

# FOR TEACHERS ONLY

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

## UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

VOLUME  
**1** OF **2**  
MC & THEMATIC

Wednesday, January 28, 2015 — 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., only

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

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

#### Scoring the Part I Multiple-Choice Questions

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

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

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

## Contents of the Rating Guide

For **Part I** (Multiple-Choice Questions):

- Scoring Key

For **Part II** (thematic) essay:

- A content-specific rubric
- Prescored answer papers. Score levels 5 and 1 have two papers each, and score levels 4, 3, and 2 have three papers each. They are ordered by score level from high to low.
- Commentary explaining the specific score awarded to each paper
- Five prescored practice papers

General:

- Test Specifications
- Web addresses for the test-specific conversion chart and teacher evaluation forms

### Mechanics of Rating

The following procedures are to be used in rating essay papers for this examination. More detailed directions for the organization of the rating process and procedures for rating the examination are included in the *Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examination in Global History and Geography and United States History and Government*.

### Rating the Essay Question

(1) Follow your school's procedures for training raters. This process should include:

*Introduction to the task—*

- Raters read the task
- Raters identify the answers to the task
- Raters discuss possible answers and summarize expectations for student responses

*Introduction to the rubric and anchor papers—*

- Trainer leads review of specific rubric with reference to the task
- Trainer reviews procedures for assigning holistic scores, i.e., by matching evidence from the response to the rubric
- Trainer leads review of each anchor paper and commentary

*Practice scoring individually—*

- Raters score a set of five papers independently without looking at the scores and commentaries provided
- Trainer records scores and leads discussion until the raters feel confident enough to move on to actual rating

(2) When actual rating begins, each rater should record his or her individual rating for a student's essay on the rating sheet provided, *not* directly on the student's essay or answer sheet. The rater should *not* correct the student's work by making insertions or changes of any kind.

(3) Each essay must be rated by at least two raters; a third rater will be necessary to resolve scores that differ by more than one point.

**Schools are not permitted to rescore any of the open-ended questions (scaffold questions, thematic essay, DBQ essay) on this exam after each question has been rated the required number of times as specified in the rating guides, regardless of the final exam score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately. Teachers may not score their own students' answer papers.**

**United States History and Government**  
**Content-Specific Rubric**  
**Thematic Essay**  
**January 2015**

**Theme: Government (Congressional Legislation)**

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

**Task:** Select *two* pieces of legislation passed by the United States Congress and for *each*

- Describe the historical circumstances that led to the passage of the legislation
- Discuss the impact of the law on the United States and/or on American society

You may use any congressional legislation that was intended to address an important issue. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include:

Missouri Compromise (1820)

Fugitive Slave Act (1850)

Homestead Act (1862)

Meat Inspection Act (1906)

Federal Reserve Act (1913)

Wagner Act/National Labor Relations Act (1935)

Interstate Highway Act (1956)

Civil Rights Act (1964)

Title IX of the Education Amendments (1972)

North American Free Trade Agreement (1992)

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

**Do *not* use the USA Patriot Act because information on this act appears in the Document-Based Question.**

**Do *not* use a constitutional amendment as constitutional amendments are adopted through a different process than that used for congressional legislation.**

**Scoring Notes:**

1. This thematic essay has a minimum of *four* components (discussing the historical circumstances that led to the passage of *two* pieces of congressional legislation **and** the impact of *each* law on the United States and/or on American society).
2. Amendments to the Constitution may *not* be used as examples of congressional legislation as they are adopted through a different process than that used for congressional legislation.
3. State and local laws may *not* be used as examples of congressional legislation.
4. The USA Patriot Act may *not* be used as an example as information related to it is contained in the Document-Based Question.
5. The discussion of the historical circumstances that led to the legislation may focus on the narrow events leading up to the passage of the legislation or it may consider the broader issues of the time period, e.g., *Civil Rights Act*: discussing popular support for the 1963 March on Washington *or* discussing the Jim Crow discrimination faced by African Americans for many decades.
6. The specific provisions of the law do not need to be stated, although they may be included in the discussion as either historical circumstances or as the impact of the law.
7. 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 Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850.
8. The discussion of the impact of the law on the United States and/or on American society may focus on either its immediate or its long-term effect.
9. The response may discuss the impact of the legislation from any perspective as long as the position taken is supported by accurate facts and examples.
10. If more than two pieces of legislation passed by the United States Congress are selected, only the first two pieces of legislation should be scored. However, other legislation that relates to the two selections may be discussed.

### 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** pieces of congressional legislation and an impact of **each** on the United States and/or on American society
- Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates\* information), e.g., *Meat Inspection Act*: connects the Progressive challenge to laissez-faire, profit-driven business practices and the publication of Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* to a federal regulatory program that increased public safety through mandated government inspections, established a precedent for further consumer protection, and increased the size of the government bureaucracy; *Interstate Highway Act*: connects the Cold War goal of military preparedness, the housing demands of a growing population, and the inadequate quality of the existing state and local roads to the construction of a massive, federally funded interstate highway system that resulted in greater dependence on the automobile, a mass migration to suburbs, and the decay of inner cities
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details, e.g., *Meat Inspection Act*: trusts; Chicago slaughterhouses; Philip Armour; rotten meat; muckraker; President Theodore Roosevelt; Pure Food and Drug Act; product recalls; e-coli; salmonella; *Interstate Highway Act*: President Dwight D. Eisenhower; evacuation routes; public works project; fossil fuel dependence; GI Bill; American dream; Levittown; "white flight"; bedroom communities; erosion of tax base
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

### Score of 4:

- Develops **all** aspects of the task but may do so somewhat unevenly by discussing one aspect of the task less thoroughly than the other aspects of the task *or* discussing all aspects of the task for one piece of legislation more thoroughly than for the second piece of legislation
- Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates\* information), e.g., *Meat Inspection Act*: discusses how the Progressive call for economic reform and public outrage after Upton Sinclair's exposé of the meatpacking industry prompted passage of the Meat Inspection Act that ordered federal inspections of meat-packers and led to improved food safety and regulation of consumer goods; *Interstate Highway Act*: discusses how the need for a coordinated system of roads for military use and the demand for housing after World War II led to the building of the interstate highway system that resulted in the growth of suburbs and the decay of cities
- 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 three** aspects of the task in some depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical (applies, may analyze and/or evaluate information)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some minor inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that may be a restatement of the theme

**Note:** If **both** components of the task for **one** piece of legislation 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 two* aspects of the task in some depth
- Is primarily descriptive; may include faulty, weak, or isolated application or analysis
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addressed; may lack an introduction and/or a conclusion

**Score of 1:**

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

**Score of 0:**

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

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

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

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

From the conception of the modern American system of government under the U.S. Constitution, the separation of powers in government & the preeminent will of the people has been a primary concern of all American citizens. In efforts to avoid the aristocracy of the traditional British system of government & the abuse of state power under the Articles of Confederation, the U.S. government was effectively divided into three distinct branches of government. Of these three branches, America's founding fathers split the legislative branch into the Senate & House of Representatives. Under the bicameral legislature, the U.S. Congress has passed an array of significant acts over its history. Two of Congress's most important acts have been the Missouri Compromise & the Meat Inspection Act of 1906.

Throughout the nineteenth century, the balance of power in Congress was tenuous at best. With slavery emerging as a national issue, both the North & South wished to maintain their respective standings in the House & Senate. It was a period in America's history which would determine the importance of the institution of slavery in the nation's economic system. Due to these sectional differences regarding slavery, the acceptance of new western states into the Union became increasingly controversial. A conflict emerged when Missouri sought admission to the Union as a slave state. The Great Compromiser, Henry Clay resolved the crisis by allowing Maine into the Union as a free state to maintain the balance in the Senate. The Missouri Compromise established a clear delineation at the 36°30' parallel, making the part of the Louisiana Purchase above the line as free and the part below as slave states. Leaders on both sides feared

that the conflict would arise again. Even Thomas Jefferson warned that the Missouri crisis was like a “firebell in the night” as the issue would continue to endanger the Union. While the Missouri Compromise was critical in temporarily quelling increasingly heated sectional conflicts in Congress over the acceptance of new states into the Union by 1857, the Dred Scott case would effectively nullify the progress made through the Missouri Compromise. Not surprisingly, the pro-southern Taney Court ruled that the 5th amendment protected the property of slaveholders no matter where they traveled. The court also ruled that the Missouri Compromise had been unconstitutional because Congress did not have the power to ban slavery in any territory. Hence, the conundrum known as slavery would endure. Compromise over its expansion was now nearly impossible and would ultimately culminate in the Civil War. Ironically, the Supreme Court’s effort to preserve slavery and protect Southern “property” would help lead to the destruction of both.

The Meat Inspection Act of 1906 was also a crucial congressional Act in relation to the food quality standards that America upholds today. During the turn of the century § into the early nineteenth hundreds, the quality of meat was astonishingly abysmal during this amazing industrial period of American history. There is one account of European customers rejecting a batch of American rotted meat which was then shipped back to North America to be sold to the American public.

Investigative journalists known as muckrakers exposed the shoddy quality of consumer goods produced by greedy robber barons. The most significant of these journalists was Upton Sinclair who revealed the

horrible working conditions and filth in the Chicago meat packing district. President Teddy Roosevelt secretly confirmed the conditions that The Jungle described and then pushed Congress to act. As a result of these findings, Congress passed the Meat Inspection Act of 1906. The act aimed to increase the standards & regulations regarding the sale & distribution of meat sold across state lines by requiring federal inspectors to monitor the cleanliness of meat packing plants. This was an important first step toward improving consumer safety and a step away from *laissez-faire*. A lack of sufficient funding, however, meant that the inspectors could not possibly guarantee that sanitary conditions would always be enforced. Clearly, the legislation was only partially effective. Today, the public is sometimes scared by news reports of salmonella & e-coli in tainted meat. For example, some companies continue to market animal byproducts & chemically altered foodstuffs to young children, but hey that's why America is the most obese nation in the galaxy. Even with all the criticism, nobody thinks we should go back to the days before the Meat Inspection Act.

These are two Congressional Acts which boldly took on two of the nation's most important social issues. Unfortunately they ended up having marginal effects on Americans social conduct due to excessive private & corporate greed.

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## 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 Missouri Compromise and the Meat Inspection Act and the impact of each law on the United States
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Missouri Compromise*: with slavery emerging as a national issue, both the North and the South wished to maintain their respective standings in the House and Senate; it was a period in America's history which would determine the importance of the institution of slavery in the nation's economic system; the acceptance of new western states into the Union became increasingly controversial; the Missouri crisis was like a "fire bell in the night" as the issue would continue to endanger the Union; the Dred Scott case would effectively nullify the progress made through the Missouri Compromise; the pro-southern Taney Court ruled that the 5th amendment protected the property of slaveholders no matter where they traveled; the conundrum known as slavery would endure; compromise over its expansion was now nearly impossible and would ultimately culminate in the Civil War; *Meat Inspection Act*: the quality of meat was abysmal during this industrial period of American history; investigative journalists known as muckrakers exposed the shoddy quality of consumer goods produced by greedy robber barons; the most significant of these journalists was Upton Sinclair, who revealed the horrible working conditions and filth in the Chicago meatpacking district; President Roosevelt pushed Congress to act; this was an important first step toward improving consumer safety and a step away from laissez-faire; a lack of sufficient funding meant that the inspectors could not possibly guarantee that sanitary conditions would always be enforced; the legislation was only partially effective; today, the public is sometimes scared by news reports of salmonella and e-coli in tainted meat; some companies continue to market animal by-products and chemically altered foodstuffs to young children)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Missouri Compromise*: Great Compromiser Henry Clay; Maine to maintain the balance; 36° 30' parallel; Louisiana Purchase; Thomas Jefferson; unconstitutional; *Meat Inspection Act*: rotted meat; *The Jungle*; standards and regulations; federal inspectors monitor cleanliness)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that discusses the establishment of separation of powers and a bicameral legislature and a conclusion that claims the acts had only marginal effects

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The strength of the response lies in its analysis. The response places both laws in the larger context of the role of power and greed in American society, which somewhat limited the effect of both laws.

During times of crisis and necessity, the federal government played an enormous role of bringing change to solve economic and social issues. Congress passed key legislation that helped address problems such as decaying infrastructure and lack of civil rights for African Americans. For example, the Interstate Highway Act of 1956 promoted massive federal spending on the construction of highways. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 greatly advanced the cause of the African American Civil Rights Movement. The Interstate Highway Act and the Civil Rights Act have had a lasting impact on American society.

The Interstate Highway Act of 1956 greatly benefited the American public. Prior to its passage, America's transportation infrastructure was woefully inadequate. Most of the existing highways and roads were funded by local and state authorities, with differing designs and purposes in mind. As a result, roads were often not uniform between states, and the lack of consistent funding led to poor conditions for existing roads, particularly for rural areas. However, with the advent of the Cold War, the federal government began taking a larger role in maintaining America's infrastructure. The president at the time, Dwight D. Eisenhower, was the commanding general of Allied Forces in Europe during World War II, and thus recognized the importance of having a proper transportation system within the country to facilitate the movement of large groups of people, including military personnel. At the time, the Cold War was at its height, and thus Eisenhower demanded new roads be built to allow for military troops to quickly move across the country and cities to be evacuated in case of an atomic attack. At the same time, GIs returning from WWII were eager

to start families and buy homes in the suburbs. To make this American dream possible, there would have to be modern, efficient highways to provide commuters with a way to get from their homes to their jobs. Eisenhower helped push through Congress the Interstate Highway Act of 1956, which gave billions to build over 41,000 miles of new highways and bridges, all connecting the various parts of America. Eisenhower's worst fears never became real, but the Interstate highway system created under his administration continues to endure. Constructing the new highways allowed large groups of people to move quickly from city to city, place to place, on a coordinated network of national highways. One of the largest demographic shifts in American History occurred as millions of American families migrated from cities to suburbs, becoming more and more dependent on their automobiles and highways. This added to the initial move by young families to the suburbs immediately after World War II. Furthermore, the highways aided America's national economy as large amounts of raw material and products could quickly travel to different markets across the country on thousands of trucks. This helped companies grow and expand allowing corporations to make large amounts of money. The new superhighways used beltways around the largest population centers diminishing congestion to achieve rapid traffic flow. Products can be transported across the entire nation in a matter of days. Lettuce and grapes are whisked in refrigerated trucks from California farms to New Yorkers' tables. Overall, the Interstate Highway Act has greatly assisted American's economy and society.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 significantly increased the status of

African-Americans. Even after World War II, racism and segregation continued to remain prevalent, particularly in the South. Efforts to desegregate America were painfully slow, as hard core segregationists often lashed out against reformers. However, desegregation efforts were eventually successful to a degree, with Truman's order to desegregate the military and the Supreme Court decision to integrate schools in the case *Brown v. the Board of Education*. These actions did not mean the end of racism, as resistance remained in the Jim Crow South. For instance, Orval Faubus, governor of Arkansas, sent the Arkansas National Guard to Little Rock, Arkansas to prevent a group of nine black students from attending a white-only school. It was only after Eisenhower sent units from the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne to protect the black students that the students were finally able to attend school. The Civil Rights Movement was further advanced by the work of black leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr, who organized the largest and most influential civil rights event, the March on Washington. Eventually, Congress relented after President Johnson's insistent urging, passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This act banned segregation in all public facilities, negating the previous Supreme Court doctrine of "separate but equal" which had legalized segregation in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. The passage of the Civil Rights Act represented one of the largest victories for the civil rights movement, as it began the slow and arduous journey to promote tolerance in American society. The Act continues to be hampered by hostility and defacto segregation, resulting from housing patterns, which cannot be eliminated by a simple act of Congress. In cities like Chicago, black students are too often the victims of poor schools that do not provide them with the skills to

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

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escape poverty and violence. Although the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a major landmark for the Civil Rights Movement and blacks did gain legal rights and greater respect from their white peers, there are still too many examples of resistance to full equality and opportunity.

Congressional legislation has had an enormous effect on the development of American society. The Interstate Highway Act greatly improved the American transportation infrastructure, connecting people from across the country together while expanding companies' abilities to sell products in domestic markets. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 made segregation illegal, but full equality and complete tolerance have not yet been achieved in American society today. The powers given to Congress have greatly influenced American society both in the past and present.

## Anchor Level 5-B

### The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task by discussing the historical circumstances that led to the passage of the Interstate Highway Act and the Civil Rights Act and the impact of each law on American society
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Interstate Highway Act*: prior to its passage, America's transportation infrastructure was woefully inadequate; recognized the importance of having a proper transportation system within the country to facilitate the movement of large groups of people, including military personnel; there would have to be modern, efficient highways to provide commuters with a way to get from their homes to their jobs; one of the largest demographic shifts in American history occurred as millions of American families migrated from cities to suburbs, becoming more and more dependent on their automobiles and highways; the highways aided America's national economy, as large amounts of raw materials and products could quickly travel to different markets across the country; lettuce and grapes are whisked in refrigerated trucks from California farms to New Yorkers' tables; *Civil Rights Act*: efforts to desegregate America were painfully slow as hardcore segregationists often lashed out at reformers; advanced by the work of black leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr., who organized the largest and most influential civil rights event, the March on Washington; act represented one of the largest victories for the Civil Rights movement, as it began the slow and arduous journey to promote tolerance in American society; the act continues to be hampered by hostility and de facto segregation which cannot be eliminated by a simple act of Congress)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Interstate Highway Act*: massive federal spending; Cold War; Dwight D. Eisenhower; military preparedness; American dream; thousands of trucks; beltways; *Civil Rights Act*: Truman's order to desegregate the military; *Brown v. Board of Education*; Little Rock, Arkansas; nine black students; "separate but equal")
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that is somewhat beyond a restatement of the theme and a conclusion that reiterates the major impacts of the acts

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response uses rich detail, especially about the historical circumstances that led to each act. The discussion of each impact includes perceptive observations of American life today.

Ever since the ratification of the constitution, the United States government has played an active role in the social and economic issues facing the citizens of America. Congress has passed countless laws and acts that have had a direct impact on the citizens. Although many times this impact has been positive, other times the impact has created consequences. The passage of the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850 which includes the Fugitive slave Law shows how the issue of slavery spreading was so divisive that this issue led to an outbreak of civil war.

In 1920, the Missouri compromise was passed in response to Missouri's desire to enter the union as a slave state. Before this, there was an equal ratio of 11 slave to 11 free states, and so congress was hesitant to upsett this balance. After all, slavery was a very controvercial issue that needed to be carefully handeled. As a result, one congressman proposed the Tallmadge Amendment, which was supposed to allow the slaves in Missouri to have gradual emancipation. However, this idea was not liked by many southerners, so instead the Missouri Compromise was proposed by Henry Clay. This consisted of Missouri entering the union as a slave state, and Maine (which technically did not qualify for statehood yet) entering the union as a free state. Also, the Missouri compromise established the principal that above 36°30' of the Louisiana Purchase, slavery was prohibitted. Although the first part of the compromise was neutral, the second part was not. The Missouri compromise put the issue of the expansion of slavery in the spotlight and most Americans breathed a sigh of relief that a peaceful compromise had been reached and nationalism and "good feelings" could continue. While the Missouri

Compromise was not perfect, it helped maintain peace for three decades when the idea of popular sovereignty was proposed, which upset many Northerners as it might allow new slave states on the Great Plains.

Continuing on the issue of slavery, in 1850, the Compromise of 1850 was passed. It was proposed by Henry Clay, the Great Compromiser, after California applied for statehood. This act consisted of multiple parts, including California as a free state, the remainder of the Mexican Cession being divided and given the right of popular sovereignty, abolition of the slave trade in Washington D.C., and of course, a stricter Fugitive slave law. The Fugitive Slave law would be the most significant and controversial part of the compromise.

Because the fugitive slave law stated that suspected runaway slaves had to be returned to their owners, the anti-slavery northerners were outraged. They felt that it was completely unethical and unfair when they saw warnings against helping escaped slaves. As a result the northerners started to pass Personal Liberty Laws in order to avoid following the Fugitive Slave Law. Northern states and towns forbade their law enforcement officials from helping catch runaways and said local jails could not be used to hold them. Seeing northerners trying to stop the return of their "property" by defying a federal law infuriated the southerners and created even more tension between the North and the South. The conductors on the Underground Railroad like Harriet Tubman had to work even harder to help fugitives because now they had to get all the way to the Canadian border in order to be safe. This Fugitive Slave Law began a new period of sectional confrontation that consisted of even more violence and tension within America than had ever occurred before. Many believed that a split



between the two sides could not be avoided. Only ten years after the passage of the compromise of 1850, America entered a civil war in which the existence of the Union was more than threatened.

In all, the Civil War was partly caused by the legislation passed by congress in the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. These acts, including the Missouri Compromise (1820) and the Compromise of 1850 did not resolve the questions about the expansion of slavery or permanently ease sectional tension. The Missouri Compromise had a much longer “peaceful” effect, while the Fugitive Slave Law, which was part of the Compromise of 1850, actually increased sectional tensions. These laws are just two of the many examples of how throughout American History, certain acts of congress have directly impacted the lives and actions of Americans.

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## Anchor Level 4-A

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task for the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850
- Is both analytical and descriptive (*Missouri Compromise*: there was an equal ratio of 11 slave to 11 free states, and Congress was hesitant to upset this balance; one Congressman proposed the Tallmadge amendment, which was supposed to allow the slaves in Missouri to have gradual emancipation; although the first part of the compromise was neutral, the second part was not; put the issue of the expansion of slavery in the spotlight; most Americans breathed a sigh of relief that a peaceful compromise had been reached and nationalism and “good feelings” could continue; helped maintain peace for three decades until popular sovereignty proposed; *Compromise of 1850*: this act consisted of multiple parts including California as a free state; the fugitive slave law would be the most significant and controversial part of the compromise; because the fugitive slave law stated that suspected runaway slaves had to be returned to their owners, the antislavery Northerners were outraged; Northerners felt that it was completely unethical and unfair when they saw warnings against helping escaped slaves; seeing the Northerners trying to stop the return of their property by defying a federal law infuriated the Southerners and created even more tension between the North and the South; began a new period of sectional confrontation that consisted of even more violence and tension within America than had ever occurred before; many believed that a split between the two sides could not be avoided)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Missouri Compromise*: Henry Clay; Maine; 36° 30' of the Louisiana Purchase; *Compromise of 1850*: Henry Clay; Great Compromiser; Mexican Cession; popular sovereignty; abolition of the slave trade in Washington, D.C.; personal liberty laws; Underground Railroad; Harriet Tubman; Canadian border; Civil War); includes a minor inaccuracy (*Missouri Compromise*: passage in 1920)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that connects both acts to the divisive issue of the spread of slavery and a conclusion that observes neither act resolved that issue

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response includes thorough descriptions of the provisions of each law. The discussion makes a good comparison about the overall impact these compromises had on the United States.

Congress has always played a pivotal role in addressing the social and economic issues of the United States. This legislation has shaped the U.S.'s economic and political situations as well as affecting the public sentiment of America's society. Two specific pieces of legislation passed during the course of the U.S.'s history that have had significant impacts on slavery and sectionalism have been the Missouri Compromise (1820) and the Fugitive Slave Act (1850). Both legislative pieces have roots stemming from the theory of manifest destiny and the country's desire to expand itself. Moreover, both would impact America permanently.

The Missouri compromise had its roots during the time frame of 1800 up until the passage of the actual legislation. During those years, the United States had begun to increase its size by expanding its borders, predominantly westward. This expansion mainly began with Thomas Jefferson, the 1800 presidential victor. In 1803, Jefferson would make the famous business deal of the Louisiana Purchase. Purchased from Napoleon for a very cheap price, the United States doubled its size overnight. All of this new territory led way to theories like "manifest destiny" the desire and need to expand American society westward. With all of this new land open for settlement and exploration, territories began to morph into areas applying for statehood. Underlying issues of slavery in American society at the time is what made adding these new states from the territories become problematic. Specifically, the state of Missouri wanted to be admitted into the union as a slave state. However, many of the northerners in the union saw this as a threat to the current balance/ratio of slave to free states. Luckily, around the same time, Maine wished to be brought

into the union as well. Due to this, the Missouri compromise was drawn up, allowing Missouri to enter as a slave state and Maine as free, keeping the balance in the Senate in check once again. The legislation also included that a line would be drawn at the 36°30' parallel, disallowing slavery to exist in the territories anywhere above that line. The passage of this legislation may have ended up placating the growing tensions between the North and the South over the issue of slavery, specifically in the territories, but the passage of it predicted that the expansion of slavery would be a contentious issue from now on. Not much later, northerners delayed the annexation of Texas over the issue of slavery. The Missouri Compromise showed the growing sectionalism that was occurring between the north and the south which would necessitate further compromise to postpone the schism of the union and the United State's Civil War.

One such compromise included the Fugitive Slave Act (1850) which also had its origins in westward expansion as well as the expansion of human bondage (slavery). With the passage of Henry Clay's controversial Compromise of 1850, came the birth of a harsher fugitive slave Act in 1850. Much more specifically it came about due to the slaveholders' outrage at the success of the underground railroad. Clay compromised that California, after its recent population increase due to the gold rush in 1849, would be brought into the union as a free state and the slave trade in Washington D.C. would be outlawed. However, in return, for the South, a new, stricter, fugitive slave law would be passed. This Fugitive Slave Act in 1850 tightened the South's grip on its fugitive (runaway) slaves by punishing those who harbored runaways in the North. The impact of this legislation was

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

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pertinent as well to the growing sectionalism leading up to the civil war. Northern abolitionists were inflamed by the passage of this Act. In response, many Northern states passed their own "personal liberty acts" in attempts to override the Act in the south. This animosity that grew from the Act would greatly contribute to the union's schism a decade later.

Both the Missouri Compromise (1850) and the fugitive slave Act (1850) had their origins in the expansion of the United States as well as slavery. These legislative pieces did contribute greatly to the civil war that would occur after 1860 with the election of President Lincoln. Both brought to light underlying tensions and issues that would eventually surface and have the United States deal with later on.

## Anchor Level 4-B

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task for the Missouri Compromise and the Fugitive Slave Act
- Is both analytical and descriptive (*Missouri Compromise*: underlying issues of slavery in American society made adding these new states from the territories become problematic; Northerners in the Union saw this as a threat to the current balance/ratio of slave to free states; allowing Missouri to enter as a slave state and Maine as free, keeping the balance in the Senate in check; placating the growing tensions between the North and the South; predicted that the expansion of slavery would be a contentious issue from now on; Northerners delayed the annexation of Texas over the issue of slavery; *Fugitive Slave Act*: had its origins in westward expansion as well as the expansion of human bondage; with the passage of Henry Clay's controversial Compromise of 1850, came the birth of a harsher fugitive slave act; slaveholders' outrage at the success of the Underground Railroad; tightened the South's grip on its fugitive slaves by punishing those who harbored runaways in the North; Northern abolitionists were inflamed by the passage of this act)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Missouri Compromise*: Thomas Jefferson; Louisiana Purchase; Napoleon; doubled its size; Manifest Destiny; 36° 30' parallel; Civil War; *Fugitive Slave Act*: California; gold rush in 1849; outlawed the slave trade in Washington, D.C.; growing sectionalism; Civil War; personal liberty acts; Union's schism a decade later)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that states both laws stemmed from expansionism and a conclusion that states the laws contributed to the Civil War after the election of President Lincoln

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response demonstrates a clear understanding of events leading to the laws and the themes of Manifest Destiny and expansion of slavery. However, a little more development of the impact of the Fugitive Slave Law would have strengthened the response.

The United States government prides itself with the idea of balance. The theory of checks and balances allows neither of the three branches of government to get too much power. One specific branch Congress, is the branch that most represents the people. It is composed of a two house system, the House of Representatives, and the Senate. Throughout the history of the United States, Congress has passed different legislation that may be intended to help the people but often promotes national and federal interests and increases the size and power of the central government. Whatever the case may be, Congressional legislation has had both social and economic impacts on American society.

One act that was clearly in order to help the people was the Meat Inspection Act of 1906. Around this time period, Theodore Roosevelt, perhaps one of the most progressive presidents in United States history, held office. He was an innovator, and sought to challenge the harmful practices of the “bad trusts”.

Activist reformers during the progressive movement were determined to regulate big business. At this time, the big businesses were forming monopolies without regard for public safety. The people were being fed (literally and metaphorically) anything the big companies wanted to feed them. One specific industry was brought to light by muckracker Upton Sinclair and his book “The Jungle”. This book revealed the horrid conditions of the meat packing industry. The workers were working in poor lighting, damp air, and dangerous conditions. The meat was rotten and sausage contained sawdust, rat droppings and human fingers. The book also went on to describe how the meat was packaged and shipped to the public. Everyone, including the president himself, was appalled by the details described in the book.

This led congress to pass the Meat Inspection Act, which sent inspectors to various meat packing factories around America to force the owners to change their old way and to provide purer meat. This act was passed for consumer safety and to protect peoples' interests.

It has had huge impacts on American Society ever since it was passed. It led the way for many regulatory acts for public health, one being the Pure Food and Drug Act. The FDA helped protect the people of the United States by ordering foods to be labeled and drugs to be tested. From this point on, the big food companies had to watch what they were selling to Americans. Congress stepped in and protected the people against special interests, which also gave to US people a reason to trust its government.

During World War I, Congress passed the Espionage and Sedition Act of 1917-1918. These Acts showed that civil liberties of the people may be sacrificed for national security. The United States was in a war that many Americans did not want to take part in, because we had not been attacked. During the draft, many people, especially socialists, voiced opposition to the war effort. They believed that the war only helped banks and big business and the government had no right drafting and sending young men to war. President Wilson felt that if there were people going against the war, the war effort would be slowed. The Espionage Act stated that there should be no obstructions to the war efforts itself.

This led to the famous Supreme Court case Schneck v US where a man was sent to prison for sending out antidraft pamphlets to thousands of men who were going to be drafted. This Act is one example of what almost always happens during wartime. The



government wants to limit dissent and potential opponents and it sometimes goes too far in its restrictions. Sometimes it limits speech as in the Shneck case. Sometimes it relocates innocent Japanese Americans, and sometimes it undercuts the privacy rights of citizens. Today the National Security Agency can spy on peoples' phone conversations. The government should think long and hard before limiting the rights of innocent Americans.

Congress has had many impacts on the people and government of the United States itself. It has passed various laws that either are for the people or for national interests. Congress is always passing Acts that it believes would protect the interest of the people and of Congress. The Espionage Act is just one example of security decisions that are still having huge impacts on American Society. The Meat Inspection Act has protected the US people for decades and will continue to for years to come.

## Anchor Level 4-C

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task by discussing the historical circumstances for the Meat Inspection Act and the Espionage Act in more depth than the impacts of these acts
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Meat Inspection Act*: Theodore Roosevelt was an innovator and sought to challenge the harmful practices of the “bad trusts”; activist reformers during the Progressive movement were determined to regulate big businesses; the people were being fed anything that the big companies wanted to feed them; sent inspectors to various meatpacking factories around America; led the way for many regulatory acts for public health, one being the Pure Food and Drug Act; *Espionage Act*: the United States was in a war that many Americans did not want to take part in because we had not been attacked; many people, especially socialists, voiced opposition to the war effort; they believed that the war only helped banks and big business; showed that civil liberties of the people may be sacrificed for national security; led to the famous Supreme Court case *Schenck v. United States* where a man was sent to prison for sending out antidraft pamphlets; during wartime, government wants to limit dissent and potential opponents; undercuts the privacy rights of citizens)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Meat Inspection Act*: monopolies; muckraker; Upton Sinclair; *The Jungle*; dangerous conditions; meat was rotten; consumer safety; food to be labeled; *Espionage Act*: President Wilson; Act stated there should be no obstructions to the war; relocation of Japanese Americans; National Security Agency can spy on peoples’ phone conversations; limiting rights of innocent Americans)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that states congressional legislation has increased the size and power of the federal government and a conclusion that is somewhat beyond a restatement of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The discussion of the historical circumstances leading to the passage of these laws shows understanding of the Progressive Era and the home front during World War I. However, the discussion of the impacts of the laws is somewhat less thorough.

The founding fathers established the right of the United States Congress to pass important legislation when they ratified the Constitution. Throughout United States history, Congress has exerted its power by first understanding the needs of the people, and then by acting on these necessities to pass laws that will help the American population. These acts have become instrumental in shaping the course of American history either through their negative impacts or positive effects. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, enacted as a result of the Compromise of 1850 and causing an increase in North-South tension, and the Meat Inspection Act of 1906, created in response to the evidence exposed by the muckrakers and resulting in the regulation of food industries, were both important acts passed by Congress that greatly affected both the American people and United States history.

The issue of slavery in the years leading up to the Civil War resulted in the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act. In an effort to mitigate the tensions between the North and South over the possible extension of slavery into the Mexican cession, the Compromise of 1850 was established in an attempt to reconcile these opposing views. Under the terms of the compromise, California was able to enter the Union as a free state, while the question of slavery in other territories would be decided by popular sovereignty. This compromise largely favored the North as it upset the balance between free and slave states, however, the compromise also placated the South by guaranteeing the passage of a stricter Fugitive Slave Act. Following the passage of this act by Congress, it became increasingly more difficult for slaves to escape to the North because slave catchers were granted greater authority. Many

Northerners refused to adhere to this law as they claimed it violated their consciences and went against their beliefs. The fervent support of this law by the South and the adamant refusal of it by abolitionists in the North exacerbated sectional tensions and led to the increased attention of the slavery issue on the national stage. Although created to promote greater unity and to reduce sectional conflict, the Congress' Fugitive Slave Act escalated North-South hostility and expedited the beginning of the Civil War.

Although legislation is sometimes detrimental to American society, it often results in reformation and improvement that benefits the American people. In the early twentieth century, the term "muckrakers" was used to describe writers who courageously publicized corrupt practices in businesses and industries. Upton Sinclair's expository novel, The Jungle, explicitly revealed the unsanitary conditions of the meat-packing industry. Answering to the outrage and disgust of the American people, Congress passed the Meat Inspection Act of 1906 that brought the meat-packing industry under close supervision. Government officials inspected meat industries and regulated their practices, making sure that factories complied with sanitary laws and working conditions. This legislation resulted in an essential reform in the meat-packing industry and eventually led to the inspection of other industries. Furthermore, it provided for better-quality products that would result in better health and consumer safety for the majority of Americans. Overall, the Meat Inspection Act produced many positive reforms that regulated the unhealthy conditions in meat factories and provided for better quality products.

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

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Legislation passed by Congress is largely established by and for the will of the American people. The Fugitive Slave Act was designed to appease both the North and the South through the passage of stricter slave laws, yet ultimately it led to increased sectional conflict. The Meat Inspection Act was passed by the outcry that resulted from Upton Sinclair's novel, and eventually led to the control and regulation of the meatpacking industry by government inspectors. Although very different in their causes and outcomes, both acts exemplify the authority of Congress to pass laws that determine the course of American history.

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

- Develops all aspects of the task in some depth for the Fugitive Slave Act and the Meat Inspection Act
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Fugitive Slave Act*: in an effort to mitigate the tensions between the North and South over the extension of slavery into the Mexican Cession, the Compromise of 1850 was established; it upset the balance between free and slave states; the compromise also placated the South by guaranteeing the passage of a stricter fugitive slave act; it became increasingly more difficult for slaves to escape to the North because slave catchers were granted greater authority; many Northerners refused to adhere to this law as they claimed it violated their consciences and went against their beliefs; although created to promote greater unity and to reduce sectional conflict, Congress' Fugitive Slave Act escalated North-South hostility and expedited the beginning of the Civil War; *Meat Inspection Act*: the term *muckrakers* was used to describe writers who courageously publicized corrupt practices in businesses and industries; answering to the outrage and disgust of the American people, Congress passed the Meat Inspection Act of 1906 that brought the meatpacking industry under close supervision; resulted in an essential reform in the meatpacking industry and eventually led to the inspection of other industries; it provided for better quality products that would result in better health and consumer safety for the majority of Americans)
- Includes a few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Fugitive Slave Act*: California; popular sovereignty, abolitionists; *Meat Inspection Act*: Upton Sinclair's expository novel, *The Jungle*; unsanitary conditions; regulated unhealthy conditions in meat factories)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that state some major ideas about each act

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response demonstrates a good understanding of the Fugitive Slave Act and the Meat Inspection Act. While brief, the response presents a cohesive narrative. The inclusion of more details would have enhanced the response.

Throughout the course of American History, different social and economical situations have arisen and required changes to be made by our legislation. The Meat inspection act of 1906 and Civil Rights Act of 1964 are only two examples of this occurrence, and radically effected society at their respective points in History. However, the legacy of these changes lives on even to society today.

Before the 1900's, the Industrial Revolution took place. This was a period of immense social change and economic invention. Mass production and factories came to be the norm, leading to the development of large cities, where thousands of new immigrants lived together in a relatively small area. These areas, however, had many issues. With the concentration of people residing there so high, living conditions and the quality of life was at an all time low, especially in factories. Since the idea was to quickly produce the greatest amount of goods possible, little thought was given to cleanliness or safety, and quality was very often sacrificed for quantity. In this particular instance, the meat industry had conditions such as these. Meat factories were dark, dirty and all too often vermin-infested. The United States Citizens were buying this meat completely unbeknownst of the conditions they were produced under, and often were made sick from it. Thankfully, many writers wrote books, pamphlets and stories with the sole purpose of exposing the corruption and conditions of big industry to the public, known commonly as "muckrakers". Upton Sinclair was a muckraker who exposed the horrible conditions in Chicago meat-packing plants. Once the public got word of how their food was produced, progressives in the government realized they had to step in and make changes. The Meat-

Inspection Act of 1906 provided these changes, setting inspections for meat-producing factories so that the condition of food people bought could be improved. In a time lacking quality of goods and food, this was a huge first step in improving conditions all around; but the long-term benefits are still seen in present day America. In part because of this, regulatory agencies such as the Food and Drug administration were formed to test the quality of food and drugs, and enforce regulations such as labeling foods with accurate ingredients. Even in other industries similar acts and agencies came about for consumer protection leading to the society we know today where people expect the government to protect them against unsafe or untested products and the government is more involved in their lives. Though a seemingly small act passed at the time, the long-term effects of the 1906 Meat Inspection Act were monumental, and a large part of modern society.

Alternatively, though equally as important, is the Civil Rights act of 1964. A century earlier in American history, Africans and their descendants had been freed from their forced slavery and promised freedom and equality as American Citizens; though the reality of the situation was discrimination. Racial tensions still remained between black and white citizens everywhere, though nowhere so strongly as the southern U.S. There, Jim Crow segregation was considered a common place idea. This segregation was just a way to treat any “colored” American as a second class citizen. White and black children could not attend the same schools or amusement parks, ‘blacks’ and ‘whites’ had to sit on different ends of busses, frequent different stores and parks, use different bathrooms and—more

ridiculously—different water fountains. A little later, an act was passed declaring that all facilities could be segregated by color, but must be equal for both. Unfortunately this policy of 'separate but equal' was not enforced. "Colored-only" conditions and standards were much lower than that of white Americans, and discrimination only escalated from there. Actual violence was used against African Americans, including homes being burnt down, people being beaten and the formation of hate groups such as the 'KKK'. But, thankfully, these conditions would slowly improve. Activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. became the leader of the civil rights movement, inspiring people to peacefully protest to gain the equality for all races. These protests included sit-ins and marches never using violence—and some people even got themselves arrested voluntarily. This rough time in history was addressed with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and just as with many other legislative acts, its legacy lives on even to today. Though not perfect, Modern America is much more equal than it has ever been. In Modern America, equality regardless of race, at least as far as government legislation goes has improved. This most likely would not have occurred if not for the Civil Rights Act, and it is a wonder what society would be like today had it not occurred.

Many legislative acts throughout history brought about radical changes that still live on today. The Meat Inspection Act of 1906 and Civil Rights Act of 1964 are only two examples of these changes, but paved the way for how American citizens live in modern day.



### Anchor Level 3-B

#### The response:

- Develops some aspects of the task in some depth for the Meat Inspection Act and the Civil Rights Act
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Meat Inspection Act*: since the idea was to quickly produce the greatest amount of goods possible, little thought was given to cleanliness or safety, and quality was very often sacrificed for quantity; many writers wrote books, pamphlets, and stories with the sole purpose of exposing the corruption and conditions of big industry to the public; progressives in the government realized they had to step in and make changes; in a time lacking quality of goods and food, this was a huge first step in improving conditions all around; in other industries, similar acts and agencies came about for consumer protection; people expect the government to protect them against unsafe or untested products and the government is more involved in their lives; *Civil Rights Act*: a century earlier in American history, Africans and their descendants had been freed from their forced slavery and promised freedom and equality as American citizens; segregation was just a way to treat any “colored” American as a second-class citizen; “colored-only” conditions and standards were much lower than that of white Americans, and discrimination only escalated from there; in modern America, equality regardless of race, at least as far as government legislation goes, has improved); includes faulty application (*Civil Rights Act*: a little later, an act was passed declaring that all facilities could be segregated by color but must be equal for both)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Meat Inspection Act*: Industrial Revolution; mass production; new immigrants; vermin-infested; muckrakers; Upton Sinclair; Chicago meatpacking plants; Food and Drug Administration; *Civil Rights Act*: Jim Crow segregation; different bathrooms; different water fountains; “separate but equal”; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; sit-ins and marches)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes a brief introduction and a brief conclusion stating that both acts radically changed society

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response shows an understanding of the historical circumstances that prompted passage of each act and the impact of the Meat Inspection Act. However, it only mentions an impact of the Civil Rights Act.

United States history has seen change throughout every decade. With change comes the responsibility to keep the American nation in-tune with its surroundings. Congress is the omnipresent being that is given this daunting task. The legislation passed by this branch keeps society up-to-pace with this ever-changing nation. The Meat Inspection Act of 1906 and The Interstate Highway Act of 1956 are two examples of Congress action, changing the horizon of the United States.

In the early 1900s, when the Progressive Era was in full swing, muckrakers were digging into the secrets of big businesses and manufacturers who had always been concerned with only profit and not the people who used their products. The articles and books written by these investigative reporters shocked the nation with scenes of gross distress. One of these appalling books revealed the truth about what it was like to work in the meat packing industry. It was found that very little care was given to providing safe and healthy products for its costumers. So both Theodore Roosevelt and Congress banded together to formulate the Meat Inspection Act of 1906.

The new act forced the meat packing industries to submit to federal inspection that would insure the consumer that the meat they are buying is both safe and healthy. It made manufacturing companies more responsible for the product they are selling. No longer could they be as careless as they were in the past. The Meat Inspection Act also created a sense of relief within the American society. The people began to think that the government should be aware of the well-being of the citizens of the U.S. This act also served as the lead dominoe in a long chain of future inspection acts that improved the way big business treated consumers and increased the size of the government.

Fifty years later, the Interstate Highway Act was passed. Since the 1920s, cars were being mass produced on assembly lines and made available to anyone and everyone. After World War II, GIs were eager to settle down with their families outside of the cities. They had survived the Great Depression and a world war and wanted to start living a normal life. With the availability of automobiles, more and better roads were needed for transportation. On top of this, the Cold War was gaining strength and a nuclear threat was always close in the fears of the United States. Eisenhower wanted an easy way to transport military supplies and evacuate people if need be. Therefore, the Interstate Highway Act was passed.

The act stipulated an increase in the number of multi-lane highways throughout the nation. Better roads and a coordinated highway system made travelling safe, fast, and easy. People could live in suburbs and still work in cities that were thirty miles away. The Interstate Highway Act led to an increase in suburbs and developed land far from the cities. During this time, suburbs like Levittown were appearing everywhere as the white middle class moved away from the cities. These new roads also meant that if ever there was a nuclear war with the U.S.S.R., military supplies could flow all throughout the nation quickly and easily.

Throughout the chronicles of United States history, Congress has been forced to keep the United States in pace with the changing times. They have accomplished this through the passing of legislation like The Meat Inspection Act of 1906 and the Interstate Highway Act of 1956. Whether past, present, or future, change will always be needed to satisfy the United States society.

### Anchor Level 3-C

#### **The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task in little depth for the Meat Inspection Act and the Interstate Highway Act
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Meat Inspection Act*: muckrakers were digging into the secrets of big business and manufacturers who had always been concerned with only profit and not the people who used their products; it was found that very little care was given to providing safe and healthy products for its customers; the new act forced the meatpacking industries to submit to federal inspections that would insure the consumer that the meat they are buying is both safe and healthy; the people began to think that the government should be aware of the well-being of the citizens; improved the way big business treated consumers and increased the size of the government; *Interstate Highway Act*: cars were being mass produced on assembly lines and made available to anyone and everyone; GIs were eager to settle down with their families outside of the cities; the Cold War was gaining strength and a nuclear threat was always close in the fears of the United States; better roads and a coordinated highway system made traveling safe, fast, and easy; led to an increase of suburbs and developed land far from the cities; the white middle class moved away from the cities)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Meat Inspection Act*: Progressive Era; investigative reporters; Theodore Roosevelt; future inspection acts; *Interstate Highway Act*: after World War II; Eisenhower; transport military supplies; evacuate people; multi-lane highways; Levittown)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that overstate the role of Congress in responding to changing times

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response demonstrates a general understanding of the two pieces of legislation but lacks depth and analysis.

Throughout United States history, congress has passed legislation to address important social and economic issues. This legislation has often had a significant impact on the United States and/or on American society. Either through Acts, Agreements and compromises made these changes possible and significant on the constitution and Bill of rights. Two important legislations that were passed were the Homestead Act of 1862 and civil rights Act of 1964.

The purpose of the Homestead Act was to persuade or influence many citizens and farmers to settle further west. The west had millions of acres of land that was unsettled. The main purpose or significance of this was the government was giving 160 acres of land to any citizens but they had to take care of it or grow crops on it and dwell on it for 5 years but had to pay its rent or taxes. Then if completed the land would be yours. Many farmers saw this as a great opportunity to get enormous amounts of land for their crops and cattle.

The impact that this legislation had on Native Americans was emotional. They were all forced out of their homes and land and sent to settle on reservations. The trail of tears a significant migration of Natives to the southern midwestern regions was named after many Native's dieing on the way to these reservations because of diseases caught from the influx of Europeans. It had a bad impact on some farmers because most couldn't pay the rent or taxes needed to payoff the homestead land. Most either got in debt or were extremely impoverished and now had no were to go.

The civil rights Act of 1964 has to be the biggest change for rights of citizens in all the history of the United States. This legislation

proposed by President John F. Kennedy, wanted to abolish desegregation of any race and discrimination amongst any person. John F. Kennedy was assassinated which brought vice president Lyndon B. Johnson into presidency. It was because of Lyndon B. Johnson that this legislation was passed into a new law. He stated that there shall be no discrimination against any person, desegregation in public schools and facilities, and no discrimination in hotels, libraries, and any public accommodations. He put John F. Kennedy's legacy or dream into a new law.

The civil rights Act would first help him get really famous and well known by African Americans who needed this legislation the most. African Americans like Martin Luther King jr. and Malcolm X were civil rights leaders who couldn't do it alone without the help of some form of law or legislation. This Act would help African Americans and other minorities to drink from any where, swim anywhere, check in any where, and mainly work anywhere. This would help all discrimination to stop and would help any segregated areas to abolish its actions but most still didn't stop.

So with the passage of major acts and laws society has benefited from it at least 1%. Throughout United States history many dedicated not only their time but themselves to enforce any laws that will help society and help even the minorities. Many legislations have had a profound impact on American society. So if any person can, he/she should sacrifice a little to help a lot.

## Anchor Level 2-A

### The response:

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for the Homestead Act and the Civil Rights Act
- Is primarily descriptive (*Homestead Act*: the purpose of the Homestead Act was to persuade or influence many citizens and farmers to settle further west; the West had millions of acres of land that was unsettled; Native Americans were all forced out of their homes and land and sent to settle on reservations; *Civil Rights Act*: because of Lyndon B. Johnson, this legislation was passed; there shall be no discrimination against any person, no segregation in public schools and facilities, and no discrimination in hotels, libraries, and any public accommodations; Johnson put John F. Kennedy's legacy or dream into a new law; this act would help African Americans and other minorities to drink from anywhere, swim anywhere, check in anywhere, and mainly work anywhere); includes faulty analysis (*Homestead Act*: farmers had to pay its rent or taxes; it had a bad impact on some farmers because most could not pay the rent or taxes needed to pay off the homestead land)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Homestead Act*: 160 acres of land; dwell on it for 5 years; crops and cattle; *Civil Rights Act*: Kennedy assassinated; Martin Luther King, Jr.); includes inaccuracies (*Homestead Act*: the Trail of Tears was a significant migration of natives to the southern Midwestern regions; natives died because of diseases caught from Europeans; *Civil Rights Act*: wanted to abolish desegregation)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that is little more than a restatement of the theme and a conclusion that calls for individual sacrifice to promote laws that will help society

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response shows an understanding of the central ideas of the laws and their impacts but is weakened by errors and lack of development.

Congress throughout its history has passed many important pieces of legislation. Often times, the legislation is passed to address certain economic or social issues. Two very important pieces of legislation in U.S. History are: the Missouri Compromise (1820) and the Interstate Highway Act (1956). These two pieces of legislation have had tremendous impacts on the country both positively and negatively.

As the United States moved westward into land acquired in the Louisiana Purchase many areas sought to become states. However, along with expansion westward was the expansion of Slavery. This became an issue when Missouri desired to enter the union in 1820. Prior to Missouri's application to become a state there had been a balanced number of free and slave states in the union. If Missouri were to enter the union there would be an uneven balance of power in the Senate. In response, Congress proposed the Missouri Compromise. The Missouri compromise entailed that in addition to Missouri entering the union as a slave state, Maine would enter as a free state; thus keeping the balance of power even in the Senate. Also, all Louisiana Purchase territory above the 36°30' line would enter the union as free states. This legislation is significant because it more or less addresses the developing sectionalism in the U.S. due to slavery. The Missouri compromise was only the beginning in the long line of legislation passed dealing with the westward expansion of slavery.

Following World War I, President Eisenhower toured the country as a member of the army. This trip took much longer than it should have since the country did not have an elaborate system of roads. Therefore when President Eisenhower returned from Europe after World War II; he knew the United States needed to change its roads system because



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

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if a war was to ever be fought on US soil like the war that had just ended, the United States would need to mobilize quickly. Thus, President, Eisenhower proposed to congress the Interstate Highway Act. Congress approved this piece of legislation and created the largest public works project in US history. This piece of legislation created many jobs and connected the United States like never before, creating a new era in US history of highways and cars.

These pieces of legislation were very important. Both addressed issues facing the nation at the time. Additionally, these pieces of legislation will be remembered FOREVER.

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

- Develops the historical circumstances that led to the passage of the Missouri Compromise and the Interstate Highway Act in some depth and the impact of each act in little depth
- Is primarily descriptive (*Missouri Compromise*: as the United States moved westward into land acquired in the Louisiana Purchase, many areas sought to become states; prior to Missouri's application to become a state, there had been a balanced number of free and slave states in the Union; all Louisiana Purchase territory above the 36° 30' line would enter as free states; only the beginning in the long line of legislation passed dealing with the westward expansion of slavery; *Interstate Highway Act*: trip took much longer than it should have since the country did not have an elaborate system of roads; if a war was ever to be fought on United States soil like the war that had just ended, the United States would need to mobilize quickly; created the largest public works project in United States history; created many jobs and connected the United States like never before, creating a new era in United States history of highways and cars)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Missouri Compromise*: Senate; Maine; sectionalism; *Interstate Highway Act*: after World War I, Eisenhower toured the country; after World War II)
- 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 discussion of the historical circumstances illustrates knowledge of the events leading to the passage of the legislation. The impacts of the legislation are merely suggested without elaboration.

For many social and economic problems, Congress would pass legislation to solve these problems. Some were very effective but others not so much. Each legislation has effected the history of the United States in its own way.

One of these legislations passed by Congress is the Meat Inspection Act of 1906. Many businesses dealing with meat were very unclean and didn't take care of their meat. At the factories, people would lose fingers and other body parts into the meat while working. They'd grind the body part up with the meat so its like it never happened. Consumers had no idea what was actually in their meat. Muckrackers exposed these businesses to the public through pictures and articles. Upton Sinclair wrote a book called The Jungle thats all about this. Without the Muckrackers, this legislation would have never happened.

The Meat Inspection Act impacted society greatly. Society now knew what was in their food they eat. They didn't have to worry about eating any fingers. Companies now had to pass inspections if they wanted to stay in business. Any company that didn't pass inspections, went out of business. Although in some circumstances, the business owner would bribe the inspector so he wouldn't shut them down.

Another legislation that was effective is the Interstate Highway Act of 1956. Troops needed a way to get somewhere fast and easy in case of emergencies. Most roads followed the shape of the land so they took way longer than a straight line through the land. Many long distance travelers would have to stay overnight multiple time in hotels before arriving at their destination.

The impact of this act has helped society greatly. Soldiers now have

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

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an easy and fast route across the country. This also allowed for faster travel for civilians. Many people moved to rural areas so they could have privacy and still get anywhere they need to be fast. Many hotels that rely on long distance travelers lost business. Since traveling was now quick and easy, many more people went on vacations.

These legislations have all impacted society greatly and life would be very different without these acts. Even though there are some ways of getting around some legislations, they still have more of a positive effect. History wouldn't be the same without these legislations.

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

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for the Meat Inspection Act and the Interstate Highway Act
- Is primarily descriptive (*Meat Inspection Act*: many businesses dealing with meat were very unclean; muckrakers exposed these businesses to the public through pictures and articles; companies now had to pass inspections if they wanted to stay in business; *Interstate Highway Act*: troops needed to get somewhere fast and easy in case of emergencies; most roads followed the shape of the land so they took longer than a straight line; this also allowed for faster travel for civilians); includes weak application (*Meat Inspection Act*: at the factories, people would lose fingers and other body parts into the meat while working; they would grind the body part up with the meat like it never happened; *Interstate Highway Act*: many people moved to rural areas; many more people went on vacation)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Meat Inspection Act*: consumers; Upton Sinclair; *The Jungle*; bribe the inspectors)
- 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 2. The response includes general descriptions and basic ideas about the laws, but it lacks historical detail and depth.

Clearly outlined in the Constitution, the federal government's duty is to the people. In order to fully serve the people the government must be flexible enough to respond to changing ideas and shifts in the status quo. Although Congress has been slow to pass legislation that in retrospect was clearly necessary, it is clear that Congress passed legislation both prescient and important for the American people as can be seen in the Homestead Act of 1862 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The North is celebrated not only for its victory in the Civil War, but also for its economic success in the years following, in sharp contrast to the South's economic demise. The North was successful because the Republican congress furiously pursued economic growth and actively created new opportunities with legislation. The Homestead Act is a great example of this. Many families were reluctant to travel west because of the risk involved in pushing the "new frontier." The Homestead Act alleviated these fears by providing a substantial foundation for families who participated in the program. Congress very aptly responded to a pressing need and sparked growth in the west for years to come.

Another good example of congress taking the initiative to create social change was the Civil Rights Act. As segregation was coming increasingly to the forefront of politics and many Americans consciences, it was clear that the government needed to step in to prevent massive social upheaval. The Civil Rights Act granted African Americans the protection of the federal government, which in the past had been withheld. Amid growing controversy, Congress took a side. This was essential because had legislators remained indifferent,

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

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fighting in the streets would have determined the victor. Instead, the issue was given the backing of the federal government thereby giving Civil Rights activists legitimacy in their claims.

The federal government has often been criticized for both inaction and too much interference. However, it is clear that there are times in history when intervention is direly needed or even simply warranted by events. In these delicate cases, it is vital that the government step in strongly with legislation that has a clear purpose and policies that reflect the benevolent nature of government outlined in the Constitution.

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

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task for the Homestead Act and the Civil Rights Act
- Is somewhat analytical (*Homestead Act*: the Republican Congress furiously pursued economic growth and actively created new opportunities with legislation; many families were reluctant to travel west because of the risk involved in pushing the new frontier; *Civil Rights Act*: segregation was coming increasingly to the forefront of politics and many Americans' consciences; granted African Americans the protection of the federal government, which in the past had been withheld)
- Includes very few relevant facts, examples, or details (*Homestead Act*: Civil War; *Civil Rights Act*: massive social upheaval; activists)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that states government needs to be flexible and a conclusion that points out the federal government has been criticized for both inaction and interference

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response contains some analytical statements, but these statements lack direct connection to the Homestead Act or the Civil Rights Act. Despite the satisfactory introduction and conclusion, the response lacks relevant details and substance regarding these laws.

During American history many problems have arisen that had a significant impact on American society. Often, congress had to deal with these issues by passing various laws and acts. Sometimes the acts brought about progress to the country, yet many times these laws caused trouble and devastation to the people. The Meat Inspection Act of 1906 and the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 were two of the many acts passed that dealt with political and social issues.

During the early twentieth century many businesses and factories were becoming involved in corrupt practices. One of these businesses that exercised this behavior was the Meat Packing Industry. The conditions in the Meat Packaging Factory were poor and dirty, utensils weren't washed, and the meat was not cleaned properly. Upton Sinclair published a book "The Jungle" explaining the horrible state the factory was in. When the Government became aware of this Congress passed the Meat Inspection Act to improve conditions of Meat packing. The main purpose of this act was to help the Meat Package Industry change and develop into a clean and organized factory. This act worked and the conditions in factory improved over the years.

During the era of slavery, slaves suffered inhuman conditions and worked really hard. As a result many slaves would try to runaway and escape to areas of no slavery. Therefore the Fugitive Slave Act was passed which prevented runaway slaves. This Act explained that if a person living in a non slave area finds a runaway slaves he is required to send him/her back. This law caused lots of controversy and many people disagreed with it. However this law did come into use often and many slaves were returned to their masters.

Throughout American society countless issues evoked that effected

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

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the American people. Congress often addressed these issues and passed acts and laws. The Meat Inspection Act and the Fugitive slave Act were two acts that congress made to help important issues in society.

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

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task for the Meat Inspection Act and the Fugitive Slave Act
- Is descriptive (*Meat Inspection Act*: during the early 20th century, many businesses and factories were becoming involved in corrupt practices; conditions in the meatpacking industry were poor; conditions in factories improved over the years; *Fugitive Slave Act*: slaves suffered inhuman conditions and worked very hard; this law caused lots of controversy and many people disagreed with it)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*Meat Inspection Act*: utensils were not washed; Upton Sinclair; *The Jungle*; *Fugitive Slave Act*: runaway slaves returned to their masters)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that notes some laws brought progress while others caused trouble and a conclusion that restates the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response mentions only the most basic information about each act with no development, especially for the Fugitive Slave Act.

One of the tasks of the Federal Government of the United States is that it must pass laws to address problems in the nation. Throughout American history, social and economic factors have led to major sectional problems that threatened the stability of the United States. Often, legislation does not just deal with a problem, but actually changes the fabric of American society and the economy. The Missouri Compromise of 1820 and the Kansas-Nebraska Act illustrate this relationship between America and its laws.

The Missouri Compromise of 1820 perfectly captures how the government attempts to deal with problems through laws and ends up passing laws with far-reaching consequences. The Missouri Compromise dealt with Missouri's entry into America as a new state. This would not have been a big deal; however, Missouri's admittance into America sparked a political problem. At the time, there were eleven free states and eleven slave states. Missouri wanted to enter in as a slave state, which would disrupt the balance of power between slave states and free states. Northerners—who lived in free states—disliked this idea greatly. They recognized that such a move would give Southern slave states more votes in the Senate. The Northerners did not want to answer to Southerners and for this reason they opposed Missouri's entry into the Union as a slave state. Meanwhile, Southerners wanted Missouri to enter the Union so they could have power over the North. In this way, Missouri had created a social conflict of sectionalism—siding with one's home state or region over the nation. However, economic problems also existed in this situation. The South lived off of cotton and needed slavery to grow cotton. By adding a slave state, the South was ensuring that slavery continued



and their economy continued to prosper. In the end, Henry Clay answered these problems with the Missouri Compromise. The Missouri Compromise added Missouri as a slave state & Maine as a free state. The compromise also established the 36°30' line across the Louisiana territory line where states North of the line would be free and states South of the line would be slave. In the short run, the Missouri Compromise allowed the nation to think it had solved sectional issues. However, the South became even more dependent on cotton and slave labor while the North continued its industrial growth. Cotton from the South was the country's biggest export but the North developed factories and railroads, which made it stronger and more prosperous. Later, the compromise's 36°30' line would be challenged by new states. What followed was that the compromise line proved to be an inadequate solution, and sectionalism rose again. In this way, one sees that the far reaching consequences of the Missouri Compromise was that it did not do enough. No bill would have prevented the growth of sectionalism. Nevertheless, the Missouri Compromise proves that the federal government passes bills to deal with problems and that sometimes, these bills have a major impact.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act demonstrates how the Missouri Compromise failed to provide a permanent solution to the issue of slavery's expansion. The Kansas-Nebraska Act of the 1850's was passed for an economic and social reason. Stephen A. Douglas wanted a railroad to go through Chicago because it would boost the city's economy. In order to get the railroad and not anger Southerners who were increasingly growing hostile towards Northerners who opposed slavery, Douglas got Congress to pass the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The

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## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – A

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Kansas-Nebraska Act introduced popular sovereignty in Kansas and Nebraska—it allowed the people of those States to choose whether slavery existed there or not. In this way, the Missouri Compromise was repealed because the 36°30' line no longer applied. The Act, however, created major problems. For starters, Northerners wanted to either abolish slavery or stop the spread of slavery. The Kansas-Nebraska Act did neither, which angered Northerners. Meanwhile, Southerners became angry at Northerners for attacking the act. As a result, sectionalism grew—even causing violence in Congress when Charles Sumner was caned by a Southerner on the floor of the Senate. This sectionalism led to the split of the Democratic party along sectional lines. Meanwhile, the Republican party, advocating free soil to stop the spread of slavery, was formed thanks to the Act. The Act also damaged Douglas' career, and helped Abraham Lincoln grow as a popular figure when he exposed Douglas' Popular sovereignty as being an inadequate solution to the issue of slavery in the Lincoln-Douglas Debates. Finally, when the elections over slavery were rigged, violence broke out in "Bleeding Kansas", further widening the sectional gap between Northerners and Southerners. Ultimately, this gap led to the Civil War.

The Missouri compromise and the Kansas-Nebraska Act prove that sometimes the government will pass laws to deal with sectional problems and these laws had a major impact over the entire nation. These laws created major changes for American society.

The Legislative Branch of government, Congress, has throughout our history played a very influential role, as it should, on the society and economy of the United States. The Meat Inspection Act of 1906, a response to corruption & malpractices in the food industry, and the Missouri Compromise in 1820, one among the many laws passed attempting to solve slavery debates, deal with completely different issues in different time periods, yet both had a strong impact on the nation and its future.

In the early 20th century, America was thriving off of the Second Industrial Revolution, with industries rapidly rising and changing, essentially changing the way of life for all Americans, yet giving rise to corruption and greed to those who tried to get as much as they could out of the loosely regulated business standards of the time. The food industry, particularly the meat section, was one of the best examples of this. The cattle were dirty, diseased, and kept in confined spaces, fed unnatural foods like corn and other animals' meat. Not only this but the factories/slaughterhouses were dirty & unsafe. The combination of these two things greatly compromised the safety of the buyers, who would get sick from this meat and not know of the conditions in which it was produced. Upton Sinclair, in his book *The Jungle* exposed this industry with muckraking journalism showing the American public the problems there were. This led almost directly to the Meat Inspection Act's passage by Congress, a law that addressed these issues by establishing mandatory inspections of factories, and creating sanitation standards. This improved the standard of the food industry dramatically, and began the interest of the public in their safety & health which would lead to more future reforms, improving the health

and well being of americans.

While these health issues might of arose later, in the 1800's, the main issue dividing the nation was slavery. With the expansion of the nation with the actions of Presidents like James K. Polk, the purchase of the Louisiana territory, and the ever expanding Frontier due to the ideas of Manifest destiny, slavery became a huge issue when admitting new states. The country was divided 50/50 between the agrarian, pro-slavery south, and the industrial anti-slavery north, and any new states admitted on either side would upset that balance. Thus, Congress came to a consensus with the Missouri Compromise, to deal with the future admittance of territories. This deal created a definitive line between slavery America and free America, which would decide the status of that new state. If it was above the line, it was free. If it was below it was a slave state. As we know from the Civil War, this was not a solution, but it temporarily calmed tensions between the North and South, and put off conflict for a few more years. It also played a factor in how the country is divided today, with states ending along that line.

While these two laws were from completely different eras, in different circumstances and contexts, both illustrate the effect Congress' lawmaking has on the country, solving problems, as with the Missouri Compromise, and influencing society for the better, as with the Meat Inspection Act. Society and economy remained intact, and maybe even improved, due to them.

Since the inception of American history, congress has played a strongly influential role in passing legislation to improve the social and economic life of the public which has largely impacted American society. For example, in the tension-filled years before the outbreak of the Civil War, the disgruntled South beaten down by years of pro-North legislation was appeased in 1850 with congress' passage of the Fugitive Slave Act. Over fifty years later, in 1906 under President Theodore Roosevelt, the American consumer was protected from unhealthy business practices with the groundbreaking Meat Inspection Act, a victory for Progressive-era reformers, like Roosevelt. Therefore, reforms in American social and economic policy like the Fugitive Slave Act and the Meat Inspection Act aided in the addition of sweeping reforms to United States society during their respective time periods.

The Fugitive Slave Act, passed by congress in 1850, was included with some North-favoring laws in the compromise of 1850, which allowed the massive land area of California won in the Mexican-American War to become a free state. Also, Congress had passed many bills to deal with sectional conflicts between the industrial North and the agrarian South. Passed as part of the compromise of 1850, the Fugitive Slave Act required any person with knowledge of the whereabouts of a runaway slave to turn them in to federal authorities. It was a very strict law, and southern slave holders championed the act. However, northern abolitionists found fault with the stipulations of the act and implemented personal liberty laws to prevent northern authorities from enforcing the return of runaway slaves. As a result of the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act, the union was further divided

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## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – C

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across sectional lines. In the south, growing anti-north sentiment and even calls for secession by radical southerners hastened the attempted destruction of the Union.

In the early twentieth century, the Progressive Movement began to take root in the United States. After decades of corrupt and unregulated big business, the Progressives sought to cure the social and economic ills and corruption of the time period. The movement was solidified by then-Vice President Theodore Roosevelt's assumption of the presidency following the death of President McKinley. Roosevelt inspired Americans to support him in reforming American societal ills by introducing his Square Deal, or the breakup of corrupt monopolies and trusts, the conservation of the environment, and the protection of consumers. One of the first laws to protect consumers was the Meat Inspection Act, passed in 1906, which required government inspectors to check meat production across the country to ensure its nutritional value for Americans. Another cause of this was Upton Sinclair's novel *The Jungle*, which documented the corrupt and unsafe business practices of the meat-packing industry in Chicago. The novel, widely read by the public, horrified Americans with gory tales of the quality and content of meat consumed by Americans. The passage of the Meat Inspection Act set a precedent for governmental regulation of business practices solidified by President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal legislation in 1933. Like his cousin, Franklin Roosevelt believed that the government should intervene to protect Americans. In the spirit of Theodore Roosevelt's consumer protection, laws like the FDIC were passed. The FDIC protects people from bad banking practices. Today Americans assume that meat will be safe, restaurants will be

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### Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – C

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clean and that money that is in a bank is secure.

The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 and the Meat Inspection Act of 1906 both tried to alleviate the stresses of the economic and social aspects of the time period. While the Fugitive Slave Act hindered union between the North and South, the Meat Inspection Act was a landmark success for both the progressive reformers and for the typical American consumer. The laws passed by congress can influence either extreme conflicts or large-scale reform movements that directly affect the American people.

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### Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – D

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A defining element of the government of the United States of America is its ability to meet and adapt to its people's changing needs. With the passage of new legislation in Congress, all of the changing aspects of society can be addressed, and progress can be made. However, the government, as with any group of human beings, is flawed and often times attempts to progress or address an impending national issue fall short. Such is the case with much of the legislation passed prior to the onset of the Civil War. Try as they might, Congress was unable to hold the country together regardless of its attempts in passing legislation such as the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and later the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Despite the attempt to end the issues leading up to the passage of each law, ultimately each was unsuccessful in appeasing the growing sectional tensions within the nation.

Prior to the passage of the Missouri Compromise, a growing tension

was forming between representatives in government from the Southern states versus representatives from the Northern states. The South, based largely around exporting raw materials and expanding agriculturally, looked to the government for an assurance of the right to own slaves as well as low tariffs to support exporting goods. The North, on the other hand, was based largely on industrial growth and finished products. They supported high tariffs as well as a growing favoritism towards abolition. The result of these conflicting sectional desires was a fear by each side that the other would gain more representation in Congress. With the application of statehood made by Missouri, this issue would reach its peak. The balance in national government depended on whether Missouri would enter as a state free of slavery or one in support of it.

To deal with the growing tensions amongst the opposing factors of the nation, Henry Clay suggested a compromise that would serve to please each side. Missouri would enter the union as a slave state and Maine would enter as a free state, keeping the balance within Congress. In addition, all states who applied for statehood above the 36°30' parallel would enter as free, those below as slave. For a short time after Congress passed this compromise into effect, the tensions appeared to be resolved.

However, this would be short lived. A glaring issue in the compromise arose with the application of California for statehood. It would once again tip the balance in Congress and since it did not fall above or below the line established in the Missouri Compromise, had no pre-determined status as free or slave. Congress was forced to once again create a compromise that would please both the North and the



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## Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – D

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South, the Missouri Compromise completely ineffective at this point.

Once again, a compromise was devised in Congress which included admitting California as a free state, Texas as a slave state and leaving the remaining territory to be decided by popular sovereignty.

Additionally, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was passed. This tightened the regulations and penalties on slaves who attempted to escape or anyone who tried helping a slave. Added to please Southern slaveholders, the act would further anger the growing number of Northern abolitionists.

The North was now completely exposed to the horrors of slavery. They saw innocent men torn back to the South without proof of being a slave. They saw blacks who had lived in the North for years be sent back to a life in servitude. The tensions were growing once again.

The final result of each legislation was ultimately that compromise would not be sufficient. The nation would eventually break out into Civil War, the North and South fighting for differing causes. The Missouri Compromise and the Fugitive Slave Act are key examples of imperfections in legislation. The ultimate consequence of this imperfection, the Civil War, cost thousands of lives as well as reshaping the nation as we know it today.

Different legislations have been past in the United States and influence the country greatly. Throughout United States history, congress has passed legislation to address important social and economic issues. This legislation has often had a significant impact on the United States and our society. Both the Civil Rights Act and the Federal Reserve Act are important and influential legislations passed by the United States congress.

The Civil Rights Act impacted American society greatly. After the Act was past those against it began finding ways around the rights the Act gave. For example, in the South, Jim-Crow Laws were created to segregate different races. Furthermore, African Americans were being lynched for no reason, just so white people could prove they were "superior." Another Act that effected the United States was the Federal Reserve Act.

The Federal Reserve Act influenced the United States very differently from the Civil Rights Act. Teddy Roosevelt fought to pass this Act, he saw the United States changing and knew this would help preserve the land. Prior to the Federal Reserve Act the United States was growing and developing rapidly, and land was being used to build new industries. Teddy Roosevelt was against destroying the unsettled land and used this legislation to prohibit such settlements, by passing the Federal Reserve Act specific land was set aside that could not be built on. This Act has influenced our country greatly because without it we would not have parks like Central Park in New York City, without this free unsettled land our country would be too industrial.

Both the Civil Rights Act and the Federal Reserve Act influenced

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**Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – E**

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our country greatly. Without these legislations being passed our country would be completely different now. Today we continue to pass influential legislations and learn from our past Acts what should and should not be addressed.

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**Practice Paper A—Score Level 4****The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task for the Missouri Compromise and the Kansas-Nebraska Act
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Missouri Compromise*: Missouri wanted to enter as a slave state, which would disrupt the balance of power between slave states and free states; Northerners recognized that such a move would give Southern slave states more votes in the Senate; established the 36° 30' line across the Louisiana Territory as the line where states north of the line would be free and states south of the line would be slave; in the short run, the Missouri Compromise allowed the nation to think it had solved sectional issues; the South became even more dependent on cotton and slave labor while the North continued its industrial growth; the compromise line proved to be an inadequate solution; no bill would have prevented the growth of sectionalism; *Kansas-Nebraska Act*: the Kansas-Nebraska Act demonstrates how the Missouri Compromise failed to provide a permanent solution to the issue of slavery's expansion; Southerners were increasingly hostile toward Northerners who opposed slavery; it allowed the people of those states to choose whether slavery would exist there or not; Northerners wanted to either abolish slavery or stop the spread of slavery; the Kansas-Nebraska Act did neither; the Republican party, advocating free soil to stop the spread of slavery, was formed; Abraham Lincoln exposed popular sovereignty as being an inadequate solution; when the elections over slavery were rigged, violence broke out in "Bleeding Kansas")
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Missouri Compromise*: eleven free states; eleven slave states; Henry Clay; Maine as a free state; cotton was country's biggest export; factories; railroads; *Kansas-Nebraska Act*: 1850s; Stephen A. Douglas; Chicago; railroad; popular sovereignty; Missouri Compromise was repealed; Charles Sumner was caned; split of the Democratic party; Lincoln-Douglas debates; Civil War)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that notes sectional problems threatened United States stability and a brief conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response demonstrates a good working knowledge of the political issues surrounding the Missouri Compromise and the Kansas-Nebraska Act. However, more analytic statements would have strengthened the effort.

## Practice Paper B—Score Level 2

### The response:

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for the Meat Inspection Act and the Missouri Compromise
- Is primarily descriptive (*Meat Inspection Act*: giving rise to corruption and greed to those who tried to get as much as they could out of the loosely regulated business standards of the time; the cattle were dirty, diseased and kept in confined spaces; factories/slaughterhouses were dirty and unsafe; greatly compromised the safety of the buyers; establishing mandatory inspection of factories and creating sanitation standards; lead to more future reforms improving the health and well being of Americans; *Missouri Compromise*: the country was divided 50/50 between the agrarian, pro-slavery South and the industrial, antislavery North, and any new states would upset that balance; this deal created a definitive line between slavery America and free America; this was not a solution, but it temporarily calmed tensions between the North and South); includes weak application (*Meat Inspection Act*: fed unnatural foods like corn and other animal meat; *Missouri Compromise*: it also played a factor in how the country is divided today, with states ending along that line)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Meat Inspection Act*: second industrial revolution; food industry; Upton Sinclair; *The Jungle*; muckraking journalism; *Missouri Compromise*: Louisiana Territory; expanding frontier; ideas of Manifest Destiny; slave state; Civil War)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that state that the laws show how Congress can have an impact on the country

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response includes a basic understanding of the task, but the discussion of the impact of each law lacks development. In addition, the discussion of the Missouri Compromise has some chronological problems.

## Practice Paper C—Score Level 3

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task in little depth for the Fugitive Slave Act and in some depth for the Meat Inspection Act
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Fugitive Slave Act*: allowed the massive land area of California won in the Mexican-American War to become a free state; Congress had passed many bills to deal with sectional conflicts between the industrial North and the agrarian South; it was a very strict law, and Southern slave-holders championed the act; the Union was further divided across sectional lines; in the South, growing anti-North sentiment, and even calls for secession by radical Southerners hastened the attempted destruction of the Union; *Meat Inspection Act*: after decades of corrupt and unregulated big business, the Progressives sought to cure the social and economic ills and corruption of the time period; Roosevelt inspired Americans to support him in reforming American societal ills by introducing his Square Deal; documented the corrupt and unsafe business practices of the meatpacking industry in Chicago; set a precedent for governmental regulation of business practices solidified by President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal legislation in 1933; in the spirit of Theodore Roosevelt's consumer protection, laws like the FDIC were passed; today, Americans assume that meat will be safe, restaurants will be clean, and that money in a bank is secure)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Fugitive Slave Act*: runaway slave; federal authorities; northern abolitionists; personal liberty laws; *Meat Inspection Act*: monopolies and trusts; conservation of the environment; protection of the consumer; government inspectors; Upton Sinclair's novel, *The Jungle*; gory tales); includes an inaccuracy (*Fugitive Slave Act*: South beaten down by years of pro-North legislation)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that connects the laws with specific historical eras and a conclusion that highlights the general impact of the laws

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response shows clear understanding of the circumstances leading to the passage of each law. The connection between the Progressives and the New Deal is good, but the discussion of the impact of the Fugitive Slave Act is not as strong.

### Practice Paper D—Score Level 3

**The response:**

- Develops some aspects of the task in some depth for the Missouri Compromise and the Fugitive Slave Act
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Missouri Compromise*: the South, based largely around exporting raw materials and expanding agriculturally, looked to the government for an assurance of the right to own slaves as well as low tariffs to support exporting goods; the result of these conflicting sectional desires was a fear by each side that the other would gain more representation in Congress; balance in national government depended on whether Missouri would enter as a state free of slavery or one in support of it; for a short time after Congress passed this compromise, the tensions appeared to be resolved; a glaring issue in the compromise arose with the application of California for statehood; it would tip the balance in Congress; *Fugitive Slave Act*: tightened the regulations and penalties on slaves who attempted to escape or anyone who tried helping a slave; added to please Southern slaveholders, the act would further anger the growing number of Northern abolitionists; they saw innocent men torn back to the South without proof of being a slave)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Missouri Compromise*: industrial growth; high tariffs; Henry Clay; Maine; 36° 30' parallel; *Fugitive Slave Act*: popular sovereignty; horrors of slavery); includes an inaccuracy (*Fugitive Slave Act*: Texas admitted as a slave state)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that cites Congress' ability to hold the country together and a conclusion stating that because the compromises were insufficient, the result was civil war

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response shows an understanding of the sectional tensions caused by the expansion of slavery, but the discussion of the Fugitive Slave Act is considerably less developed than the Missouri Compromise.

### Practice Paper E—Score Level 0

**The response:**

The response refers to the theme in a general way and includes no relevant facts, examples, or details.

**Conclusion:** The response fits the criteria for Level 0 because although there is an attempt to discuss the Civil Rights Act and the Federal Reserve Act, neither is correctly identified or described.

# United States History and Government Specifications January 2015

## Part I Multiple-Choice Questions by Standard

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

## Parts II and III by Theme and Standard

	Theme	STANDARDS
Thematic Essay	Government; Human Systems; Immigration and Migration; Reform Movements; Places and Regions; Economic Systems	Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5: United States and New York History; World History; Geography; Economics; Civics, Citizenship, and Government
Document-based Essay	Presidential Decisions and Actions; Constitutional Principles; Citizenship; Foreign Policy; Places and Regions	Standards 1, 2, 3, and 5: United States and New York History; World History; Geography; 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 2015 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.