separate and distinct information is discussed for each, e.g., the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act.
7. The discussion of the impacts of the law on American society may be immediate, long term, or a combination of the two.
8. The response may discuss the impacts of the law on American society from differing perspectives as long as the positions taken are supported by accurate historical facts and examples.

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.

Score of 5:

- Thoroughly develops *all* aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing the historical circumstances that led to the passage of *two* specific pieces of federal legislation and *at least two* impacts of *each* law on American society
- Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates* information), e.g., *Indian Removal Act*: connects President Andrew Jackson’s goal of opening land east of the Mississippi River for southern farmers and miners and the widely-held belief that Native American Indians could not be assimilated to the passage of the Indian Removal Act that forcibly relocated the Five Civilized Tribes westward along the Trail of Tears, causing suffering and death during the journey and establishing a precedent for future relocation and subjugation; *Pure Food and Drug Act*: connects public alarm about adulterated medicines and contaminated foods that had been triggered by muckrakers and Progressive reformers to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act that mandated product labeling and testing, increased consumer protection, and increased federal regulatory power and public confidence
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details, e.g., *Indian Removal Act*: racism; “red man”; paternalistic attitude; broken treaties; discovery of gold; cotton; Chief Justice John Marshall; *Worcester v. Georgia*; Jackson’s defiance; Cherokee; Seminole wars; fugitive slaves; Oklahoma; military escort; cold; starvation; disease; late 19th-century reservation policy; Manifest Destiny; *Pure Food and Drug Act*: laissez-faire; industrialization; patent medicines; “snake-oil salesmen”; Upton Sinclair; *The Jungle*; unsanitary food processing plants; President Theodore Roosevelt; Meat Inspection Act; Food and Drug Administration; approval of new medications; truth in labeling; increased bureaucracy; product recalls; salmonella; e-coli
- 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 all aspects of the task for one law more thoroughly than for the second law *or* by discussing one aspect of the task less thoroughly than the other aspects of the task
- Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates information), e.g., *Indian Removal Act*: discusses how racist attitudes and President Andrew Jackson’s goal of opening land east of the Mississippi River to white settlers led to the passage of the Indian Removal Act that resulted in the forced relocation of Native American Indians to Oklahoma along the Trail of Tears and set the precedent for the breaking of treaties and subsequent relocation of more Native American Indians as the nation moved westward; *Pure Food and Drug Act*: discusses how the work of Progressive reformers and muckrakers that exposed the dangers of food and drug additives led to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act that established testing and labeling of foods and drugs and improved consumer safety and public confidence
- 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 in 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 *both* aspects of the task for *one* law passed by Congress have been thoroughly developed evenly and in depth, 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.

Laws have been passed throughout American history that have influenced American society, politics, and economy, ever since the inception of the new nation. These laws often dealt with adversity & controversy throughout their “lives.” Some acts, however, were ultimately ineffective and actually disastrous. Such as the 1807 Embargo & the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

First, the Embargo Act saw its inauguration under the Jefferson Administration when the young nation was still in its “infancy,” with little naval power. Amidst global warfare between the world’s superpowers in the early 19th century the infant nation was struggling to persist. Thus, when both Napoleon and the British Empire infringed upon the United States’ rights of the sea and neutrality, by both besieging American merchant ships and impressing sailors, Jefferson advocated for the passage of the Embargo Act of 1807. Congress passed the act despite the opposition of New England Federalists. This Act called for the stoppage of all trade with foreign nations. By ceasing American exports, Jefferson wanted both France & Britain to suffer without necessary Yankee foodstuffs, therefore exemplifying the importance of the new nation. Unfortunately, the Act never fulfilled Jefferson’s goal of worldwide respect for America. Although affected by the loss of American imports, both France & Britain managed to survive and still refused to respect our neutrality. It was the United States, ironically, that truly struggled under the Embargo. New England ports, once bustling with trade, were silent for the first time in centuries. Merchants around the country truly bore the financial burden of the Embargo Act. Sailors, dock workers and shipbuilders were without work. Raw materials

could not be sold abroad, so even southern cotton growers suffered. Eventually, Jefferson saw the failure of the plan. Not only was it economically ineffective, but Britain continued to impress American sailors and ignore American sovereignty. The law was repealed 2 years later and was replaced with the non-Intercourse Act. Both of these Acts failed to end tensions between the United States and Britain, which eventually boiled over into the War of 1812.

A half-century later, another monumental bill was signed into law in 1854: the Kansas-Nebraska Act. By the 1850's, American society was completely torn apart on the issue of the expansion of slavery. Previous legislative acts attempted to resolve the issue of slavery's expansion. The Missouri Compromise and Compromise of 1850 had attempted to alleviate tensions of both sides, the free North & slavery-dominated South, but neither completely satisfied both sides. However, the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, engineered by Sen. Stephen Douglas, attempted to fill the inevitable divide. The Act called for popular sovereignty in both Kansas and Nebraska, in other words, settlers would vote on whether slavery was to be included in the State Constitution. Thus, the act repealed the long-established Missouri Compromise. Although the act seemed to epitomize the ideals of democracy, in reality it was essentially disastrous. The Act effectively created "Bleeding Kansas" where pro-slavery and abolitionist individuals bitterly fought in Kansas over the issue of continued slavery. Hundreds died and property was destroyed as violence swept across the state over whether a "free" or "slave" constitution would be adopted. This act even split apart the once solid Democratic Party, while it gave rise to a new political party, Republican, which fiercely opposed

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – A

any expansion of slavery into new territories. In the election of 1860, northern Democrats backed Stephen Douglas, while southern Democrats backed John Breckinridge. This divide essentially allowed the election of Republican Abraham Lincoln, which directly led to the secession of South Carolina and other Southern states creating the Confederacy. Ineluctably, the civil war ensued.

Obviously landmark legislation throughout the history of the United States has had a notorious and lasting impression on American culture and society. The Kansas-Nebraska Act and Embargo Act, failed to prevent war. The institution of these Acts influenced America's future, and played a significant role in American political life.

Anchor Level 5-A

The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing the historical circumstances that led to the passage of the Embargo Act and the Kansas-Nebraska Act and by discussing the impacts of each law on American society
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Embargo Act*: by ceasing American exports, Jefferson wanted both France and Britain to suffer without necessary Yankee foodstuffs, therefore exemplifying the importance of the new nation; foreign nations continued to ignore American sovereignty; it was the United States, ironically, that truly struggled under the embargo; failure of Acts eventually boiled over into the War of 1812; *Kansas-Nebraska Act*: although the act seemed to epitomize the ideals of democracy, in reality it was disastrous; this act split apart the once-solid Democratic Party while it gave rise to a new political party, Republican, which fiercely opposed any expansion of slavery into new territories; divide allowed the election of Republican Abraham Lincoln, which led to the secession of South Carolina and the Civil War)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Embargo Act*: little naval power; global warfare; early 19th century; Napoleon; British Empire; rights of the sea; neutrality; merchant ships; impressing sailors; stoppage of all trade; opposition of New England Federalists; loss of American imports; silent ports; sailors, dock workers and shipbuilders without work; raw materials; cotton growers suffered; repealed two years later; Non-Intercourse Act; *Kansas-Nebraska Act*: Compromise of 1850; free North, slavery-dominated South; Senator Stephen Douglas; popular sovereignty; repealed Missouri Compromise; Bleeding Kansas; hundreds died; property destroyed; election of 1860; John Breckinridge; Confederacy)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that cite the negative outcomes of the two laws

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The strength of the response lies in its understanding of the need to establish the sovereignty of the United States, the sectional tensions preceding the Civil War, and the positions of 19th-century political parties. In addition, analysis of the negative impacts of both laws is used to make an effective argument that neither piece of legislation prevented the outbreak of war.

Checks and balances are an integral part of the governing system of the United States. The Congress is made up of legislators directly elected by the people, representatives who are responsible for passing new laws. These laws are in response to social, economic, or political stimuli and act as a catalyst for change, often dramatically affecting American society. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 and the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 are examples of congressional legislation passed to change America.

The Indian Removal Act came at an important point in history. Andrew Jackson was president, and Americans were full of the adventurous spirit that would later be called Manifest Destiny. However, they were also full of racism towards the Indian tribes. They were determined to take the fertile and mineral rich lands of the Southeast even though these lands were inhabited by the “civilized” tribes, including the Cherokee. Jackson, who had a reputation as an Indian fighter, decided that a generous way to solve the Indian problem was to relocate them far to the West into present-day Oklahoma, then known as the Indian Territory. The Indian Removal Act was passed by Congress to move the Indians of the South westward. Originally, the Supreme Court ruled that Georgia had no right to pass laws concerning Cherokee lands. However, Jackson ignored Chief Justice Marshall’s ruling and famously stated, “John Marshall has made his decision. Now let him enforce it.” The Cherokee and other tribes were forced to march along the Trail of Tears, a tough road where thousands lost their lives from disease and starvation. This law set the tone for the treatment of Indians in the U.S. In the future our government would rob the Indians of possessions, take their land,

force them onto separate reservations, and go back on its word. This poor treatment made the Indian tribes what they are today: only a shadow of the powerful and noble entities they used to be. Many Indians died on the Trail of Tears, and the survivors harbored intense resentment against the White Americans. The Indian Removal Act is an example of the terrible treatment of the Indian tribes.

The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 also effected US society. Theodore Roosevelt was president and Congress had many Progressive legislators who had begun to question the nation's laissez-faire policy toward big business. At the time, there were no regulations to protect consumers from the threat of tainted food and dangerous drugs. Muckrakers like Ida Tarbell and Upton Sinclair exposed the dirty secrets of big business. Sinclair published *The Jungle*, a book about the horrors of the meatpacking industry. Other writers exposed the lies behind advertisements for various drugs, revealing real ingredients and many harmful effects. All these writers shed light on the unhealthy and unsanitary production of food and drugs. These stories upset and united consumers, who demanded action. The federal government stepped in to intervene. The Pure Food and Drug Act provided for regulation of products. Businesses could no longer sell products that were falsely labeled or that contained unhealthy additives. The Food and Drug Administration was created to insure the accurate labeling of drugs and protect the quality of the food supply. It heralded a new age when government wasn't afraid of regulating big business to protect the public. In addition, other agencies were created to make life safer and healthier for Americans and their life expectancy increased. Today, the Food and Drug Administration has

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – B

huge powers over the food and drug industries. Pharmaceutical companies, for instance, must meet high quality standards, including testing before new drugs can be sold.

Both the Indian Removal Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act influenced the United States. They set precedents and changed the way people live. This illustrates the power of Congress to change and influence our lives.

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

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing the historical circumstances that led to the passage of the Indian Removal Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act and the impacts of each law on American society
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Indian Removal Act*: Andrew Jackson was president and Americans were full of the adventurous spirit that would later be called Manifest Destiny; Cherokee forced-marched along the Trail of Tears; this law set the tone for the treatment of Indians in the United States; poor treatment made tribes what they are today, a shadow of the powerful and noble entities they used to be; survivors harbored intense resentment against the white Americans; *Pure Food and Drug Act*: at the time, there were no regulations to protect consumers from the threat of tainted food and dangerous drugs; other writers exposed the lies behind advertisements for various drugs, revealing real ingredients and many harmful effects; stories upset and united consumers, who demanded action; Food and Drug Administration created to insure the accurate labeling of drugs and protect the quality of the food supply; new age when government was not afraid to regulate business to protect the public; today, the Food and Drug Administration has huge power over the food and drug industries)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Indian Removal Act*: racism; Indian fighter; present-day Oklahoma; Indian Territory; Supreme Court; Georgia; Chief Justice Marshall's ruling; thousands lost their lives; rob the Indians of their possessions; take their land; separate reservations; *Pure Food and Drug Act*: Theodore Roosevelt; Progressive legislators; laissez-faire; big business; muckrakers; Upton Sinclair; *The Jungle*; meatpacking industry; falsely labeled; unhealthy additives)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes a strong introduction observing that the Congress is directly elected by the people and a conclusion that refers to the power of Congress to influence lives

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response includes good analysis of the time periods, the precedents established by each law, and the impacts of these laws on American society.

Throughout U.S. History, the legislation passed by Congress has been crucial. Many important events would not have happened without Congressional legislation to spur them on or galvanize them to occur. I am sure the founding fathers knew this when they wrote the constitution, and they approved of this. Two pieces of legislation that are key to the study of U.S. history are the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Social Security Act.

The origins of the Kansas-Nebraska Act go back to 1820, with the Missouri Compromise. The Missouri Compromise probably stalled the Civil War for decades and allowed both sides to cool off. However, the Mexican War brought a huge new area into the U.S. and with it, another debate over the spread of slavery. The Compromise of 1850 temporarily quieted the debate when both the North and the South gained something. California came in as a free state and a stronger fugitive slave law was included in the compromise. But then Stephen Douglas came to the scene. He believed in popular sovereignty, which was the practice of allowing a territory to vote for or against slavery. At that time, the tension between the North and the South was significant, but not at the boiling point yet, as ties of economic and political bonds still held them together.

When the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed, both the North and the South sprang into action. The act had allowed the 2 territories, Kansas and Nebraska, to vote for or against slavery. Antislavery free-soilers streamed into Kansas to vote down slavery, assisted by Northern settlement groups. Pro-slavery Southerners likewise sent their own groups to Kansas to vote for slavery. On election day, the atmosphere was tense. Pro-slavery "border ruffians" from Missouri crossed over the

border and voted early and often. The pro-slavery men also terrorized the antislavery men. Having won the election, the pro-slaverites quickly moved to draft the Lecompton Constitution, which would have slavery in the territory even if enough people voted no slavery. The antislaverites boycotted the polls and the Lecompton constitution passed with slavery. But Douglas got angry over this fraudulent means of popular sovereignty and pushed to have the whole Lecompton Constitution voted on and the free soilers defeated the constitution. The main effect all of this caused is essentially the beginning of the Civil War. With the immense tension coming from the Kansas region, with things like John Brown's massacre of 5 people and "Bleeding Kansas," it was only a matter of time before the bullets flying in Kansas ignited the rest of the country, and it did, culminating with the Civil War.

The Social Security Act also came in an environment of great tension, though not the same kind. The Social Security Act was passed during the Great Depression, which was the worst economic downturn in U.S. history. There was little hope in anybody's mind and many people were trying desperately to make ends meet. The whole atmosphere was one of gloom and doom for many people, especially as the unemployment rate was sometimes as high as 25% and hundreds of banks closed. Then Roosevelt became President, and everything changed. He tried many different approaches to solving the economic downturn. One was Social Security, which was first proposed by a California doctor.

The effect of Social Security was long term unlike some of the other New Deal projects, such as the WPA, AAA, and CCC, which had a

much more immediate impact. Social security started paying federal benefits in the 1940s and for many years provided retirement money for the elderly, while building up a huge trust fund to pay future benefits. Social security is extremely important today, for several reasons. First, it provides a lifeline of the elderly who have no income, which generally acts as a stabilizing influence on society, as people worry less about what happens when you turn 65. In 1965 under Johnson, social security was expanded to include Medicare, which provides hospital and medical insurance for the elderly. Another important result of Social Security is that the government projected deficit has skyrocketed. Because more and more people are living past 65, the Social Security system can no longer support itself and will go bankrupt unless action is taken. This happened because the money that was supposed to be in the trust fund was used to pay other government costs.

Some people say that the Legislative Branch of the U.S. government is the most powerful, and I agree. Merely look at how many important legislative accomplishments it has done over the years and you will see the truth. There will always be crises, and there will be solutions to them. We merely need the courage to carry them out, like our forefathers did.

Anchor Level 4-A

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the Kansas-Nebraska Act in more depth than the Social Security Act
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Kansas-Nebraska Act*: the Mexican War brought a huge new area into the United States and with it, another debate over the spread of slavery; California came in as a free state and a stronger fugitive slave law was included in the Compromise of 1850; at that time, the tension between the North and South was significant, but not at the boiling point, as ties of economic and political bonds still held them together; anti-slavery free-soilers streamed into Kansas to vote down slavery; the bullets flying in Kansas ignited the rest of the country, culminating with the Civil War; *Social Security Act*: many people were trying desperately to make ends meet; started paying federal benefits in the 1940s and for many years provided retirement money for the elderly; in 1965 under Johnson, Social Security was expanded to include Medicare, which provides hospital and medical insurance for the elderly; government projected deficit has skyrocketed; because more and more people are living past 65, the Social Security system can no longer support itself and will go bankrupt unless action is taken)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Kansas-Nebraska Act*: Missouri Compromise in 1820; Stephen Douglas; popular sovereignty; two territories; pro-slavery Southerners, “border ruffians” from Missouri voted early and often; Lecompton Constitution; boycotted the polls; John Brown’s massacre of five people; Bleeding Kansas; *Social Security Act*: Great Depression; worst economic downturn; unemployment rate of 25%; hundreds of banks closed; Roosevelt became president; first proposed by a California doctor; New Deal; built up a huge trust fund)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that credits congressional legislation with causing many important events and a conclusion that overstates the relative importance of the legislative branch

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response blends a great deal of descriptive information with some analysis in the discussion of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, but the discussion of the Social Security Act is primarily descriptive and lacks similar depth.

The chief purpose of the United States Congress is to pass laws that better American society. Since the inception of our nation, Congress has been at work fulfilling this function, sometimes through internal stimuli and sometimes from outside pressure. Two excellent examples of Congress exercising its law-making abilities to bring about change in American society are the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 and the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906.

In 1854 the United States was a nation divided over the issues of slavery. In the early 19th century, the northern states were free states, meaning slavery was uncommon or outlawed, and the southern states were slave states. There was an equal number of slave and free states, this caused an uneasy balance in the Senate, where representation from every state is equal. As the nation expanded westward, and more new states were being admitted to the Union, Congress tried to maintain this balance, through the Missouri Compromise, which stated that all states north of the 36° 30' line except for Missouri would be admitted as free states, all new states south would be admitted as slave states. This compromise applied to the Louisiana Purchase in which most of the land was above the 36° 30' line. Most Northerners thought this meant that few new slave states would be admitted in the future. During the 1840s there was rapid westward expansion and the question of whether slavery could spread was re-opened. In the 1850's, it became apparent that two new states both north of the compromise line would be joining the Union. People from slave states felt that admitting two free states would cause an upset in the balance of power, while those from free states felt that the Missouri Compromise had guaranteed that these two new states, Kansas and Nebraska, would be

free. One solution, which would shift the decision from Congress to local settlers, was to let the people decide for themselves by exercising popular sovereignty. Thus the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed. An unforeseen consequence of this act was that many people from both sides of this conflict moved to these two states to try to influence the vote in their direction. Violence often broke out, so much so that Kansas in this time period was often referred to as “bleeding Kansas.” For instance, John Brown and his sons massacred proslavery settlers, contributing to the civil war in Kansas. These actions further enflamed the conflict over slavery. The Kansas Nebraska Act was supposed to remove the issue of slavery from Congress. Instead it led to public outrage in the North and open fighting in Kansas, keeping the issue of slavery in the public’s mind. All of this contributed to the Civil War. Both states were eventually admitted as free states, just as they would have been under the Missouri Compromise.

Before the food and Drug Act of 1906, food and medications were almost completely unregulated, since Congress believed in a laissez-faire policy toward business. There were no standards in which animals could be used to make food, no regulations on the sanitation of food processing facilities, and no provisions requiring that the consumer be made aware of what was in their food. Many men travelled around selling homemade medicine. These “snake oil salesmen” promised that their product was a panacea, but in reality these medicines rarely had any positive impact, and often caused harm. This all started to change once the muckrakers got involved. A muckraker is an artist, author, or other prominent person who uses their career to expose a problem in society. One such muckraker was

Upton Sinclair, an author whose book The Jungle exposed the horrors of the meat packing industry. After these horrible issues had been brought to the light, Progressives in Congress pushed for passage of the Food and Drug Act, which set up the Food and Drug Administration, or FDA. The FDA is responsible for setting up guidelines for pure food, making it so that products have accurate labels of what was in consumer's food and for testing medicines to make sure they are safe and effective. People from the tenements to the White House supported the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act because they were consumers, who had been at the mercy of those who produced their food and drugs. Most Americans knew it was time for more government regulation. In recent years, the FDA has forced the recall of some medicines because they have caused more harm than good over the long run. The FDA continues to achieve its purpose to this day.

It has been said that the federal government does not affect the average citizen. This is clearly not the case, as exemplified in the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act. The United States Congress clearly has bearing on everyday life.

Anchor Level 4-B

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task by thoroughly discussing the historical circumstances that led to the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act but is somewhat weaker in the discussion of the impacts of the Pure Food and Drug Act
- Is both analytical and descriptive (*Kansas-Nebraska Act*: an equal number of slave and free states caused an uneasy balance in the Senate where representation from every state is equal; an unforeseen consequence of this act was that many people from both sides of this conflict moved to these two states to try to influence the vote in their direction; violence broke out; actions further enflamed the conflict over slavery; Act was supposed to remove the issue of slavery from Congress; led to public outrage in the North and open fighting in Kansas, keeping the issue of slavery in the public's mind; *Pure Food and Drug Act*: before the Food and Drug Act of 1906, food and medications were almost completely unregulated since Congress believed in a laissez-faire policy toward business; Food and Drug Administration is responsible for setting guidelines for food and for testing medicines; people from the tenements to the White House supported the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act because they were consumers, who had been at the mercy of those who produced their food and drugs; most Americans knew it was time for more government regulation; FDA continues to achieve its purpose to this day)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Kansas-Nebraska Act*: free states; slave states; nation expanded westward; Missouri Compromise; 36°30' line; popular sovereignty; Bleeding Kansas; John Brown; admitted as free states; Civil War; *Pure Food and Drug Act*: no standards; “snake oil salesmen”; panacea; often caused harm; muckrakers; expose a problem; Upton Sinclair; *The Jungle*; meatpacking industry; Progressives; recall of some medicines)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that points out that legislation results from both internal and external pressures and a conclusion that recognizes that laws affect the everyday life of average citizens

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response provides ample description and analysis of the historical circumstances leading to each act as well as a good discussion of the impacts of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. However, the impacts of the Pure Food and Drug Act are treated superficially.

As deemed by the U.S. Constitution, the legislative branch has the power to put laws into effect that are necessary for the time. Two of these laws, the Sedition Act and the Embargo Act, had profound impacts on America. Both acts were passed when America was on the brink of war and each had significant effects (socially and politically for the Sedition Act and economically for the Embargo Act) on American society prior to a major physical conflict.

The Sedition Act was passed by Federalists under President Adams when America was in conflict with France. The “Quasi-War” with France, which started due to trading conflicts and abuse of our neutral rights, was elevated to a level close to complete open warfare. The possibility of war with France led Congress to increase the size of the Navy and the Army. During this time, Congress (under Adams’ administration) passed several controversial legislations, but the most significant was the sedition act. The Sedition Act called for the arrest of anyone who spoke out against the government’s (and therefore Adams’) policies. This not only allowed Adams to arrest any political opponents, but it also limited the constitutional right to freedom of speech. Adams finally realized that France wanted to negotiate a settlement. Many Federalists were upset when Adams began negotiations with France that ended the old alliance treaty from the Revolutionary War. When conflicts with the French lessened and Jefferson was elected President, the Sedition Act was repealed, but its legacy did not die. During World War I, President Wilson passed a similar Sedition Act to arrest people who spoke out against the government (though with more rationale than Adams). The reemergence of the Sedition Act in 1918 confirms that the government

tends to limit citizens' rights during times of conflict.

Not long after the Quasi-War, President Jefferson was faced with a series of issues with the French and British. Both nations were in battle on the seas and so trade with America was disrupted.

Additionally, the British were impressing American sailors for the British navy. Responsively, Jefferson's Congress passed the Embargo Act of 1807. This legislation placed an embargo on all American trade for the time, in an attempt to hurt the French and British economies.

Jefferson believed that the European powers needed our food exports and other raw materials so much that they would be forced to change their attacks on our merchant ships. Jefferson's administration was wrong about this because Britain would not give up its naval superiority to gain America's food. However, there were repercussions; the American mercantile economy plummeted as a result of the act's passage. New England was hit particularly hard by the embargo, and as a result smuggling and lawlessness broke out around New England ports. In fact, several New Englanders began to contemplate secession from the union (which Federalists later recommended at the Hartford Convention). This first mention of secession set a precedent for the South in its stance for states' rights prior to the civil war.

Additionally, the failure of Jefferson's policy allowed the conflict with Britain and France to grow, eventually leading to the outbreak of the War of 1812. Therefore, Americans' responses to economic legislation had political ramifications that would reemerge later and more drastically in U.S. history.

Thus, American legislation has had profound effects on American society. The Sedition Act limited citizens' rights, while the Embargo

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – C

Act limited American's rights to free trade. Legislation has often been controversial and the issues addressed by legislation are not always completely resolved as a result.

Anchor Level 4-C**The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task for the Sedition Act and the Embargo Act but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the historical circumstances that led to the passage of these acts less thoroughly than the impacts
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Sedition Act*: possibility of war with France led Congress to increase the size of the Navy and the Army; during this time, Congress, under Adams' administration, passed several controversial legislations, but the most significant was the Sedition Act; allowed Adams to arrest political opponents; limited the constitutional right to freedom of speech; Adams began negotiations with France that ended the old alliance treaty from the Revolutionary War; Jefferson elected president and Sedition Act repealed; legacy did not die; the reemergence of the Sedition Act in 1918 confirms that the government tends to limit citizens' rights during times of conflict; *Embargo Act*: this legislation placed an embargo on all American trade in an attempt to hurt the French and British economies; Jefferson believed that the European powers needed our food exports and other raw materials; Britain would not give up its naval superiority to gain America's food; American mercantile economy plummeted as a result of the act; this first mention of secession set a precedent for the South in its stance for States rights prior to the Civil War; failure of Jefferson's policy allowed the conflict with Britain and France to grow; led to the outbreak of the War of 1812)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Sedition Act*: Federalists; Quasi War with France; Federalists; trading conflicts; repealed under Jefferson; World War I; President Wilson; similar Sedition Act; *Embargo Act*: after the Quasi War; President Jefferson; battle on the seas; trade with America was disrupted; British impressing American sailors; British navy; New England; smuggling and lawlessness; Federalists; Hartford Convention)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that observes that both acts were passed when the United States was on the brink of war and a conclusion that states that the Sedition Act limited citizens' rights while the Embargo Act limited American's rights to free trade

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. While the response lacks the depth and detail of a Level 5 paper, it includes high-level analysis especially by connecting each law to future events.

Throughout the history of the United States, laws have had huge impacts on the lives of Americans. As Americans faced social, political, and economic hardships, Congress has responded by passing influential legislation to combat these hardships and leave lasting results that have and continue to shape the United States into the nation it is today. Two such pieces of legislation is the Social Security Act (1935) and the GI Bill/Servicemen's Readjustment Act (1944).

First, the Social Security Act of 1935 came at an economically trying time for Americans. As the Great Depression raged around them, Americans fought against poverty, although it seemed like a losing battle. People suffered horrible losses, sometimes their homes, their life savings, and their hope as they tried to rebound from the economic sinkhole they had fallen into. Congress, realizing that Americans were suffering, decided to take action and passed the Social Security Act of 1935. The act was an attempt to help those who seemed to be suffering the most because of the Depression, especially the elderly and the unemployed. The unemployed received unemployment insurance through their state governments. The pension plan for the elderly was paid for by both workers and employers; however, federal pensions did not start until the 1940s. The act provided money in an attempt to help those who could no longer work for their money. It helped them save their homes and have enough money to buy food and other basic needs. The Social Security Act helped pull many Americans out of the clutches of the Great Depression. Even today, the Social Security Act lives and tries to make life a little easier for those who can no longer support themselves economically.

Also, the GI Bill/Servicemen Readjustment Act of 1944 had a huge impact on America, both socially and economically. The GI Bill helped former servicemen that served during World War II find a place for themselves in the United States. Many GIs used their money from the Bill to buy homes and start a family. A great number of these veterans settled down in suburbs like Levittown, and helped usher in the culture of the 1950s. Other GIs however, used the support of the GI Bill to go to college. Many of these GIs came from families and lifestyles that would not have been able to send them to college if not for the GI Bill. This wave of college graduates set a higher standard for education in the United States. It helped people realize how important a college education was in the job market and how much a college degree could improve their salary and lifestyle. The GI Bill drastically changed and improved social aspects of the American culture. It helped usher in the stability of the 1950s and improve education standards for the United States.

In conclusion, American laws in the history of the United States left lasting impacts. The Social Security Act of 1935 helped save Americans from the Great Depression while the GI/Servicemen Readjustment Act of 1944 helped change social aspects in the American culture and send more Americans to college. The U.S. Congress, through the legislation that it passes, has left and will continue to leave lasting results that shaped the United States into the nation it is today.

Anchor Level 3-A

The response:

- Develops most aspects of the task in some depth for the Social Security Act and by discussing the impacts of the GI Bill
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Social Security Act*: people suffered horrible losses, sometimes their homes, their life savings, and their hope as they tried to rebound from the economic sinkhole they had fallen into; the unemployed received unemployment insurance through their state governments; pension plan for the elderly was paid for by both workers and employers; federal pensions did not start until the 1940s; provided money to help those who could no longer work for their money; helped them save their homes and buy food and other basic necessities; even today, the Social Security Act tries to make life a little easier for those who can no longer support themselves economically; *GI Bill*: helped former servicemen that served during World War II find a place for themselves in the United States; GI's used their money to buy homes; others used the Bill to go to college; this wave of college graduates set a higher standard for education; college degree could improve their salary and lifestyle; helped usher in the stability of the 1950s)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Social Security Act*: Great Depression; poverty; unemployment insurance; *GI Bill*: start a family; suburbs; Levittown)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are little more than a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response shows insight about the impacts of the GI Bill, but lacks the historical circumstances that led to its passage. The discussion of the Social Security Act is more fully developed.

As the principal lawmaking body of the American government, it is the duty of Congress to pass into effect legislation to both protect and improve the livelihood of its citizens. In its existence Congress has passed many laws that have held very far-reaching consequences. As the system is not a perfect one, there have been occasions in which Congress has caused more harm than good, though not strictly of any malicious intent. Just the opposite, on occasions ground-breaking advancements in protective and beneficial governing have been made by this very same legal entity.

During the administration of Andrew Jackson, a bill was passed into law which not only violated many existing treaties but also some basic human rights. The Indian Removal Act stands as one of the greatest mistreatments of the Native population in American history. Jackson supported the Indian Removal Act because he wanted to see Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi settled by white Southerners. He thought they would make better use of the land and help strengthen the Southern border of the United States with large plantations. Jackson even ignored a Supreme Court decision which had been made on the side of Indians against the state of Georgia. By the Indian Removal Act's effect and passing, the homelands of many Native-American tribes were swiftly and brutally vacated. In particular, the eviction of the Cherokee tribe to "Indian territory" was so vicious, it earned the nickname "trail of tears." This single congressional act thus destroyed the lives of many people, an uncommon consequence for an act of the American government.

However, in the early twentieth century Congress proved its focus lay in a new more progressive direction. Under the leadership of

Theodore Roosevelt and with guidance from the muckrakers (a group of journalists dedicated to exposing corruption and anything else that would sell papers) Congress passed the Pure Food and Drug Act. Inspiration for the act is primarily accredited to Upton Sinclair a muckraker and author of The Jungle (which coincidentally had almost nothing to do with the law it motivated, from a literary perspective, but it scared the public about what they were eating). Consumers became afraid of being harmed by unsafe food and drugs which they had no way of avoiding and no way to stop. Rich and poor people shared this problem and wanted the federal government to do something to protect them. As the effect of the new law, regulations on the testing of medicines and labeling of food products were made much stricter. The creation of the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) allowed for tight government control of the effected industries and likely prevented numerous deaths from preventable illness. The benefit of the law is therefore self-evident.

Thus the actions of Congress can and have affected the lives of Americans. Through the effects are not always beneficial, their creation is often with good intentions in mind. Negative repercussions seemingly only follow an act passed under great crisis or ignorance such as the clear and present danger clause or the aforementioned IRA, respectively. For the most part however it is clear that the faith of Americans in their government is well placed and well deserved.

Anchor Level 3-B

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task in little depth for the Indian Removal Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Indian Removal Act*: violated some basic human rights; one of the greatest mistreatments of the native population; Jackson supported the Indian Removal Act because he wanted to see Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi settled by white Southerners; he thought they would make better use of the land and help strengthen the southern border of the United States with large plantations; Jackson ignored a Supreme Court decision; the homelands of many Native American tribes were swiftly and brutally vacated; *Pure Food and Drug Act*: in the early 20th century, Congress proved its focus lay in a new, more progressive direction; muckrackers dedicated to expose corruption; consumers became afraid of being harmed by unsafe food and drugs which they had no way of avoiding; rich and poor people wanted the federal government to do something to protect them; regulation on the testing of medicines and labeling of food products was made much stricter; the creation of the Food and Drug Administration allowed for tight government control of affected industries; prevented numerous deaths from preventable illness)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Indian Removal Act*: eviction of Cherokee tribe; Indian territory; Trail of Tears; destroyed lives; *Pure Food and Drug Act*: Theodore Roosevelt; journalists; Upton Sinclair; *The Jungle*; scared the public); includes an inaccuracy (cites “clear and present danger clause” as an act passed under great crisis)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that state laws have sometimes caused more harm than good

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response includes a degree of analysis not common in a Level 3 paper. However, it lacks sufficient details to support this analysis and lacks a full discussion of the impacts of these acts.

Congress has had to address so many political, economic and social issues through American history passing laws that often made an impact on American Society. Under Theodore Roosevelt for instance Congress enacted the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 which significantly impacted America's laissez-faire economy. In the face of rising sectional tensions between the North and the South, Congress introduced the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. So the Congressional Legislative body has played a significant role in the shaping and impacting of American society and history.

President Theodore Roosevelt was leading the nation as it was undergoing a significant era in American history known as the Progressive Era. It was an era that called for political improvement, social change, and more government regulation in economic and social affairs. Some writers had investigated the drug and food industries, telling stories of drugs with harmful ingredients and food that was spoiled and dirty. Many people became upset by these stories. In response to this growing movement, Congress passed the Pure Food and Drug Acts, one of many laws in the 1900s that challenged the nation's laissez-faire policy. It allowed for the testing and labeling of food and drugs in the factories where they were making them and the assurance and security that American consumers were eating foods that were properly made by the companies that sold them. This would not only impact the economy and its capitalist policy but increase the size of government with new agencies to ensure safe foods and drugs for consumers. Congress therefore socially, economically, and politically impacted American society in an attempt to improve the production, testing, selling, and safe consumption of food and drugs.

to American consumers living in the Progressive Era.

In the early 1800s, Congress passed legislations in response to burgeoning sectional conflicts between the Northern States and the Southern States. The representation of states, the legitimacy of slavery, and the extension of slavery were three of the many heated issues that would lead to the Civil War. The South developed a sense of distrust with the North because they did not respect their slave laws and their right to slaves as property; At the same time they felt that they were not being properly or equally represented in the west and that the North was trying to create an unbalance between them. For instance Congress passed the Kansas Nebraska Act in 1854 which attempted to solve the extension of slavery issue by opening Kansas to the option of either allowing or disallowing slavery. But the Act only furthered tensions between the southerners and northerners because pro-slavery Americans and anti-slavery Americans fought and killed each other to gain control of Kansas and establish their own state constitution. The immediate impact that the Act had on America was probably the first official civil battle in America before the Civil War; it even received the name "Bleeding Kansas." But the Act would impact America by furthering tensions between the North and South, giving the South every reason to no longer trust the North and secede, and bring about the Civil War.

Therefore Congress has faced so many movements like the Progressive and so many issues and events that had both positive and negative results in American society and history. The Pure Food and Drug Act and the Kansas Nebraska Act were two of the many legislations that Congress passed in response to growing movements

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 3 – C

and growing problems. Impacting laissez faire economy, Congress strengthened government regulation in businesses. In foreshadowing the Civil War, Congress brought about "Bleeding Kansas." So Congress has played a role in shaping and influencing American society and history.

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

- Develops all aspects of the task in little depth for the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Kansas-Nebraska Act
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Pure Food and Drug Act*: it was an era that called for political improvement, social change, and more government regulation in economic and social affairs; some writers had investigated the drug and food industries, telling stories of drugs with harmful ingredients and food that was spoiled and dirty; one of many laws in the 1900s that challenged the nation's laissez-faire policy; allowed for testing and labeling of food and drugs in the factories; increased the size of government with new agencies; *Kansas-Nebraska Act*: Congress passed legislation in response to burgeoning sectional conflicts between the Northern states and the Southern states; furthered tensions between the North and South, giving the South every reason to no longer trust the North and secede, and bring about the Civil War); includes faulty application (*Kansas-Nebraska Act*: implies passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act was a product of Northern bias)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Pure Food and Drug Act*: Theodore Roosevelt; Progressive Era; consumers; capitalist policy; *Kansas-Nebraska Act*: representation of states; legitimacy of slavery; extension of slavery; slaves as property; the West; pro-slavery; anti-slavery; killed each other to gain control; established their own state constitution; Bleeding Kansas)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that highlight the main issues in the response

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response demonstrates an understanding of how the Pure Food and Drug Act increased government regulation and how the Kansas-Nebraska Act prompted a civil war. However, the discussion of the impacts is repetitive and limited.

United States Congress, over the period since the US was first created had passed many laws dealing with very important, and sensitive cases, having a significant impact on American society. Two major laws passed, were the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, and the Social Security Act of 1935.

The Pure Food and Drug Act was a very crucial law passed, thanks to Progressive reformers and “muckrakers” persistence to help improve quality of both food and medicine for Americans. The Progressives fought to help give the freedom of information of the foods and medicines they take in everyday to all citizens. People like Upton Sinclair who wrote “The Jungle,” which was a book about the atrocities of the meat packing industries, and how people need to know what they are buying. This has had a lasting impression on American Society because to this day, all food’s and medicine must be accurately labeled with its ingredients, and the FDA was also created out of this.

The Social Security Act of 1935 was also a huge and crucial law that is extremely important in today’s American Societies. As the Great Depression lasted through the 1930’s, FDR took it into his own hands to make sure elderly people who could no longer work anymore, still had a source of income to live, and buy goods with. Since jobs were scarce, many people fought to get this Act passed, because no one had money to support these people, or to even support themselves. This law is still a major law in today’s society because as new medicines and treatment come about, elderly people are living much longer, so they need a source of income after they retire in order to support themselves, and their families.

These two laws are just some of the major laws passed by Congress

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – A

to solve political, social, and economic problems, many which still are in effect today, affect Americans everyday.

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

- Minimally develops most aspects of the task for the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Social Security Act
- Is primarily descriptive (*Pure Food and Drug Act*: was a very crucial law thanks to Progressive reformers' and muckrakers' persistence to help improve quality of both food and medicine for Americans; to this day, all foods and medicines must be accurately labeled with their ingredients; the FDA was also created out of this; *Social Security Act*: as the Great Depression lasted through the 1930s, FDR took it into his own hands to make sure elderly people, who could no longer work anymore, still had a source of income to live and buy goods with; this law is still a major law in today's society)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Pure Food and Drug Act*: freedom of information; Upton Sinclair; *The Jungle*; atrocities of the meatpacking industries; *Social Security Act*: jobs were scarce; no one had money)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that restate the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. Although the response demonstrates an understanding of the issues, it lacks the depth and analysis of a higher level paper. The historical circumstances for both acts are very brief and only one impact is given for the Social Security Act.

Throughout American history Congress has passed laws that have had a great impact on American society. These laws mostly seem to address important political, social, or economic issues. Two of these laws are the Embargo Act of 1807 and the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906.

The Embargo Act was something the United States wanted to avoid. Both England and France did business with the United States and when they went to war it didn't make American trade easy. France and England both wanted the United States to side with them and when the US tried to remain neutral England and France both tried to force the United States' hand by kidnaping people off of American ships and enrolling them against their will into their armies. Thomas Jefferson the current president and Congress felt they had no choice but to pass an embargo Act. This Act prohibited trade with either England or France. This Act hurt mostly the people in the North who worked in the shipping business.

The Pure Food and Drug Act was passed in 1906, when a muckraker (journalist or writer) started to investigate factories where food was processed and packaged. Upton Sinclair then decided to write a book called the Jungle depicting the horrors he had witnessed. Upon reading this book in one night Theodore Roosevelt the current president decided to encourage congress to pass the Pure Food and Drug Act. This Act stopped the Laissez-faire type of handling the government had with the food industry. Laws regulating the industry were passed and inspection became common.

Throughout American history Congress passed many laws that impacted greatly upon American society. Some of these laws had a negative effect such as the Embargo Act of 1807 and other had a positive effect, such as Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906.

Anchor Level 2-B

The response:

- Minimally develops most aspects of the task for the Embargo Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act
- Is primarily descriptive (*Embargo Act*: both England and France did business with the United States and when they went to war, it did not make American trade easy; prohibited trade with either England or France; this act hurt mostly the people in the North who worked in the shipping business; *Pure Food and Drug Act*: Upton Sinclair wrote a book called *The Jungle* depicting the horrors he had witnessed; stopped the laissez-faire type of handling the government had with the food industry; laws regulating the industry were passed; inspections became common)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Embargo Act*: remain neutral; kidnapping people off American ships; Thomas Jefferson; *Pure Food and Drug Act*: muckraker; journalist; Theodore Roosevelt); includes an inaccuracy (*Embargo Act*: enrolling them against their will into their armies)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that states that the Embargo Act had a negative effect while the Pure Food and Drug Act had a positive effect on American society

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The strongest aspect of the response is its discussion of the historical circumstances leading to the Embargo Act. The remainder is either over-generalized or underdeveloped.

As time progressed in United States history, legislation has been passed through Congress to solve problems in political, social, and economic development. Many of these laws have left a long term impact on American society. Two such acts were the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Social Security Act.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed in 1854. The time in which the act was passed was a controversial period over the issue of slavery. At that time the U.S. was also expanding its territory and everytime new territory was aquired the first issue was slavery. Should this new territory have slavery or not? When Kansas and Nebraska were aquired they were given the concept of popular soverignty which meant the territory and settlers themselves would decide if they want slavery or not. At this moment, after the act was passed, there was an equal share of advocates for slavery and opressors. Both had fought for their concepts to be established in Kansas and Nebraska which led to serious violence. Violence over the territories and slavery was known as "Bleeding Kansas." The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act spurred violence all over the United States. The act had its impact on the American society as historical circumstances caused it to be passed.

The Social Security Act was passed in 1935. The act was passed during the Great Depression under the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt. The act had given potential retirers a monthly pension after their retirement which would be paid through taxes. The act was passed after seeing the economic crisis during the Great Depression hence the act was there to prevent future crisis. The act was passed as a program of FDR's Second New Deal. The Social Security Act till this day lives strongly as the ederly retire and recieve spending money.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – C

Congress has passed legislation throughout United States History. Legislation was passed to solve issues regard politics, social, and economics. These laws influenced American society as well.

Anchor Level 2-C

The response:

- Minimally develops most aspects of the task for the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Social Security Act
- Is primarily descriptive (*Kansas-Nebraska Act*: the United States was expanding its territory and every time new territory was acquired the first issue raised was slavery; led to serious violence; violence over the territories and slavery was known as Bleeding Kansas; *Social Security Act*: gave potential retirees a monthly pension paid through taxes; Social Security Act lives strongly as the elderly retire and receive spending money)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Kansas-Nebraska Act*: popular sovereignty; settlers themselves would decide; advocates for slavery; *Social Security Act*: Franklin D. Roosevelt; Second New Deal); includes some inaccuracies (*Kansas-Nebraska Act*: when Kansas and Nebraska were acquired they were given the concept of popular sovereignty; equal share of advocates for slavery and oppressors; spurred violence all over the United States)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that restate the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response demonstrates a basic understanding of the two laws but lacks depth and detail about the impacts.

Throughout United States History, Congress has passed legislation to address important political, social, or economic issues. These laws have often had a significant impact on American society. Laws passed by the United States Congress have all had historical circumstances that led to the passage of each law. Two laws passed by Congress were the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 and the GI Bill/Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944.

During 1906 the Pure Food and Drug Act was passed to make sure food packing companies inspected their food. Before this, meat packing companies were mixing spoiled meat in and selling it. Many people were getting very sick. Then came "The Jungle" which was a book that talked about the meat packing industry. After people started to read this the Law was passed. This was important because it made the companies more sanitary and the people wouldn't get sick.

During 1944 the GI Bill/Servicemen's Readjustment Act was passed. This was passed to give financial aid to the men coming back from war, who had nothing. It provided health care and everything else needed for the men after World War II. This was important because many men who came home, had nothing and they had lost everything.

Anchor Level 1-A

The response:

- Minimally addresses some aspects of the task for the Pure Food and Drug Act and the GI Bill
- Is descriptive (*Pure Food and Drug Act*: many people were getting very sick; made the companies more sanitary and the people would not get sick; *GI Bill*: this was passed to give financial aid to men coming back from war; it provided health care)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*Pure Food and Drug Act*: food-packing companies; *The Jungle*; meatpacking industry; *GI Bill*: World War II)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and lacks a conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response explains the problems leading to the passage of each law in a general way and shows no distinction between the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act. Furthermore, the impacts of the laws are only mentioned.

Since the Declaration of Independence in 1776, America has been through many trying times. It is quite common for Congress to pass necessary legislation or laws in order to control or meet the needs of the American people. Both the Jim Crow laws, and the G.I. Bill are examples of Congressional legislation which immensely impacted American life.

Following the end of the Civil War, and the liberation of Blacks, much of the American South was in turmoil. White Supremacists feared the Black population would attempt to overtake the south. In an effort to appease fearful whites, and to stop any over confident Blacks, Congress passed the Jim Crow laws. Essentially, the Jim Crow laws continued the effects of slavery, in a slightly less evil manner, but did so in a more legalized way. Because the South continued to be racially segregated, newly freed slaves had to turn to sharecropping in order to support their families. They couldn't find decent living, equal education was out of the question, and the concept of racial superiority was still thick in the air.

The G.I. Bill was passed by Congress following WW2. It was an opportunity for returning war veterans to get an education and further themselves, rather than being employed in low income manual-labor type work. For many returning veterans it was the opportunity to go to college or medical school and gain skills they never could have imagined. After WWI many veterans returned to jobless & poverty stricken country. But with the G.I. Bill the lives of veterans and their families were rejuvenated and given a better second chance.

Both the G.I. Bill and Jim Crow laws, were pieces of legislation by

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 1 – B

Congress that severely impacted American life. Although Jim Crow laws hindered equality, and G.I. Bill mainly concerned veterans, both of these worked to alter the course of America.

Anchor Level 1-B**The response:**

- Develops one aspect of the task by discussing the impact of the GI Bill on American society
- Is primarily descriptive (*GI Bill*: was the opportunity to go to college or medical school and gain skills; lives of veterans and their families were rejuvenated and given a better second chance); includes faulty application (*GI Bill*: after World War I, many veterans returned to a jobless and poverty-stricken country)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*GI Bill*: World War II; get an education; low-income manual labor)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that restate the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response recognizes the importance of the GI Bill for veterans' education after World War II. Although the response demonstrates some knowledge of Jim Crow laws, they are state laws, are not relevant to the task, and cannot be given credit.

Arguably, the most important power Congress has is the ability to pass legislation. The acts Congress passes greatly help to shape American society. These articles of legislation address numerous issues spanning the political, social, and economic spectrum. Some legislation has been so instrumental in helping America that it still has an impact on life today. Two examples of such legislation includes the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Interstate Commerce Act. Both of these laws greatly influenced American society during the era of their respected passages.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed in the year 1854. Throughout this time period, controversy over the expansion of slavery in the Western territories was coming to a boil. Previous instances such as the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850 tried to decrease sectional tensions between the North and South over this issue but had only stalled the crisis. Another controversy broke out after people started moving to Kansas. This ever-present issue of slavery's expansion had been escalated by the territorial growth of the United States in the previous decade, so this crisis was harder to handle. Stephen Douglas, a major political figure with presidential ambitions proposed a solution. He believed that both the territories of Kansas and Nebraska should decide the issue over slavery through popular sovereignty. This was the idea that the people of each territory should decide whether or not slavery should be permitted in that state's constitution. This solution was packaged into a law that became known as the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Although this law seemed like a fair solution, the act only led to more tension. The law led to a mass migration of both anti-slavery Northerners and pro-slavery

Southerners to Kansas in order to vote for either an anti-slavery or pro-slavery Constitution, causing a drastic increase in violence between them. One example of this is abolitionist John Brown's attack on Pottawatomie Creek where he and his sons massacred five pro-slavery settlers. These and many other attacks gave the territory of Kansas the nickname "Bleeding Kansas." This law in essence increased sectional differences, showed how far apart the two sides were, and was a leading factor in causing the Civil War.

The Interstate Commerce Act was also an instrumental piece of legislation passed in the year 1887. Throughout the 1870s and 1880s, government was corrupt. Numerous scandals took place within the government and big business thrived while the consumer was hurt.

In response to the laissez-faire policies of government that hurt the common man, the Interstate Commerce Act was passed. This law set up the Interstate Commerce Commission. This Commission's job was to regulate the railroads. Farmers complained that the higher rates for short trips hurt their ability to make a profit. Previous efforts to regulate rates had been made by some states, but had been thrown out by the Supreme Court because states were not supposed to regulate interstate commerce. Once the Interstate Commerce Commission was established, there would be no more unfair rates to some customers, but cheap rates for others. A standard rate was established and enforced. Now, no one received special treatment from the railroad companies. This law had a major impact on the consumer. It showed that government was slowly but surely beginning to stray away from always promoting big business instead of the consumer. This trend would gradually continue until its peak during the Progressive Era

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – A

(early 1900s). This also allowed farmers to ship their goods on the railroads cheaper since they would now receive a fair rate. This drove farmer's costs down and gave them a better chance to make a profit. This law was a major piece of legislation that is still felt today.

Many pieces of legislation have been passed in the history of our great country. However, only a select few have a major impact on our society. The Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Interstate Commerce Act were both examples of this type of legislation. These two laws targeted political, social, and economic issues in drastic ways. These legislative acts played a major part in shaping our country today and our storied history.

The United States government is made up of three branches. The biggest branch is the legislative branch, also known as Congress. Congress has the ability to pass laws and legislations that address many important issues in society that impact the way Americans live.

One law that was passed by Congress and had a big impact, was the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906. This law was passed because of the horrific conditions of meat-packing plants and other food processing factories. Upton Sinclair was a journalist who went undercover in a meat-packing plant in Chicago. The horrors he saw inspired him to write "The Jungle". This book told of the unsanitation of the factories and the harsh labor. Rodents and even human limbs that were cut off by the machinery were mixed in with the meat. When the American public read this they were outraged and disgusted. This prompted Congress to pass the Pure Food and Drug Act. Along with this act, the FDA or Food and Drug Administration was created. It's the FDA's job now to regulate food processing to make sure things like the events told in "The Jungle" are never happen again. It changed the way food was made and the American public felt about the food industry.

Another important law passed by Congress was the Social Security Act of 1935. During this time period America was going through the Great Depression. President Franklin D. Roosevelt came up with the idea to add this act to his Second New Deal because his critics said he wasn't doing enough for the elderly. Social Security is sort of like a small retirement fund for senior citizens. Social Security takes a small amount of money out of the workers paycheck and puts that money into a fund that will eventually be given back to that worker

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – B

after he or she becomes a legal senior citizen around the age of 62. Social Security is still in use today and has changed the way senior citizens receive money after retirement.

The power of Congress and the legislative branch to pass laws has made a big impact throughout American history. Whether it's through improving food processing or helping the elderly, laws passed by Congress have helped the way Americans live.

Throughout all of the history of the United States, Congress has passed many legislations. These legislations that have been passed were to either address current problems, or to prevent future issues. All of these laws have had a significant impact on the United States of America, and their effects make our country what it is today.

An important legislation in America that greatly protected the health of most American citizens for years to come was the meat inspection act, passed under the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt. When our country was in a time of Progressive reform, and not many people could afford expensive foods, the meat packing industry did whatever they could just to spend the least money and increase profits. The horrors of the meat packing industry were revealed in Upton Sinclair's novel, The Jungle. A small segment in this novel discussed how in meat factories, old, spoiled meat would be thrown into grinders, along with poisoned bread and dead rats. All of these things were ground up and placed in the meat that was being sold to citizens across the United States. Once Federal powers investigated this, they found that these accusations were true. The government then passed the meat inspection act, so Federal agents would have to inspect the meat to ensure its health before being sold to the public. The horrors exposed in the meat packing industry also led the passage of the food and drug act. These acts improved the public's confidence in the food and drug supply and were a big step in starting to regulate businesses.

Another revolutionary law in America was the voting rights Act in the 1960's. All of America's history, from the beginning, to the 1960's caused the passage of this law. Blacks have always been poorly treated, and at one time only considered a fraction of a person. Some

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – C

constitutional amendments were made to attempt to protect blacks rights and secure their freedom, but just as many state laws were passed to counterbalance these. Some of the laws made to counteract these laws were the black codes, and jim Crow laws. Once blacks were entitled to vote, these laws were passed to require poll taxes and literacy tests, which wasn't fair because blacks didn't have much of an education. To finally ensure African-American voting rights, the voting rights act was passed, which banned literacy tests and gave blacks the right to vote without trouble. The number of African Americans who registered to vote increased dramatically and soon led to African Americans being elected to public office in larger numbers. Legislations are one of the most important pieces in American History. Without them, we wouldn't have the society we have today. Whether these laws be positive or negative, they all have an important lasting impact on our Nation's society.

Laws in government are what shape the very foundation of our society. Through times of foreign and domestic crisis, national leaders have stepped forward to solve the problems. Due to the ability of the United States government taking advantage of these solutions, different laws have helped redefine our United States.

The 18th amendment of the Constitution of our United States was enforced towards the prohibition of alcohol. This meant that it could not be sold or consumed by the public. While many saloons and bars were being closed, speakeasies managed to make their way in to mainstream society. Although many people were caught and arrested, it helped create a healthier nation. No one would drink their regular gallon a week, so they would function better in society. This period was also the era that led to the introduction of gangs, crime bosses, and gangsters such as Al Capone. People such as Capone made their livings and fame on the importing and exporting of alcohol. It greatly impacted America for that certain time.

During the period of racial discrimination in America, the Jim Crow Laws determined the social, political, and economical aspects of life. They taught everyone that it was not ok for blacks and whites to be associated with the same places. This asserted that segregation of races would be legal in the United States. Limiting job opportunities and pay to blacks as well as their chances to be equal in the world. It seperated everyone in the nation during the mid-20th century. This would bring about the rise of different groups such as the Black Panthers and the Ku Klux Klan.

Laws are what shapes the world around us. Some can be seen positively, some lasted shortly for good. Although these two laws

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – D

protected the general public of the United States, they changed our nation forever.

Throughout the years of United States history, the government has passed many laws regulating many important social, economic, and political issues. These laws have impacted American society in several different ways. From making sure that you know exactly what you are eating, or taking for an illness with the Pure Food and Drug Act (1906), to giving American citizens a helping hand to try and boost the economy with the Social Security Act (1935).

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, American business was booming. We were finally developing into a more industrialized nation. With the use of machinery in factories, we were able to create more, more quickly, and more efficiently. For example, the meat packing industry was now able to butcher animals as well as prepare and pack the meat to be shipped and sold more efficiently. However, conditions in the factories were not always sanitary, and businesses did not care because there were no government laws setting standards and regulations. Due to the often unsanitary conditions of the factories, other things would fall into the meat grinders, such as rats, or the occasional tip of the finger, due to the unsafe machinery. This meat would go out to the unknowing public, be sold, and eaten. During the Progressive Era one muckraker, Upton Sinclair, exposed the horrid conditions of the meat packing industry in his book, The Jungle. Several other muckrakers exposed similar things like dangerous medicines sold by traveling salesmen that promised miracle cures. The public and government was horrified. President Theodore Roosevelt spoke with Sinclair and sent agents to Chicago to check on the meatpackers. Their report confirmed Sinclair's story and made Roosevelt determined to get reforms. Shortly after,

Congress passed the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906. This allowed the federal government to set regulations and standards for companies providing food or medication. They also required testing of the products that were being sold to make sure that they would not harm people. This had a significant impact in our society. It had been rare for the government to intervene with any business because in the past business was allowed to operate with no interference from the government. Now, the public could feel more secure in knowing that what they were getting was the real thing because the act required that products include labels with a list of ingredients. It also led to the creation of the FDA, which is still around today, making sure that the products going out to the public are safe because they have been carefully tested and approved. Later, Congress created more regulatory agencies to protect consumers.

The second law passed by the United States government that had a significant impact on American society was the Social Security Act (1935). In the twenties, businesses were booming, and life seemed wonderful. People were putting money in the stock market, as well as buying almost everything they saw. When they ran out of money, they would buy things using credit. However, people started getting deeper into debt with credit and stopped buying things. Markets were failing, and people were trying to sell their stocks until the stock market crashed. This was known as the Great Depression. Hundreds of banks failed and people lost their life savings. Unemployment was high and it was hard to find a job, especially if you were old. President Herbert Hoover favored "rugged individualism" to get the nation's economy back up. At the next election, however, Roosevelt won, and

was determined to work with Congress to create the New Deal. The New Deal programs were created to provide the people and the nation with relief, recovery, and reform. The Social Security Act was designed as a major reform, to create pensions and unemployment insurance. The New Deal created programs and laws to try and help the American citizens get jobs and money to try and stimulate the economy once again. Senior citizens were especially needy because they were too old to work and had no money to spend. Congress passed the Social Security Act in 1935. This allowed people classified as senior citizens to be able to collect a government check after years of work. This then gave retired citizens the opportunity to get money to buy things and stimulate the economy. The act provided help for the unemployed and gave them money to spend. This impacted American society significantly because it was successful in helping boost the nation's economy once again. Also, this act continues to work today. The government continues to collect taxes to support this program. Many people depend on Social Security checks to help them survive, whether they are disabled, elderly, or unemployed.

The Pure Food and Drug Act (1906) and the Social Security Act (1935) has really helped our nation. It created a healthier nation, as well as a way to ensure that the economy does not get as bad as it did in the Great Depression in the 1930s. They have significantly impacted American Society and continue to do so to this day.

Practice Paper A—Score Level 4

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the Kansas-Nebraska Act more thoroughly than the Interstate Commerce Act
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Kansas-Nebraska Act*: issue of slavery's expansion had been escalated by the territorial growth of the United States in the previous decade; crisis was harder to handle; led to the mass migration of anti-slavery Northerners and pro-slavery Southerners to Kansas; this law increased sectional differences, showed how far apart the two sides were, and was a leading factor in causing the Civil War; *Interstate Commerce Act*: in response to the laissez-faire policies of government that hurt the common man, the Interstate Commerce Act was passed; job was to regulate the railroads; farmers complained that the higher rates for short trips hurt their ability to make a profit; previous efforts to regulate rates had been made by some states, but had been thrown out by the Supreme Court because states were not supposed to regulate interstate commerce; standard rate for railroads was established and enforced; showed that government was slowly but surely beginning to stray away from always promoting big business instead of the consumer; drove farmer's costs down and gave them a better chance to make a profit)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Kansas-Nebraska Act*: western territories; Missouri Compromise; Compromise of 1850; Stephen Douglas; presidential ambitions; popular sovereignty; increase in violence; abolitionist John Brown; Pottawatomie Creek; sons massacred five pro-slavery settlers; Bleeding Kansas; *Interstate Commerce Act*: government was corrupt; numerous scandals; big business thrived; Interstate Commerce Commission; unfair rates; Progressive Era)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that restate the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response shows good understanding of the causes and impacts of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. However, the discussion of the impacts of the Interstate Commerce Act is somewhat less developed.

Practice Paper B—Score Level 2

The response:

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Social Security Act
- Is primarily descriptive (*Pure Food and Drug Act*: this law was passed because of the horrific conditions of meatpacking plants and other food processing factories; it is the FDA's job now to regulate food processing to make sure the events told in *The Jungle* never happen again; changed the way the American public felt about the food industry; *Social Security Act*: President Franklin Delano Roosevelt came up with the idea to add this act to his Second New Deal because his critics said he was not doing enough for the elderly; a small amount of money is taken out of a worker's paycheck; Social Security has changed the way senior citizens receive money after retirement)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Pure Food and Drug Act*: Upton Sinclair; journalist; Chicago; rodents; public outraged and disgusted; *Social Security Act*: Great Depression)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that incorrectly states that the legislative branch is the biggest branch of government and a conclusion that notes that these two laws helped Americans

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The discussion of the Pure Food and Drug Act includes some details relevant to the legislation, but does not demonstrate a clear distinction between it and the Meat Inspection Act. The discussion of the Social Security Act lacks full development.

Practice Paper C—Score Level 3

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task in little depth for the Meat Inspection Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Meat Inspection Act*: a small segment in this novel discussed how in meat factories, old, spoiled meat would be thrown into grinders along with poisoned bread and dead rats; the government then passed the Meat Inspection Act so federal agents would have to inspect the meat to ensure its health before being sold to the public; horrors exposed in the meatpacking industry also led the passage of the Food and Drug Act; these acts improved the public's confidence in the food and drug supply and were a big step in starting to regulate businesses; *1965 Voting Rights Act*: blacks have always been poorly treated, and at one time only considered a fraction of a person; to finally ensure African American voting rights, banned literacy tests; gave blacks the right to vote without trouble; the number of African Americans who registered to vote increased dramatically; led to African Americans being elected to public office in larger numbers)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Meat Inspection Act*: Theodore Roosevelt; Progressive reform; Upton Sinclair; *The Jungle*; accusations were true; *1965 Voting Rights Act*: constitutional amendments; state laws; black codes; Jim Crow laws; poll taxes)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are little more than a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response shows the direct relationship between *The Jungle* and the Meat Inspection Act as well as the connection between racial discrimination and the need for voting rights legislation. However, the discussion of the impacts of each law is less detailed.

Practice Paper D—Score Level 0

The response:

Fails to develop the task by including no relevant information about laws passed by the United States Congress

Conclusion: The response fits the criteria for level 0. Constitutional amendments and state laws may not be used as examples.

Practice Paper E—Score Level 4

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task for the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Social Security Act
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Pure Food and Drug Act*: conditions in factories were not always sanitary, and businesses did not care because there were no government laws setting standards and regulations; President Theodore Roosevelt spoke with Sinclair and sent agents to Chicago to check on the meatpackers; report confirmed Sinclair's story and made Roosevelt determined to get reforms; required testing of products; required that products include labels with a list of ingredients; Congress created more regulatory agencies to protect consumers; *Social Security Act*: unemployment was high and it was hard to find a job, especially if you were old; New Deal programs were created to provide the people and the nation with relief, recovery, and reform; senior citizens can collect a government check after years of work; gave retired citizens the opportunity to get money to buy things and stimulate the economy; the government continues to collect taxes to support this program; many people depend on Social Security checks to help them survive, whether they are disabled, elderly, or unemployed; government continues to collect taxes to support this program)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Pure Food and Drug Act*: industrialized; meat grinders; rats; tip of the finger; unsafe machinery; unknowing public; Progressive Era; muckraker; Upton Sinclair; meatpacking industry; *The Jungle*; dangerous medicines; traveling salesmen; miracle cures; *Social Security Act*: stock market crashed; Great Depression; hundreds of banks failed; lost their life savings; President Herbert Hoover; rugged individualism; Roosevelt; New Deal; continues to work today)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that point out the benefits of the two acts

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response demonstrates a clear understanding of the issues leading to the adoption of the two laws as well as the impacts these laws have had on American society. More details and analysis would have benefited this essay.

United States History and Government Specifications January 2013

Part I Multiple-Choice Questions by Standard

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

Parts II and III by Theme and Standard

	Theme	STANDARDS
Thematic Essay	Government (Congressional Legislation); Civic Values; Constitutional Principles; Human Systems; Immigration and Migration; Reform Movements	Standards 1, 3, 4, and 5: United States and New York History; Geography; Economics; Civics, Citizenship, and Government
Document-based Essay	Constitutional Principles; Citizenship; Diversity; Presidential Decisions and Actions; Science and Technology; Places and Regions	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 2013 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.