

FOR TEACHERS ONLY

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

UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 — 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., only

VOLUME
1 OF **2**
MC & THEMATIC

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

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

Scoring the Part I Multiple-Choice Questions

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

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

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

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 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
June 2018

Theme: Geography—Territorial Acquisition

Throughout the nation’s history, the United States has expanded through the acquisition of new territories. These acquisitions have had both positive and negative effects on the United States.

Task: Select *two* territories acquired by the United States and for *each*

- Describe the historical circumstances that led the United States to acquire the territory
- Discuss *positive and/or negative* effects of the acquisition of the territory on the United States

You may use any territory acquired by the United States since 1776 from your study of United States history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Ohio River valley (1783), the Louisiana Territory (1803), Florida (1819), Texas (1845), the Oregon Territory (1846), California (1848), Alaska (1867), Hawaii (1898), Puerto Rico (1899) and the Philippines (1899).

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

Scoring Notes:

1. This thematic essay has a minimum of *six* components (for *each* of *two* territories acquired by the United States, discussing the historical circumstances that led to the acquisition and *at least two* positive *and/or* negative effects of *each* acquisition on the United States).
2. The historical circumstances that led the United States to acquire the territory may be discussed from a broad or a narrow perspective, e.g., California was acquired to achieve Manifest Destiny *or* California was acquired by victory in the Mexican-American War.
3. Any combination of positive and/or negative effects may be used to address the task.
4. The effects of the territorial acquisition may be immediate or long term.
5. Similar effects on the United States may be used for different territorial acquisitions as long as the response includes distinct and separate information for each acquisition, e.g., *Louisiana Territory* and *Texas*: both acquisitions provided the United States with vast acreage for agriculture, but the Great Plains became the breadbasket of America while Texas became the grazing land for longhorn cattle.
6. The effects of the territorial acquisition do not need to be identified as positive or negative as long as it is implied in the discussion.
7. The effects of the territorial acquisition may be discussed from any perspective as long as the position taken is supported by relevant historical facts and examples.
8. If more than two territorial acquisitions are discussed, only the first two acquisitions may be scored.

Score of 5:

- Thoroughly develops **all** aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing the historical circumstances that led the United States to acquire **each** of **two** different territories and **at least two** positive and/or negative effects of **each** acquisition on the United States
- Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates* information), e.g., *Louisiana Territory*: connects the demand of western farmers for unrestricted access to the Mississippi River and port of New Orleans, the French proposal to sell the whole territory, and Jefferson’s concern over the constitutionality of the transaction to the Louisiana Purchase, which added vast farmland making the Great Plains the breadbasket of America, but destroyed the great buffalo herds and the culture of the Plains Indians; *California*: connects the popular call for Manifest Destiny, President Polk’s expansionist campaign, and victory over Mexico to the acquisition of California that further sparked the debate over the expansion of slavery when it was admitted as a free state and brought vast wealth to the nation through its farms and vineyards worked by migrant farm labor
- Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details, e.g., *Louisiana Territory*: Jefferson’s agrarian vision; Kentucky and Tennessee farmers; right of deposit; Napoleon; slave uprising in Haiti; \$15 million; pennies an acre; doubled the size of the United States; Lewis and Clark expedition; Homestead Act; transcontinental railroad; Sioux and Cheyenne wars; nomadic hunters; reservation policy; *California*: newspaper editorials; John O’Sullivan; election of 1844; Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; Mexican Cession; discovery of gold; Pacific trade; San Francisco; Compromise of 1850; stronger Fugitive Slave Act; lettuce, grapes, and wine
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

Score of 4:

- Develops **all** aspects of the task but may do so somewhat unevenly by discussing all aspects of the task for one territorial acquisition more thoroughly than for the second territorial acquisition *or* discussing one aspect of the task less thoroughly than the other aspects of the task.
- Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates* information), e.g., *Louisiana Territory*: discusses how the demand for access to the entire Mississippi River with the port of New Orleans and France’s offer to sell the entire territory led to the Louisiana Purchase with vast acreage for farming but destroyed the buffalo herds and the Plains Indians’ traditional way of life; *California*: discusses how the belief in Manifest Destiny and the United States victory over Mexico led to the Mexican Cession with the acquisition of California which increased sectionalism but expanded trade with Asia through new Pacific ports
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

Score of 3:

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

Note: If **all** aspects of the task have been thoroughly developed evenly and in depth for **one** territorial acquisition and the response meets most of the other Level 5 criteria, the overall response may be a Level 3 paper.

Score of 2:

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

Score of 1:

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

Score of 0:

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

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

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

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

Since the first 13 states of the United States won their independence from Britain, the US has continued to grow. Two controversial acquisitions were the Louisiana Territory and the Philippines. Both territories had positive and negative effects on the US. The territories also had interesting circumstances in which the US gained them.

When Thomas Jefferson was president, the United States' population was growing and western farmers needed a water route to transport their crops to distant markets. Also, US merchant ships had to use the French owned port of New Orleans and knew from experience that the right of deposit could be withdrawn, so it was an often tense situation. The US ships were not treated well and were often charged a fee for warehousing goods at the mouth of the Mississippi. As a result, Jefferson sent envoys to Napoleon, who owned New Orleans, and Jefferson asked to buy New Orleans so that the US did not just have passage along the Mississippi River, but also controlled the port. At the time, Napoleon was waging war in Europe and saw the opportunity to sell his territory in America. He had hoped to use Louisiana to feed the French colony of Haiti, but had lost it to a revolution led by slaves. Also he did not have time to oversee his American colony, and the sale would help fund his war efforts. Therefore, Jefferson, even though it was debated whether he had the Constitutional power, bought a large amount of land from Napoleon that doubled the size of the US for a relatively low price. We never considered that the Native Americans living on the Great Plains might also have some right to think that they actually owned the land!

By doubling the size of the US, the Louisiana Purchase was helpful

in allowing the growing population to spread out. The land also gave the US more natural resources to draw from, and there was much open land on the Great Plains for farming. His "agrarian vision" pictured small farmers as the true representative of America. Today, Jefferson might be shocked by the size of the wheat farms in Iowa and Kansas, and he would surely be impressed by how they help feed the world. Later in time, however, when the territories within the Louisiana Purchase were populated enough to be made states, they became a topic of controversy. This is because slavery was still legal and the federal government had to find a fair way to admit both slave and free states so as to not upset the balance of slave states and free states in Congress. The federal government tried many different plans, such as the Missouri Compromise and the Kansas-Nebraska Act to settle the dispute but neither side was completely happy. When Missouri was admitted, Maine was added to maintain the balance and many thought the problem was solved. Several decades later, Congress decided to allow popular sovereignty to decide the issue of slavery. The violence between settlers known as Bleeding Kansas became a direct cause of the Civil War.

The Philippines and Cuba were placed under United States power after the Spanish-American War. This is ironic because the US fought this war to help Cuba gain freedom from Spain, but then the US accepted Spain's colonies in victory instead of freeing them. The Philippines and Cuba were just two of the Spanish colonies the US took over. And although the US government promised Cuba their full independence, it made Cuba a protectorate for many years. The Philippines, however, were not even considered for independence. This is

because they provided the U.S. an advantageous position in the Far East to set up naval bases in the Pacific at a time when Europe already had them. This was the positive effect for the U.S. Acquiring the Philippines allowed the U.S. to exercise more global power and also gave the U.S. new Asian markets. The Philippines resisted the U.S. military occupation and Filipinos fought back desperately for three years to drive the U.S. out of their homeland. In fighting, many U.S. lives were lost but the United States prevailed and proved it was a truly imperialist nation. The U.S. used its new status to demand equal trading rights in China through the Open Door Notes. As a new world power, the U.S. was anxious to compete with Europe. The acquisition of the Philippines gave the U.S. a naval presence in the Pacific that continues to this day. Having the Philippines also meant we had to defend them, as they became a target for Japan in World War II. While Japan did take them early in the war, we eventually won them back—and then gave them their independence after World War II.

In both the Louisiana Purchase and the Philippines, the means of acquiring them was questionable, the territories brought good and bad for the U.S. The Louisiana Purchase expanded the U.S. size and offered natural resources while the Philippines offered power and markets to the U.S. But they both caused problems, as the induction into the Union of Louisiana Purchase States helped cause the Civil War and the natives of the Philippines violently resisted U.S. power in the Philippines.

Anchor Level 5-A

The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth for the Louisiana Territory and for the Philippines
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Louisiana Territory*: United States merchant ships had to use the French-owned port of New Orleans and knew from experience that the right of deposit could be withdrawn, so it was an often tense situation; Jefferson asked to buy New Orleans so that the United States did not just have passage along the Mississippi River, but also controlled the port; Jefferson, even though it was debated whether he had the constitutional power, bought a large amount of land from Napoleon that doubled the size of the United States for a relatively low price; never considered that the Native Americans living on the Great Plains might also have some right to think that they actually owned the land; also gave the United States more natural resources to draw from and there was much open land on the Great Plains for farming; today Jefferson might be shocked by the size of the wheat farms in Iowa and Kansas, and he would surely be impressed by how they help feed the world; government had to find a fair way to admit both slave and free states so as to not upset the balance; tried many different plans such as the Missouri Compromise and the Kansas-Nebraska Act to settle the dispute but neither side was completely happy; *Philippines*: the Philippines and Cuba were placed under United States power after the Spanish-American War; ironic because the United States fought this war to help Cuba gain freedom from Spain, but then the United States accepted Spain's colonies in victory instead of freeing them; provided the United States an advantageous position in the Far East to set up naval bases in the Pacific at a time when Europe already had them; allowed the United States to exercise more global power and also gave the United States new Asian markets; used its new status to demand equal trading rights in China through the Open Door Notes; having the Philippines also meant we had to defend them as they became a target for Japan in World War II; gave them their independence after World War II)
- Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: water route; warehousing goods; mouth of the Mississippi; war in Europe; French colony of Haiti; fund his war efforts; agrarian vision; Maine; popular sovereignty; Bleeding Kansas; Civil War; *Philippines*: protectorate; military occupation; Filipinos fought back; many United States lives were lost; imperialist nation; naval presence)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an analytical introduction and conclusion that observes both acquisitions were controversial

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response shows clear understanding of the farmers' plight prior to the Louisiana Purchase and the irony of United States action in the Philippines. Further, the response provides a strong discussion of the long-term effects of both acquisitions.

Since the founding of United States it had spread the ideal for liberty and democracy. The spirit reflects in the term "Manifest Destiny" coined by a writer in 1840s. Some citizens felt that the continent from Atlantic to Pacific should be Americanized. Others look at the west and abroad for its economic growth. New lands for farmers, new market place for trade. The idea of Manifest Destiny brought both important improvements and negative effects. In particular, the acquisition of Louisiana Territory and California exemplify this and change the country forever.

The Louisiana territory was bought in 1803 by President Thomas Jefferson for about \$15 million. The territory was settled by French who had traveled to Great Lakes all the way down to Mississippi from New France. The economic trade centre of the region was port city in New Orleans, which was a hub for international trade. The France's defeat in French-Indian war in 1750s forced France to give up all its colonial possessions. This allowed Spanish who bordered the Louisiana territory to gain control over the territory. Shortly after American independence, relations between Spain & America were deteriorated and Spain close Mississippi & New Orleans for American traders. This crippled American farmers with no outlet to export their goods. Americans would be provided with the chance when France will get its territory back. Haitian revolution was putting a drain on France who planned to receive all its food supply for island workers from Louisiana. Napoleon was having a fear that when war broke out between them again Britain might attack the territory in North America and then US will do so as well. Jefferson, looking to alleviate farmers pain, asked Napoleon to sell the port. Instead, to Jefferson

surprise, Napoleon offered him the whole territory for about 3¢ per acre. Despite the cries of overextension presidential powers Jefferson made the deal. The purchase of territory almost doubled the area of united state & gives millions of acres to farmers. The vast land was transformed from great plains to fertile farms with reapers, steel plows, wind mills etc. The territory become a bread basket for rest of the world, with millions of bushels of corns, wheat shipped through navigable rivers. The aquisition of Louisiana brought some conflicts between northern & southern states over the expansion of Slavery, farmers who were in slave states poured into the regions setting up a crisis over missouri statehood. The compromise settled the conflicts temporarily. the land below 36°30' was open for Slavery and maine was admitted as a free state to maintain the balance in the senate. The missouri compromise failed to permanently end the disagreements over the expansion of Slavery.

California was aquired in the victory of mexico-american war. the war started in 1846 due to American encoachment over Southern texas border. The relations with the Mexico were tense because of the annexation of texas. the war was part of plan of president Polk, to achieve manifest destiny. The war was short, with american troops marching all the way to Mexico city and defeat Santa Anna. In the Ensuing Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty, Mexico give up the new mexico, arizona, california, and nevada and setting the southern Border of texas at Rio grande. united states bought california for about \$15 millions. California was part of the union as a free state through the compromise of 1850. California now become a premier destination for those who were encouraged by the stories of gold and other economic

opportunities. few of them found gold, though. settlers build thriving towns near the mining centres. Hotels, stores, saloons and farms provide food, shelter and supplies to miners. California would become a centre of American trade with Japan and China. Due to Matthew Perry who forced Japan to allow U.S ships to enter Japan for American trading. San Francisco and other Pacific ports filled with ships going to Asia. The acquiring of California was having some negative effects also. California admitted as a free state through the compromise of 1850, allowed new territories won in the war to have popular sovereignty, outlawed slave trade in Washington DC, Southerners were angry on the fact that California was immediately admitted as a free state upsetting the balance in the senate. Fugitive Slave Act was made stronger to please southerners but Northerners really didn't like this. Neither south or north was happy with the compromise, so it failed to end crisis of expansion of slavery.

Both the territories attract western immigration and build up steps towards civil war. Many eastern immigrants migrated cause of job opportunities to west. Acquisition of these two territories being a forever and important change in United States.

Anchor Level 5-B

The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth for the Louisiana Territory and for California
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Louisiana Territory*: economic trade center of the region was the port city in New Orleans, which was a hub for international trade; shortly after American independence, relations between Spain and America were deteriorating and Spain closed the Mississippi and New Orleans to American traders; Jefferson, looking to alleviate the farmers' pain, asked Napoleon to sell the port; vast land was transformed from great plains to fertile farms with reapers, steel plows, and windmills; became a breadbasket for the rest of the world with millions of bushels of corn and wheat shipped through navigable rivers; farmers who were in slave states poured into the region, setting up a crisis over Missouri statehood; Missouri Compromise failed to permanently end the disagreement over the expansion of slavery; *California*: war started in 1846 due to American encroachment over the southern Texas border; relations with Mexico were tense because of the annexation of Texas; war was part of the plan of President Polk to achieve Manifest Destiny; California now became a premier destination for those who were encouraged by the stories of gold and other economic opportunities; would become a center of American trade with Japan and China; Southerners were angry about the fact that California was immediately admitted as a free state, upsetting the balance in the Senate; neither the South nor the North was happy with the compromise, so it failed to end the crisis of the expansion of slavery)
- Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: \$15 million; New France; French and Indian War in the 1750s; Haitian revolution; 3 cents per acre; overextension of presidential powers; doubled the area; 36°30'; Maine; *California*: Santa Anna; Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty; New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Nevada; Rio Grande; \$15 million; Compromise of 1850; Matthew Perry; popular sovereignty; outlawed the slave trade in Washington, D.C.; Fugitive Slave Act)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that describes Manifest Destiny and an analytical conclusion that connects the acquisitions as steps toward the Civil War

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. Despite its somewhat awkward wording and punctuation and many grammatical errors, the meaning of each sentence and paragraph is clear. The response demonstrates a strong understanding of both geography and history. An analytical discussion of the economic advantages and sectional tensions resulting from expansion strengthens this response.

The United States was founded on the belief that we would become the greatest country in the world. In order to do so, the United States needed to acquire land and through manifest destiny, many believed they had the supreme right to spread their control. This meant they were willing to acquire new territory by almost any means. The acquisition of the Louisiana Territory and of California are two examples of times during America's history when we obtained new land, but were met with a lot of controversy.

Thomas Jefferson began his presidency with the goal to improve the United States with his agrarian vision. In order to do so, more land was continuously needed for farming; however, there were foreign policy issues conflicting with domestic ones at the time. England and France were technically at war as Napoleon was attempting to "take over the world". Jefferson heeded Washington's words and did not want to become entangled in foreign affairs in his first term as president. However, the port of New Orleans was too important to Western farmers to leave under Napoleon's control. France owned a lot of land in North America and needed money for its European war. In 1803, Jefferson took the opportunity and without Congress' approval, he purchased the vast territory for \$15 million, or 3 cents per acre. Although he wasn't sure if this action was constitutional he rationalized it by calling the transaction a treaty. This established the practice for almost every other land acquisition in United States history. It gave future presidents more authority over American expansion. It was widely popular and increased westward expansion and development. The negative result was that white settlers came into contact with many Native American tribes like the Sioux and Cheyenne whose warriors naturally defended

their territory when whites encroached on their land. This began a war with Native Americans that lasted for decades until the United States government confined their population on small reservations where buffalo hunters were forced to abandon their traditions and become farmers.

As the feeling of manifest destiny grew stronger, there was a greater desire to spread America's democratic influence and freedom across the continent. This feeling of moral superiority led to a war with Mexico and the acquisition of California in 1848. War began because of a dispute between Mexicans and Americans over the United States' southern border. Polk insisted on the Rio Grande as the border and sent troops there. When Mexicans killed some American soldiers there a bloody war began that led to the near completion of what we know as the United States today. With the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the United States paid Mexico \$15 million and gained California and parts of New Mexico and Arizona. Despite the negatives of fighting through a horrific war, obtaining California was very positive for the United States. In 1849, the California Gold Rush occurred, rapidly increasing westward expansion, settlement, and wealth. Towns like Sacramento and San Francisco sprang up overnight and soon the west coast was filled with white Americans. The United States has constantly been struggling for increased power through the acquisition of new territory. While there are many positives such as early increased westward expansion, there are often many drawbacks. The use of violence is common when attempting to take control of land and therefore has left the United States with a bloody path behind it.

Anchor Level 4-A

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task for the Louisiana Territory and for California
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Louisiana Territory*: Thomas Jefferson began his presidency with the goal to improve the United States with his agrarian vision; did not want to become entangled in foreign affairs in his first term as president; port of New Orleans was too important to western farmers to leave under Napoleon's control; France owned a lot of land in North America and needed money for its European war; established the practice for almost every other land acquisition in United States history; gave future presidents more authority over American expansion; white settlers came into contact with many Native American tribes like the Sioux and Cheyenne whose warriors naturally defended their territory when whites encroached on their land; government confined their population on small reservations where buffalo hunters were forced to abandon their traditions and become farmers; *California*: feeling of moral superiority led to a war with Mexico and the acquisition of California; Polk insisted on the Rio Grande as the border and sent troops there; when Mexicans killed some American soldiers there, a war began that led to the near completion of what we know as the United States today; California Gold Rush occurred, rapidly increasing westward expansion, settlement, and wealth; towns like Sacramento and San Francisco sprang up overnight and soon the West Coast was filled with white Americans)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: Washington's words; without Congress's approval; \$15 million; 3 cents per acre; treaty; *California*: Manifest Destiny; southern border; Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; \$15 million; New Mexico and Arizona; 1849)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that states the public believed they had the right to spread their control by any means and a conclusion that states taking control of land has left the United States with a bloody history

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response connects the acquisitions to long-term, significant effects in a clear and analytical manner. Additional elaboration would have strengthened the response.

Throughout the entire 19th century, the United States was annexing, and acquiring new territories. Through this era, the United States began to grow from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Two such territories that impacted the United States the most was the annexing of California and the Louisiana Purchase. These events brought the biggest changes at this time.

In the early 1800s, President Jefferson wanted to expand the U.S. westward to gain more land for an agricultural society of small family-owned farms. He especially wanted the port of New Orleans so that the U.S. would have complete control over the Mississippi River and be able to transport large quantities of agricultural goods being grown in the Ohio River valley without interference. The Louisiana Purchase territory was under the control of the French and Napoleon at this time. Napoleon, after losing Haiti to rebels, wanted to sell all his New World territory because he lacked the resources to defend it. Jefferson, being pro-French, asked Napoleon for New Orleans and a few miles around it for 10 million dollars. Napoleon instead offered Jefferson all the vast North American territory the French owned for 15 million dollars. Jefferson accepted, doubling the size of the U.S. at that time.

California was part of the spoils from Polk's Mexican-American war. Mexico went to war with the U.S. after American troops entered the disputed border territory. Mexico wanted to get back Texas from the U.S. The U.S. won and gained a lot of territory, including California and the Southwest and the U.S. gave Mexico money. This created most of the modern border between Mexico and the U.S. completing Polk's expansionist platform and the nation's Manifest Destiny. California,

after 2 years, became a state, challenging the unity of the U.S.

The positives of gaining the Louisiana territory was that it doubled the size of the U.S. It also showed that the U.S. was growing and becoming ever more economically stable with enough land to become the bread basket of the world. The negative of the Louisiana Purchase was that it inflamed the issue of the expansion of slavery. This territory caused future problems over the issue of the expansion of slavery as states were created from the huge territory. When Missouri applied to become a slave state, a compromise was made to admit Maine as a free state and to set 36°30' as the dividing line between future slave and free states. One positives of the acquiring of California was the gold rush because many people moved and immigrated to California to get rich, increasing the population and making California a state faster. A negatives of California was, again, the issue of the expansion of slavery. Southerners wanted to expand the 36°30' line as part of California was below that line. But when California wanted to become a free state, hurting the free-slave state balance, it caused increased tensions between free states and slave states. Henry Clay's Compromise of 1850 temporarily solved the issue by admitting California as a free state and passing a harsher fugitive slave law. The fugitive slave law became one of the key sources of sectional tensions for most of the next decade.

The United States had been gathering many new territories throughout the 1800s. The U.S. kept growing and changing with every new territory acquired. The Louisiana Purchase and the acquisition of California were two of the biggest land grabs the U.S. did and caused some of the biggest arguments over the spread of slavery. If it wasn't

for the gaining of these territories the united states would be much different than it is today.

Anchor Level 4-B

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task for the Louisiana Territory and for California
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Louisiana Territory*: President Jefferson wanted to expand the United States westward to gain more land for an agricultural society of small family-owned farms; wanted the port of New Orleans so that the United States would have complete control over the Mississippi River and be able to transport large quantities of agricultural goods, being grown in the Ohio River valley, without interference; Napoleon, after losing Haiti to rebels, wanted to sell all his New World territory because he lacked the resources to defend it; United States was growing and becoming ever more economically stable with enough land to become the breadbasket of the world; caused future problems over the issue of the expansion of slavery as states were created from the huge territory; when Missouri applied to become a slave state a compromise was made to admit Maine as a free state and to set 36°30' as the dividing line between future slave and free states; *California*: part of the spoils from Polk's Mexican-American War; Mexico went to war with the United States after American troops entered the disputed border territory; United States won and gained a lot of territory, including California and the Southwest; positive of acquiring California was the gold rush because many people moved and immigrated to California to get rich, increasing the population and making California a state faster; when California wanted to become a free state, hurting the free-slave state balance, it caused increased tension between free states and slave states; Henry Clay's Compromise of 1850 temporarily solved the issue by admitting California as a free state and passing a harsher fugitive slave law; law became one of the key sources of sectional tensions for most of the next decade)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: pro-French; vast North American territory; 15 million dollars; doubling the size; *California*: gave Mexico money; modern border; Manifest Destiny; Southerners wanted to expand the 36°30' line)
- Demonstrates a different plan of organization, discussing the historical circumstances for each acquisition in a separate paragraph before discussing the effects of each acquisition in a single paragraph; includes an introduction that observes that in the 19th century the United States acquired the territories between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and a conclusion that states the two acquisitions were among the biggest

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. While the response shows how each acquisition increased sectional tension over the expansion of slavery, the other effects lack development.

The United States' expansion into the Louisiana Territory and Texas transformed the country and had both positive and negative effects. Expansion can be very important for a nation's economic growth. However, exploring and settling unknown territory can cause problems for a developing government. US expansion caused changes in many aspects of American life.

The acquisition of Louisiana Territory in 1803 gave Americans many positive and new opportunities. When Thomas Jefferson purchased this area from Napoleon his goal was to gain control of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans, but the nation actually doubled in size. Because of the mystery of the new land Jefferson had authorized the Lewis and Clark expedition. This is a positive result of the Louisiana Purchase because Lewis and Clark were able to give a detailed description and map of the new territory so Americans knew what was out there. This purchase of land along with the Lewis and Clark expedition inspired many Americans to move westward. When immigration made the east coast cities increasingly crowded the government passed the Homestead act which offered free land to Americans willing to move west. This westward expansion provided new economic opportunities through agriculture. Farmers on the Great Plains supplied the growing eastern cities with wheat, corn and other food staples. The expansion into the Louisiana Territory had negative effects in the US' relationship with Native American Indians. Native Americans were forced off their land and lost many of their natural resources, most significantly the buffalo, especially after the railroad lines disrupted the migration of herds. This near extinction of the buffalo destroyed the nomadic lifestyle of the plains hunters. The

Louisiana Purchase was positive in its development of America and negative in its affect on Native Americans.

Later in US history, the annexation of Texas as a state was both positive and negative. In the 1820s the Mexican government invited Americans to settle in the area of Texas which was a part of Mexico. Two conditions to this invitation were that the Americans become Mexicans, and that there would be no slavery. However the Americans who moved would not follow these rules and wanted to break off from Mexico to form their own country. With help from Americans, Texas broke off from Mexico and formed the Lone Star Republic of Texas led by Sam Houston. In 1845 the United States annexed Texas as a state. A negative aspect of this was that Mexico felt betrayed by America because Mexicans still thought Texas was theirs. This bitterness led to a war in which the US defeated the struggling republic of Mexico and took all of California and the entire southwest. Therefore, the annexation of Texas led directly to the acquisition of even more territory. Texas became a functioning part of the United States and Americans migrated and settled there during westward expansion. A positive outcome of the annexation of Texas was that it stretched Americas southern border all the way to the Rio Grande. The Texas plains were perfect for grazing longhorn cattle. After the Civil War, Texas cowboys drove the herds along trails to connect with the new rail lines, making cattle ranching a major industry. Texas' addition to the country had a rocky beginning but overall had positive effects on the nation.

Territorial expansion is an essential part of the growing power of a nation. The additions of the Louisiana Purchase and Texas Territory in

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – C

the 1800s when the country was still new are reasons why so many people from around the world were able to immigrate to America. Although new territories allowed immigrants to escape religious and political persecution and warring homelands, they also infringed on the homes and lives of Native Americans. Territorial acquisition had good and bad aspects but in the end helped America grow into the superpower it is today.

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

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the Louisiana Territory less thoroughly than Texas
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Louisiana Territory*: when Thomas Jefferson purchased this area from Napoleon his goal was to gain control of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans; this purchase of land along with the Lewis and Clark expedition inspired many Americans to move westward; farmers on the Great Plains supplied the growing eastern cities with wheat, corn, and other food staples; Native Americans were forced off their land and lost many of their natural resources, most significantly the buffalo, especially after the railroad lines disrupted the migration of herds; near extinction of the buffalo destroyed the nomadic lifestyle of the plains hunters; *Texas*: in the 1820s the Mexican government invited Americans to settle in the area of Texas, which was a part of Mexico; Americans who moved would not follow these rules and wanted to break off from Mexico to form their own country; with help from the Americans, Texas broke off from Mexico and formed the Lone Star Republic led by Sam Houston; Mexico felt betrayed by America because Mexicans still thought Texas was theirs; annexation of Texas led directly to the acquisition of even more territory; stretched America's southern border all the way to the Rio Grande; after the Civil War, Texas cowboys drove the herds along trails to connect with the new rail lines, making cattle ranching a major industry)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: doubled in size; description and map; immigration; Homestead Act; offered free land; *Texas*: conditions to this invitation; bitterness led to a war; easily defeated; struggling republic; California and the entire Southwest; Texas plains; grazing longhorn cattle)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that observes expansion can be important for economic growth but can cause problems, and a conclusion that relates expansion to immigration

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response fails to fully discuss the historical circumstances that led to the Louisiana Purchase. However, the discussion of the annexation of Texas is developed more thoroughly and with good insight.

Throughout the United States history, territorial expansion has been not only essential, but also beneficial. Especially as the United States grew in population the acquisition of land became a necessity. However, with each acquisition of new land came positive and negative effects. The United States acquisition of the Philippines and the Louisiana territory had positive and negative effects on the nation.

Leading up to the Louisiana Purchase there was a new nation eager to expand. The United States was still in its infancy in 1803 when they acquired the Louisiana Purchase from France. The nation's population was growing and farmers who had gone west into Kentucky and Tennessee had trouble moving their crops because the port of New Orleans was often closed to them. When the whole Louisiana territory was offered to President Jefferson he was faced with the question of whether buying the land without Congress' approval was constitutional. Jefferson always had a strict interpretation on the Constitution, but that changed when he bought the Louisiana Purchase without Congressional approval. The acquisition of this land essentially doubled the size of the United States allowing more land to be farmed, and from that, more resources. One negative effect from this, however, was it raised the question of if the Purchase was constitutional or not. That argument further created tension between Jefferson's Democratic-Republicans and the now decreasing Federalists. Federalists didn't like the Purchase, but most Americans liked it because it opened up a lot of land and the entire Mississippi River.

The acquisition of the Philippines in 1899 was something that was met with great resistance and brought separation between the United

.States People. The acquisition of the Philippines was a direct result from America's decisive victory in the Spanish-American war. American warships easily defeated the Spanish fleet in the Pacific. As the United States acquired and occupied the Philippines they were met with bitter resistance from the Filipino People as they took up arms against U.S. Although America conquered the resistance, more American lives were lost in the Philippines than in the Spanish-American war. Additionally, this also brought conflict to the American People at home as some sided with this new imperialism, while others were against it. Jane Addams was a strong anti-imperialist supporter who argued against the Spanish-American war and the acquisition of the Philippines, while others like Theodore Roosevelt believed it was America's duty to civilize the "Savage" People of the Philippines. The acquisition of the Philippines brought more negative effects to the U.S. as it split our nation against each other and as thousands of Americans died at the hands of Philippine resistance. It was the first major acquisition that was not considered for statehood.

The United States acquisition of land throughout history has had various positive and negative effects on our nation. The Louisiana Purchase shows the positive effects to our nation, while the Philippines hurt us as a nation.

Anchor Level 3-A

The response:

- Develops most aspects of the task in some depth for the Louisiana Territory and for the Philippines
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Louisiana Territory*: United States was still in its infancy in 1803 when they acquired the Louisiana Purchase from France; population was growing and farmers who had gone west into Kentucky and Tennessee had trouble moving their crops because the port of New Orleans was often closed to them; when the whole Louisiana Territory was offered to President Jefferson he was faced with the question of whether buying the new land without Congress's approval was constitutional; argument further created tension between Jefferson's Democratic-Republicans and the now decreasing Federalists; Federalists didn't like the purchase, but most Americans liked it because it opened up a lot of land and the entire Mississippi River; *Philippines*: direct result from America's decisive victory in the Spanish-American War; American warships easily defeated the Spanish fleet in the Pacific; as the United States acquired and occupied the Philippines, they were met with bitter resistance from the Filipino people as they took up arms; more American lives were lost in the Philippines than in the Spanish-American War; also brought conflict to the American people at home as some sided with this new imperialism while others were against it; first major acquisition that was not considered for statehood)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: new nation; strict interpretation; doubled the size; more resources; *Philippines*: Jane Addams; anti-imperialists; Theodore Roosevelt; civilize the "savage" people)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that takes the position that the Louisiana Purchase was positive while the acquisition of the Philippines hurt the United States

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. While the response demonstrates an understanding of the internal conflicts created by each acquisition, the discussion lacks the development of a higher level paper. Further development of the effects related to the Louisiana Purchase and the historical circumstances related to the acquisition of the Philippines would have strengthened the response.

Throughout the nation's history, the United States has expanded through the acquisition of new territories. These acquisitions have had both positive and negative effects on the United States. Two in particular have had very positive effects on the country. The first was the addition of California in 1848. The second was the addition of Hawaii in 1898.

The addition of California was very important in United States history. It was added in the year 1848, a little while after declaring itself the Republic of California. It was part of the Mexican Cession, following the U.S.-Mexican War. Not many people planned on moving out to California until the discovery of gold. This "gold rush" led thousands of settlers to move to California. After a while so many moved there, it allowed the territory to apply for statehood, which it did end up getting as part of the Compromise of 1850. In the aftermath of the gold rush, the new, young state grew tremendously. Cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles flourished. With all of this, the state of California was able to bring a lot of money into the federal government. On top of this, the location was strategic. One city, San Francisco had an extremely large bay. This paved the way for harbors on the west coast that the United States could now use for the fishing industry and to trade with. Also, up until 1848, the United States had only one way to trade with Asia. That was to go around South America, back up to Asia, which obviously took too long. Later, goods were shipped across the country by railroads then straight to Asia, right from San Francisco. This saved the country time and money when they traded. Later, Los Angeles became the entertainment capital of the world. Hollywood attracted the movie and television industry

with all its wealth and influence. California was a vital part in the growth of the United States.

The other addition to the country, which many used to think was not as important as other additions is Hawaii in 1898. Hawaii is a small group of islands located in the Pacific ocean. One major purpose of these islands to the United States is a military base. Pearl Harbor, which is located in Hawaii, is the Pacific Fleet's main home base. After being attacked by Japan in World War II it helped deploy the Navy to numerous places in the Pacific. It also served as a buffer between the mainland United States and anyone wishing to attack. What this meant is, if you wanted to reach the West Coast, you have to hit Hawaii first. Hawaii has been an important acquisition of the United States and up to this day, it is still used as a main naval base for the Pacific Fleet and stands as a monument to the United States Navy's role in defeating the Japanese in World War II. Although other islands such as Midway have also become bases for the fleet.

In conclusion, both California and Hawaii have had very positive effects on the United States. California brings in tons of money for the country every year. Its large bays help trade for the United States grow constantly. Also it helps trade with Asia go faster and become cheaper than going around South America or through the Panama Canal. Hawaii's impact is good for the military. From here the United States Naval Pacific Fleet can deploy anywhere in the Pacific Ocean at any given time. Both states have positively affected the United States.

Anchor Level 3-B

The response:

- Develops most aspects of the task in some depth for California and for Hawaii
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*California*: part of the Mexican Cession following the United States-Mexican War; so many moved there it allowed the territory to apply for statehood, which it did end up getting as part of the Compromise of 1850; paved the way for harbors that the United States could now use for the fishing industry and to trade with; later, goods were shipped across the country by railroads then straight to Asia, right from San Francisco; Los Angeles became the entertainment capital of the world; Hollywood attracted the movie and television industry with all its wealth and influence; *Hawaii*: one major purpose of these islands to the United States is as a military base; Pearl Harbor, which is located in Hawaii, is the Pacific fleet's main home base; stands as a monument to the United States Navy's role in defeating the Japanese in World War II)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*California*: Republic of California; Gold Rush; large bay; *Hawaii*: small group of islands; attacked by Japan; Pacific; Midway)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a repetitive conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response shows understanding of the process by which California became a state with brief historical circumstances and the contributions of its two largest cities. However, it neglects to describe the historical circumstances that led to the acquisition of Hawaii and considers only one effect of this acquisition on the United States.

Throughout the history of the United States the nation has expanded due to the numerous acquisitions of new territory. As a result of the acquisitions, there have been both positive and negative consequences. In both acquisitions, the Louisiana territories, and Texas, had major consequences, that shaped the future of the United States.

The Louisiana territory, was purchased by President Thomas Jefferson, from France, in 1803. This purchase led to the United States acquiring a great deal of land, but was opposed by some Federalists in congress, who called Jefferson a hypocrite, explaining that it was unconstitutional for him to gain that land, due to the fact that it wasn't written as a presidential power in the Constitution. Jefferson explained that it was okay, because the constitution didn't forbid it. As a result, it allowed many Americans to begin moving westward, as well as gave the United States control of the Mississippi River and New Orleans, a major port city. Due to the acquisition of the Louisiana territories, there came the issue of if slavery would be allowed in the new states like Missouri. When Maine was added as a free state it saved the compromise but didn't end the debate over slavery. But overall, the acquisition of the Louisiana territories, led America to a brighter future due to the many new resources, especially farmland, and opportunities in the newly gained west.

The acquisition of Texas into the United States was quite controversial. The American people in Texas were rebelling against their Mexican government, and wanted to be recognized as a free territory separate from Mexico, in order to be annexed into the United States as a new state. Although the United States recognized Texas, as

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a separate republic from Mexico, the Mexican government still viewed Texas as their property. After the US gained Texas as a state, there were hostile relations between the United States and Mexico, making war with Mexico inevitable. The annexation of Texas, had major effects for the United States, due to it being pro-slavery, its population caused it to give more representation in Congress to slave states, causing an increase in tensions between the North and South, and making the future Civil War, almost inevitable.

The acquisition of both the Louisiana Territories, as well as Texas, created new problems, and tension between the North and South regarding the expansion of slavery. But overall were necessary in the future success of the United States, allowing the nation access to new land and resources.

Anchor Level 3-C

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth for the Louisiana Territory and for Texas
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Louisiana Territory*: purchased by President Thomas Jefferson from France; opposed by some Federalists in Congress who called Jefferson a hypocrite, explaining that it was unconstitutional for him to gain that land due to the fact that it was not written as a presidential power in the Constitution; gave the United States control of the Mississippi River and New Orleans, a major port city; there came the issue of if slavery would be allowed in the new states like Missouri; *Texas*: American people in Texas were rebelling against their Mexican government and wanted to be recognized as a free territory separate from Mexico, in order to be annexed into the United States as a new state; after the United States gained Texas as a state there were hostile relations between the United States and Mexico, making war with Mexico inevitable); includes faulty analysis (*Texas*: due to it being pro-slavery, its population caused it to give more representation in Congress to slave states, causing an increase in tensions between the North and South, and making the future Civil War almost inevitable)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: moving westward; Maine; free state; farmland; *Texas*: separate republic)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that notes both acquisitions created problems regarding the expansion of slavery

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response answers the task and explains the two acquisitions, but the discussion lacks the depth and detail normally seen in higher level responses.

The United States may have begun as an assembly of colonies, but throughout its history the USA has grown throughout the continent. Ideas like manifest destiny and the white man's burden have turned the United States into the powerhouse it is today. Land gains like the Louisiana Purchase or the annexation of Texas has given our country more room to settle and develop. However, these gains have had their disadvantages, often coming in the form of conflict with the aboriginal inhabitants.

The Louisiana Purchase, bought in 1803, was the single biggest expansion to the US ever made. Just about all of the middle-northern sections of this country come from that purchase. The Louisiana Territory was originally owned by Napoleon. However, during the Napoleonic Wars, Napoleon had to fight just about all of Europe at once. He was running out of money, and decided to sell the territory to the US so he could continue to fund the war. The ambassador, who had only expected to get a small piece, accepted the offer with President Thomas Jefferson's blessing. This purchase was extremely beneficial to the US, as we gained more area to settle. Lewis and Clark explored the area, and people began to move west in what was known as "westward expansion." This gave opportunities for social mobility, as those without resources could go west to make their own lives. However, this also had the negative of bringing the US into contact with more Native Americans. With the eastern US developed, American Indians were a small threat but in the west the US was actively moving into areas that had belonged to the natives. The French had always respected and traded with Native Americans, and these new invaders caused conflict.

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Another significant land gain that helped shape American history was that of Texas in 1845. Originally, Texas had been a part of Mexico. Eager to settle the region the Mexican government encouraged Americans to move to Texas. However, the plan went a bit too well. After some time, Texans began to resent the Mexicans and struggled for independence. They were able to break away and eventually join the U.S, but that new land came at a price. Mexican-American relations were ruined, and this incident helped lead to the bloody Mexican-American War.

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

- Develops some aspects of the task in some depth for the Louisiana Territory and for Texas
- Is primarily descriptive (*Louisiana Territory*: during the Napoleonic wars, Napoleon had to fight just about all of Europe at once; he was running out of money and decided to sell the territory to the United States so he could continue to fund the war; the ambassador accepted the offer with President Jefferson’s blessing; Lewis and Clark explored the area, and people began to move west; in the West, the United States was actively moving into areas that had belonged to the natives; the French had always respected and traded with Native Americans and these new invaders caused conflict; *Texas*: Mexican government encouraged Americans to move to Texas; Texans began to resent the Mexicans and struggled for independence; Mexican-American relations were ruined; helped lead to the bloody Mexican-American War)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: single biggest expansion; *Texas*: part of Mexico)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that mentions the ideas of Manifest Destiny and “White Man’s Burden” and lacks a conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response minimally addresses the acquisition of Texas. The discussion of the Louisiana Purchase is more complete but would have been strengthened with more detail.

The United States expanded its territory through both purchases and war victories. While the Louisiana Purchase and Mexican Cession were both massive expansions of both land and social and economic growth during the nineteenth century, they also both intensified the increasing debate over slavery in America.

Under the Jefferson presidency, the Louisiana Territory was purchased by the United States from France in 1803. France was willing to sell the territory due to the Napoleonic Wars spreading in Europe. This area west of the Mississippi River doubled the size of America; this massive expansion came with multiple benefits. More land allowed more people to move westward, easing overcrowded areas where jobs and living spaces were becoming more difficult to find. This area was also very good for farming. Because of this, farmers who couldn't compete with Southern plantations had a chance to move outward and grow new crops—this area would become part of the “bread basket” of the country. Also, this new territory further inspired the nation's feel for “Manifest Destiny,” the God-given right America had to expand. This new territory also came with many upsets and difficulties, however. Jefferson's purchase was a huge use of executive power. The American people were still very fearful of a tyrannical government with a strong executive like the British. Also, the issue of slavery was worsened since there were more possible states to form.

After the Mexican American War, the United States gained the Mexican Cession territory in 1848. Here under Polk's presidency, the United States completed its “Manifest Destiny.” Now, the continental United States had access to the Pacific Ocean via the West coast. This territorial gain also eliminated the threat of Mexican expansion. This

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war victory allowed not only people to move westward, but also rising businesses like the railroad industry. Like the Louisiana Purchase, this gain also came with difficulty. The Mexican Cession greatly intensified the debate over slavery. The Democratic Party advocated for slavery while some Republicans and the Free-Soil Party argued against its expansion. The Compromise of 1850 and its eventual Failure, the Civil War, highlight the downsides of westward expansion. Territorial gains provided the United States with endless and priceless amounts of resources. These resources, however, contributed to huge and sometimes detrimental consequences that the country had to deal with and then recover from.

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

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for the Louisiana Territory and for the Mexican Cession
- Is primarily descriptive (*Louisiana Territory*: under the Jefferson presidency, the Louisiana Territory was purchased by the United States from France; France was willing to sell the territory due to the Napoleonic Wars spreading in Europe; would become part of the bread basket of the country; Jefferson's purchase was a huge use of executive power; issue of slavery was worsened since there were more possible states to form; *Mexican Cession*: under Polk's presidency, the United States completed its Manifest Destiny; continental United States had access to the Pacific Ocean via the west coast; greatly intensified the debate over slavery; Compromise of 1850 and its eventual failure, the Civil War, highlighted the downside of westward expansion); includes faulty and weak analysis (*Louisiana Territory*: easing overcrowded areas where jobs and living spaces were becoming more difficult to find; *Mexican Cession*: this territorial gain also eliminated the threat of Mexican expansion)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: west of the Mississippi River; doubled the size; farming; feel for Manifest Destiny; fearful of tyrannical government; *Mexican Cession*: war victory; railroad industry; Republicans; Free-Soil Party)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that is beyond a restatement of the theme and a conclusion that acknowledges the acquisitions had negative effects but does not specifically identify the negative effects

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. While the response addresses the entire task, it does so in very general terms.

Throughout American history, we've acquired many lands on our continent, even some islands. Acquiring each territory had positive and negative effects on the U.S.

The Louisiana purchase in 1803 gave the U.S the Louisiana territory. This gave us access to the Mississippi river which allowed goods to be transported faster than before we had the River. Also, this allowed for expansion into the great plains. This Purchase had both positive and negative effects. A positive effect is that access to the Mississippi allowed for more efficient trade between states. A negative effect is that when Americans moved to the great plains, they pushed Native Americans off their land and killed almost all of the Buffalo.

The Gadsden purchase also let the U.S acquire territory. The Gadsden territory was a small piece of land in the South west. Acquiring this territory later helped rail roads be built out west, helping with westward expansion. This was a positive effect.

In conclusion, the U.S has bought and won a lot of land over the years. Each acquisition had positive and/or negative effects.

Anchor Level 2-C

The response:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task for the Louisiana Territory and for the Gadsden Purchase
- Is primarily descriptive (*Louisiana Territory*: access to the Mississippi River which allowed goods to be transported faster than before; allowed for expansion into the Great Plains; allowed for more efficient trade between states; when Americans moved to the Great Plains they pushed Native Americans off their land and killed almost all of the buffalo; *Gadsden Purchase*: small piece of land in the Southwest; acquiring this territory later helped the railroads be built out west, helping with westward expansion)
- Includes no additional relevant facts, examples, and details
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes a brief introduction and conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. Knowledge of the topic is exhibited in the response; however, the essay fails to describe any historical circumstances and only briefly mentions specific effects, with no supporting details.

Throughout history, the United States has annexed many states and territories to expand America to what it is today. These territories include the Louisiana Territory and the State of Texas. Gaining these territories have had both positive and negative effects on the United States.

The State of Texas was just one of many new territories the United States annexed. There were many positives and negatives of the decision to annex Texas. One positive was the United States gained another southern state that would have slavery and vote to keep slavery in the United States. That's why it was good for the south, also the reason it was bad for the north. Plus, many people living in Texas at that time wanted to become a part of America. One negative included the fact that Mexico didn't want to lose Texas. Therefore the U.S. wanting Texas was one reason we joined the Spanish-American War. And in the end that's how we ended up getting Texas, by winning the Spanish-American War.

Another new territory acquired by the U.S. was the Louisiana Territory. We purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, that's how we ended up acquiring it. One major positive of the Purchase of the Louisiana Territory was that it gave direct access to the Mississippi River. With direct access to the Mississippi River, it gave the United States better and faster ways to trade throughout the country. It also offered more land for farming.

Throughout history, the United States expanded through the acquisition of territories. The Louisiana Territory and the State of Texas were just two of many acquisitions the U.S. made to make America what it is today.

Anchor Level 1-A

The response:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task for Texas and for the Louisiana Territory
- Is descriptive (*Texas*: United States annexed; many people living in Texas at that time wanted to become a part of America; one negative included the fact that Mexico did not want to lose Texas; *Louisiana Territory*: purchased the Louisiana Territory from France; with direct access to the Mississippi River it gave the United States better and faster ways to trade throughout the country; offered more land for farming); includes faulty analysis (*Texas*: one positive was the United States gained another southern state that would have slavery and vote to keep slavery in the United States; the United States wanting Texas was one reason we joined the Spanish-American War)
- Includes no additional relevant facts, examples, or details; includes an inaccuracy (*Texas*: we ended up getting Texas by winning the Spanish-American War)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and conclusion that restate the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The description of the Louisiana Purchase is brief. The discussion of Texas lacks understanding of the events surrounding its annexation and confuses the Mexican-American War with the Spanish-American War.

The United States has rapidly grown over the years. All new acquired land gave different effects on the nation. While some were positive, others were negative outcomes. Both the acquisition of Texas and Louisiana territory led to many changes in the United States.

In the early 1800's, the United States had the opportunity to buy land from the French for a very good deal. When the nation agreed to the Louisiana Purchase, the U.S. had to figure out what to do with the new western land. Originally, the new territory was inhabited by the Native Americans. When the President decided to pass the homestead act, and new land was being sold for \$3 and acre, many young Americans began moving west. Young men wanting to begin a new life saw the Louisiana territory as the best way to go. While there were positives to the new territory, there were also some negative effects. Because there was so much propaganda influencing people to move west, the Native Americans were being pushed further and further west, until they barely had any territory.

The acquisition of the Texas territory was more negative than positive. Prior to 1845, the South and North were uniformly cut into two sections. The South was home to slave states while the North was not. With Texas becoming a part of the South, the main debate was if it'd become a slave state or a free state. All southerners believed that if Texas was not a slave state it wouldn't fit in and deal well with its surrounding states. The North felt that it'd tip the balance that was present before. The result of the argument led to many other problems. It was decided that Texas would be a free state, and the slave states would be free of governmental intervention. This Laissez-faire attitude now being practiced in the South led the slaves to have no one to fight

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for their rights. Segregation was allowed and racial discrimination grew rapidly and intensely.

With any major change, nations react differently there can be positive and negative effects. With Texas, the result led to many disputes. While the Louisiana purchases did cause some damage, it did create some advantages as well.

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

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task for the Louisiana Territory and for Texas
- Is descriptive (*Louisiana Territory*: United States had the opportunity to buy land from the French for a very good deal; Native Americans were being pushed farther and farther west until they barely had any territory; *Texas*: South was home to slave states while the North was not; North felt that it would tip the balance that was present before); includes faulty and weak analysis (*Louisiana Territory*: President decided to pass the Homestead Act, and new land was being sold for \$3 an acre; *Texas*: main debate was if it would become a slave state or a free state; Southerners believed that if Texas was not a slave state it would not fit in and deal well with its surrounding states; the laissez-faire attitude now being practiced in the South led the slaves to have no one to fight for their rights; segregation was allowed and racial discrimination grew rapidly and intensely)
- Includes no additional relevant facts, examples, or details; includes an inaccuracy (*Texas*: it was decided that Texas would be a free state)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and conclusion that are a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. While the response includes some accurate information, the overall discussion demonstrates very limited knowledge about either acquisition.

After the revolutionary war the United States became a nation but they were weak. There were strong nations surrounding them which made a lot of Americans worried that their nation would not last that long. Then a man by the name of Thomas Jefferson heard that the French wanted to sell their land because they needed money for the Army of Napoleon. So Thomas Jefferson took swift action to buy this land from the French so that no other nation could buy the land. So some of the positives for acquiring the Louisiana Purchase is that the American nation was doubled in size and started to become a nation on the international stage. It also allowed Americans to breathe easier because a strong nation no longer controlled the mouth of the Mississippi. Also it led to better relations with the French and it helped spark the expedition sent by Thomas Jefferson for Lewis and Clark to explore the new territory they acquired. This allowed the expedition to get to the Pacific Coast and make a map so it was easier for Americans to travel. Some of the negative effects of acquiring the Louisiana territory in 1803 was that it cost the Americans millions of dollars which made Jefferson's opponents claim that America could go bankrupt. It also led to conflict with the Native Americans because Americans wanted to push out the Native Americans who resisted. Those are some of the positive and negative effects of the U.S. acquiring the Louisiana territory.

During the 1800's many Americans started to expand westward because of the idea of Manifest Destiny which was the divine right of America to expand westward so many Americans decided to move to Texas around the 1820's and 30's which was controlled by the Mexicans. So when the Americans moved to Texas they were expected to live the Mexican lifestyle and convert to their religion and speak

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – A

spanish if they wanted to live there. These rules angered the Americans that lived there so in 1836 a revolution happened in Texas between the American Texans and the Mexicans which would lead to the battle of San Jacinto which is where the Texans defeated the Mexican army and Santa Anna went into exile. Then Santa Anna tried to escape the Texans by making himself look like a Mexican prisoner but then one of his soldiers saluted Santa Anna and the Texans finally caught him. So then Santa Anna was forced to sign a treaty with the Texans and Mexico was forced to accept the new Republic of Texas which was formed in 1836. So after they became a nation they asked America if they could join the Union. But America refused at first because Northerners felt if they would let Texas into the Union Texas would become a Slave State. Then in 1845, after Polk was elected, Texas became a slave state and joined the Union. Some of the positive effects of gaining Texas in 1845 was that America increased its agricultural land and America was able to grow stronger as a nation. Their economy grew bigger because in Texas there was so much land they could grow more cotton to send up North to trade and make a fortune. Some of the negative effects of gaining Texas in 1845 was that when Texas joined the Union they would become a Slave State in the Union. Also it quickly led to border disputes between Americans and the Mexicans which caused a war between them. It was also bad because in Texas they had slaves and would use them cruelly for labor. Also, before the Civil War started they would secede from the United States. Then when the Civil War began, after the firing on Fort Sumter, Texas would join the Confederates in the war against the Union. Those are some of the positive and negative effects of the United States acquiring Texas in (1845).

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – B

Throughout the history of the U.S, the nation has greatly expanded in terms of territory. For instance, through the Mexican-American War, the US gained the Mexican Cession and California, which had positive results, such as the Gold Rush, and negative results, such as the subjugation of Native Americans. Additionally, the Louisiana Purchase resulted in immense territorial expansion and had positive effects, such as economic prosperity, as well as well as devastating effects, such as the Trail of Tears.

When elected to the presidency in 1844, James K. Polk set a plan in place to add the California territory to the growing bulk of the nation. Polk was backed by the sentiments of the nation, as Americans supported manifest destiny, or the idea that Americans were meant to control "their" continent. Polk proposed a plan to purchase California from Mexico but when it was rejected, he sent troops to the disputed territory above the Rio Grande to stir tensions. His plans worked, as Mexican troops attacked the Americans. Polk responded by asking Congress for a declaration of war, stating that "American blood had been spilled on American soil." Congress agreed, and the military might of the US defeated Mexico in the Mexican American War. In the resulting Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the US bought California as part of the Mexican Cession, which was an enormous southwestern territory. This expansion had both positive and negative effects. On the positive side, the US received valuable territory with crucial resources. The most obvious resource was the rich fertile farmland that made California one of the country's greatest agricultural producers. These resources also included gold, which was discovered in 1848 in California. As a result, thousands of young men left their eastern

homes for California in search of wealth. While most people did not find gold, some were more lucky and amassed fortunes. Despite the fact that prospecting during the Gold Rush only benefitted a fortunate few, the hope and optimism that it instilled in many youthful men, who would develop California's thriving economy, proved that it had a positive effect. On the downside, the expansion had devastating effects for Native Americans. In the decades following the US acquisition of California, thousands of natives were pushed off the land or killed by those who wanted to open the land to white prospectors and farmers. By the 1870s, natives were subjugated even further, those who had survived placed onto reservations by force.

Another instance of territorial expansion in the US was the Louisiana Purchase. The young nation was looking to expand its agricultural power, and thus showed interest in purchasing the valuable port city of New Orleans from the French. New Orleans would be a gateway to European markets. However, after Napoleon's defeat in Haiti, instead of offering just New Orleans, the French sold the entire Louisiana territory to the US for just \$15 million, mere pennies an acre. In one simple treaty, the US doubled the size of its land. This expansion was enormously beneficial economically. First of all, the US added the thriving city of New Orleans with its strategic location at the mouth of the Mississippi River, securing entrance to the Gulf of Mexico for western farmers. Additionally, the US added land to be farmed by the small farmers running out of land in the East. Thomas Jefferson's dream of a country of simple yeoman farmers could be realized. This would be especially true after the Homestead Act offered free land to any who settled there for five years. However, the Purchase

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – B

had devastating consequences for the earliest Americans because westward expansion led to increased struggles and tensions with Native Americans and eventually contributed to the Trail of Tears. Thousands of natives like the Cherokee were evicted and forced on practically a death march from the Southeast to Oklahoma. For much of the century, Oklahoma was "Indian territory," until even it was opened in 1889 to land hungry white settlers. Furthermore, the purchase developed the debate over slavery, as it split the nation on whether or not the new territory would include slave or free states. This played out in the Missouri Compromise, when Missouri wanted to become a slave state and the dispute about the expansion of slavery exploded in Congress. The final compromise let Missouri in as a slave state and Maine as a free state, maintaining the U.S. Senate balance. The rest of the Louisiana Purchase above 36°30' would be free-but this would later be overturned by the Kansas-Nebraska Act in the 1850s. This issue was at the heart of what caused the sectional tensions and the Civil War.

The westward expansion of the U.S with the Louisiana Purchase and California added to the growing mass of the U.S and had both widespread positive and negative effects.

Throughout the nation's history, the United States has expanded through the acquisitions of new territories. These acquisitions have had both positive and/or negative effects on the United States. Two territories acquired by the United States were the Louisiana Territory in 1803 and California in 1848.

One of the territories acquired by the United States was the Louisiana territory. United States purchased approximately 828,000,000 square miles of territory from France. This stretched from the Mississippi River in the east to the Rocky Mountains in the West. One historical circumstance that led to the purchase of the Louisiana territory was the failure of France to put down a slave revolution in Haiti. France's impending war with Great Britain and probable British naval blockade of France created financial difficulties that led to Napoleon's offer of Louisiana for sale to the United States. President Jefferson was very concerned about France owning Louisiana because they were a strong power. Anyone who might close the Mississippi River would be our enemy. In mid April 1803, before Monroe's arrival the French had asked a surprised Livingston if the U.S was interested in purchasing all of the Louisiana territory. This was Jefferson's most notable achievements as president. There were both positive and negative effects of the acquisition of the Louisiana territory on the United States. Positive effects were that the United States population was able to expand and increase. The United States now controlled the Louisiana port of New Orleans on the Gulf of Mexico. This provided the major outlet for western farmers to transport agricultural goods to the east coast and Europe. Some negative effects this had on the United States was that the U.S had double the territory it had to protect. The more land increased, the more military power the United States

needed. The United States needed more money to upkeep the new land they now owned. This was especially true after the Civil War when the cavalry was sent west to subdue Native Americans.

Another territory that was acquired by the United States was California in 1848 with a victory in the Mexican-American war. War began in 1846 due to President Polk's decision to place troops in disputed land on the southern border, causing Mexicans to attack. Mexico was defeated, but America paid them over \$15 million dollars. California became the center of American trade with Asia as ports in Japan and China opened to American ships. California became a premier destination for settlers who were encouraged by discoveries of gold and opportunity fueling the settlement of the West. In the years following the California Gold Rush, over one hundred thousand Chinese fled famine in their homeland to seek riches in California. Their chance for wealth was defeated by racism. Another effect of the United States acquiring California was that the Compromise of 1850 admitted California as a free state. It also opened the other new territories to popular sovereignty. This also outlawed the slave trade in Washington D.C. It also strengthened the Fugitive Slave Law, but this compromise did little to lower sectional tensions and a decade after California was admitted to the Union Civil War broke out.

In conclusion both Louisiana and California were important to the United States. Both influenced the United States today by encouraging migration and the spread of people to new lands. This is how the United States expanded through the acquisition of new Territory and how both the Louisiana territory (1803) and California (1848) impacted the United States.

Throughout the course of the United States' history, the country has expanded due to the acquisition of new territories that have had very positive effects on the United States. Two such territories are Alaska, acquired in 1867, and the Louisiana Territory, acquired in 1803.

In 1867 secretary of state Seward bought the Alaska territory from Russia for 7 million dollars. Instead of being praised for obtaining new land for his country, Seward was harshly ridiculed for buying what the American people believed to be a frozen wasteland. The purchase of this useless "icebox" came to be known as "Seward's Folly." It was not for many years later that opinions changed. Aside from keeping Russia out of America, Alaska seemed to be a waste of money. Much later, however, the territory proved to be very beneficial when an abundance of gold and oil deposits were found there. In the 1890s gold was discovered and there was a major gold rush to Alaska. Most importantly in the 20th century huge reserves of oil were found and oil became the basis for Alaska's economy. This purchase of Alaska became Seward's greatest achievement because it gave the United States a large supply of resources.

Along with Alaska, the purchase of the Louisiana territory proved to be a beneficial expansion for the U.S. In 1803 President Jefferson decided to purchase the Louisiana territory from Napoleon of France. Napoleon needed the money to aid his war against England and crush rebellions, so he sold the territory for \$15 million. Jefferson was accused of hypocrisy since he had preached previously that the constitution must be followed to the letter but then he purchased the territory, something that the constitution did not say whether the president could or could not do. He went against his previous beliefs

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – D

by interpreting it loosely and saying that the constitution didn't say he couldn't so he would. Despite this, his decision proved very beneficial since the purchase of the Louisiana territory doubled the size of the U.S., gave them control of the Mississippi River, and expelled a powerful foreign force from the country. Not only was farmland suddenly made available, but this purchase was a huge first step in achieving the idea of Manifest Destiny because now the nation owned the land all the way to the Rocky Mountains.

While acquiring land does not always result in good effects, without it the positive effects would never have been realized and America would not have grown into the country it is today.

Throughout U.S. history, land acquisition has played a major role in shaping the country. Land acquisitions such as the Louisiana territory, California, Hawaii, Alaska and others have had an enormous effect in shaping domestic and foreign politics for the country. Two major land acquisitions that helped form U.S. politics are the Louisiana territory and the conquest of the Philippines.

The acquisition of the Louisiana territory had both positive and negative effects. The territory was offered to the U.S. from France in 1803. Napoleon had struggled to develop a colonial empire in America and chose to get rid of the lands instead in order to fund the French war efforts in Europe. Some positives of this purchase are that the U.S. gained access to a large amount of territory in the Midwest. This territory offered potential for development of farmland, and it also allowed the population to expand further by continuing the expanse of the frontier. Some negatives of the purchase were its effects on domestic politics. In purchasing the territory Jefferson was conflicted with the constitutionality of the purchase. Since he was an Anti-federalist and a strict constructionist, he usually tended to abide by only what the constitution said explicitly. Since the constitution did not grant the executive branch the right to purchase land, he was unsure of the action he should take. Another negative was the displacement of Indians. As more and more Americans traveled west, more Indians were forced off their land.

Another land acquisition that had positive and negative effects on the U.S. was the conquering of the Philippines. The conquest occurred during the Spanish-American war. The U.S. conquered the Philippines with the help of rebelling natives under the impression they would be

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – E

given independence at the end of the war. The positive effects of this were that it increased US influence in the Pacific. It allowed for the develop of US naval bases in the Pacific. It also gave the US a station close to the economic opportunities of China. Negative effects of the conquest were the domestic political conflict developed as a result of this. Conflicts with Philippine natives were also a negative result of the conquest.

Practice Paper A—Score Level 3**The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task in some depth for the Louisiana Territory and for Texas
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Louisiana Territory*: there were strong nations surrounding them which made a lot of Americans worry that their nation would not last that long; Thomas Jefferson took swift action to buy this land from the French so that no other nation could buy the land; allowed Americans to breathe easier because a strong nation no longer controlled the mouth of the Mississippi; allowed the expedition to get to the Pacific coast and make a map so that it was easier for Americans to travel; Americans wanted to push out the Native Americans who resisted; *Texas*: many Americans decided to move to Texas around the 1820s and 1830s, which was controlled by the Mexicans; Santa Anna was forced to sign a treaty with the Texans and Mexico was forced to accept the new republic of Texas which was formed in 1836; America refused at first because northerners felt if they would let Texas into the Union, Texas would become a slave state; their economy grew bigger because in Texas there was so much land they could grow more cotton to send up north to trade and make a fortune; led to border disputes between Americans and Mexicans which caused a war between them; also bad because in Texas they had slaves and would use them cruelly for labor); includes weak application (*Louisiana Territory*: started to become a nation on the international stage)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: Revolutionary War; army of Napoleon; doubled in size; Lewis and Clark; led to conflict with the Native Americans; explore; *Texas*: Manifest Destiny; convert to their religion; speak Spanish; revolution; battle of San Jacinto; defeated the Mexican army; Polk was elected; Civil War; secede; Fort Sumter; Confederates)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; lacks an introduction and a conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. Although the grammar is weak, the response demonstrates knowledge of the events leading to the annexation of Texas and the Louisiana Purchase. However, while the major effects of the Texas annexation are well developed, the discussion of the Louisiana Purchase lacks the same depth.

Practice Paper B—Score Level 5

The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth for California and for the Louisiana Territory
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*California*: Polk was backed by the sentiments of the nation as Americans supported Manifest Destiny, or the idea that Americans were meant to control their continent; Polk proposed a plan to purchase California from Mexico but when it was rejected he sent troops to the disputed territory above the Rio Grande to stir tensions; military might of the United States defeated Mexico in the Mexican-American War; most obvious resource was the rich, fertile farmland that made California one of the country's greatest agricultural producers; despite the fact that prospecting during the gold rush only benefited a fortunate few, the hope and optimism that it instilled in many young men who would develop California's thriving economy proved that it had a positive effect; thousands of natives were pushed off the land or killed by those who wanted to open the land to white prospectors; *Louisiana Territory*: young nation was looking to expand its agricultural power and thus showed interest in purchasing the valuable port city of New Orleans from the French; after Napoleon's defeat in Haiti, instead of offering just New Orleans the French sold the entire Louisiana Territory to the United States for just \$15 million, mere pennies an acre; added the thriving city of New Orleans with its strategic location at the mouth of the Mississippi River, securing entrance to the Gulf of Mexico for western farmers; Thomas Jefferson's dream of a country of simple yeoman farmers could be realized; especially true after the Homestead Act offered free land to any who settled there for five years; purchase had devastating consequences for the earliest Americans because westward expansion led to increased struggles and tensions with Native Americans; thousands of natives like the Cherokee were evicted and forced on practically a death march from the Southeast to Oklahoma; Missouri wanted to become a slave state and the dispute about the expansion of slavery exploded in Congress; would later be overturned by the Kansas-Nebraska Act in the 1850s)
- Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details (*California*: elected to the presidency in 1844; Mexican troops attacked; declaration of war; "American blood had been spilled on American soil"; Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; Mexican Cession; reservations; *Louisiana Territory*: treaty; doubled the size; Trail of Tears; Indian Territory; opened in 1889; land hungry; debate over slavery; slave or free states; above 36°30' would be free; sectional tensions; Civil War)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that mentions the major effects of each acquisition and a brief conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response demonstrates a very strong knowledge of the acquisitions selected, especially the information related to the economic benefits for the United States and the negative effects on Native American Indians.

Practice Paper C—Score Level 4

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so unevenly by discussing the Louisiana Territory more thoroughly than California
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Louisiana Territory*: stretched from the Mississippi River in the east to the Rocky Mountains in the west; one historical circumstance that led to the purchase of the Louisiana Territory was the failure of France to put down a slave revolution in Haiti; Jefferson was very concerned about France owning Louisiana because they were a strong power; anyone who might close the Mississippi River would be our enemy; French had asked a surprised Livingston if the United States was interested in purchasing all of the Louisiana Territory; United States now controlled the Louisiana port of New Orleans on the Gulf of Mexico; this provided the major outlet for western farmers to transport agricultural goods to the east coast and Europe; United States had doubled the territory it had to protect; the more land increased, the more military power the United States needed; this was especially true after the Civil War when the cavalry was sent west to subdue Native Americans; *California*: war began in 1846 due to President Polk’s order to place troops in disputed land on the southern border, causing Mexicans to attack; Mexico was defeated, but America paid them over \$15 million; in the years following the California Gold Rush, over one hundred thousand Chinese fled famine in their homeland to seek riches in California; chance for wealth was defeated by racism; Compromise of 1850 admitted California as a free state; did little to diminish sectional tension and a decade after California was admitted to the Union, civil war broke out)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: 828,000,000 square miles; war with Great Britain; probable British naval blockade; financial difficulties; Napoleon’s offer; mid-April 1803; Monroe’s arrival; Jefferson’s most notable achievement; *California*: Mexican-American War; trade with Asia; ports in Japan and China opened; discoveries of gold; popular sovereignty; outlawed the slave trade in Washington, D.C.; Fugitive Slave Law)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that states both acquisitions influenced the United States by encouraging migration

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. Good analysis and detail are used throughout the response. However, while the discussion of the Louisiana Purchase includes strong historical circumstances, the discussion of the historical circumstances for the acquisition of California is brief and would have been strengthened by more detail.

Practice Paper D—Score Level 3

The response:

- Develops most aspects of the task with some depth for Alaska and for the Louisiana Territory
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Alaska*: instead of being praised for obtaining new land for his country, Seward was harshly ridiculed for buying what the American people believed to be a frozen wasteland; aside from keeping Russia out of America, Alaska seemed to be a waste of money; in the 1890s, gold was discovered and there was a major gold rush to Alaska; huge reserves of oil were found and oil became the basis for Alaska's economy; *Louisiana Territory*: Napoleon needed the money to aid his war against England and crush rebellions, so he sold the territory for \$15 million; then he purchased the territory, something that the Constitution did not say whether the president could or could not do; doubled the size of the United States, gave them control of the Mississippi River, and expelled a powerful foreign force from the country; huge first step in achieving the idea of Manifest Destiny because now the nation owned the land all the way to the Rocky Mountains)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Alaska*: Secretary of State; 7 million dollars; useless icebox; Seward's folly; *Louisiana Territory*: President Jefferson; hypocrisy; interpreting it loosely; farmland)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that notes the acquisitions helped the country

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response recognizes the important positive effects of each acquisition but does not provide adequate historical circumstances. Additional detail and analysis would have strengthened the response.

Practice Paper E—Score Level 2

The response:

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for the Louisiana Territory and for the Philippines
- Is primarily descriptive (*Louisiana Territory*: offered to the United States from France; Napoleon had struggled to develop a colonial empire in America and chose to get rid of the lands instead, in order to fund the French war efforts in Europe; offered potential for the development of farmland; since the Constitution did not grant the executive branch the right to purchase land, he was unsure of the action he should take; as more and more Americans traveled west, more Indians were forced off their land; *Philippines*: conquest occurred during the Spanish-American War; increased United States influence in the Pacific; gave the United States a station close to the economic opportunities of China; conflicts with Philippines natives); includes weak analysis (*Philippines*: the United States conquered the Philippines with the help of rebelling natives)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: frontier; strict constructionist; *Philippines*: naval bases); includes an inaccuracy (*Louisiana Territory*: anti-federalist)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that is a restatement of the theme and lacks a conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response provides only brief descriptions of the historical circumstances that led to each acquisition and only mentions the effects for each.

United States History and Government Specifications June 2018

Part I Multiple-Choice Questions by Standard

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

Parts II and III by Theme and Standard

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

Notes:

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

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

The *Chart for Determining the Final Examination Score for the June 2018 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.