

FOR TEACHERS ONLY

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

VOLUME
1 OF 2
MC & THEMATIC

UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, August 14, 2013 — 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., only

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

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

Scoring the Part I Multiple-Choice Questions

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

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

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

Contents of the Rating Guide

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

- Scoring Key

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

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

General:

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

Mechanics of Rating

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

Rating the Essay Question

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

Introduction to the task—

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

Introduction to the rubric and anchor papers—

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

Practice scoring individually—

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

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

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

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

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

Theme: Foreign Policy (Cold War)

Following World War II, the threat of communist expansion led the United States to take diplomatic, military, and economic actions to limit the global influence of the Soviet Union and China. These Cold War actions met with varying degrees of success.

Task: Select **two** specific actions taken by the United States to limit the expansion of communism during the Cold War and for **each**

- Describe the historical circumstances that led to the action
- Discuss the extent to which the action was successful in limiting the expansion of communism

You may use any action taken by the United States to limit the expansion of communism during the Cold War. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the implementation of the Marshall Plan (1947–1952), the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO] (1949), intervention in Korea (1950–1953), the blockade of Cuba (1962), the escalation of the Vietnam War (1964–1973), the visit of President Richard Nixon to China (1972), and the pursuit of the Strategic Defense Initiative [SDI] (1983–1989).

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

Scoring Notes:

1. This thematic essay has a minimum of **four** components (describing the historical circumstances that led to **each** of **two** diplomatic, military, and/or economic actions taken by the United States to limit the expansion of communism during the Cold War and discussing the extent to which **each** action was successful in limiting the expansion of communism).
2. The description of the historical circumstances that led to the action may focus on specific events that led to the action or may consider the broader issues of the time period (e.g., the Gulf of Tonkin incident and/or the domino theory could be discussed as leading to the Vietnam War).
3. Specific details about the action itself may be included in addressing either component of the task.
4. The discussion about the extent to which the action was successful may include immediate or long-term results.
5. The two actions may share similar themes but must include distinct and separate information for each, e.g., containment may be the theme for discussing the introduction of the Marshall Plan and the establishment of NATO, but the former should include information on the economic problems in postwar Europe, while the latter should include information related to the military threat of the Soviet Union in Europe.
6. The response may discuss the extent to which the action was successful from any perspective as long as the position taken is supported by accurate facts and examples.

Score of 5:

- Thoroughly develops ***all*** aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing the historical circumstances that led to ***each*** of ***two*** diplomatic, military, and/or economic actions and the extent to which ***each*** action was successful in limiting the expansion of communism
- Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates* information), e.g., *Marshall Plan*: connects the post–World War II containment policy, economic instability in war-torn Europe, and the fear of Soviet aggression to the Truman administration’s offer of a massive aid program for rebuilding Europe, the growth of prosperity in Western Europe, the stabilization of democratic governments, and the containment of communism to Eastern Europe; *Vietnam War*: connects the rise of anti-colonialism and communism in Vietnam, belief in the domino theory, and the Gulf of Tonkin incident to President Lyndon Johnson’s decision to commit thousands of United States ground troops to South Vietnam, the failure of containment when Vietnam was unified under communist rule, the redefining of the containment policy through détente, and the reassessment and limiting of United States military intervention policies
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details, e.g., *Marshall Plan*: iron curtain; Secretary of State George Marshall; George Kennan; congressional appropriation; Britain and France; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; doubling of industrial production; boost in United States trade; creation of Common Market; *Vietnam War*: Geneva Accords; 17th parallel; Ho Chi Minh; military advisors; Gulf of Tonkin Resolution; Viet Cong; guerilla warfare; Tet Offensive; Cambodia; antiwar demonstrations; Henry Kissinger; Vietnamization; Paris Peace talks; renaming of Saigon; “Vietnam syndrome”
- 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 United States action more thoroughly than for the second action *or* by discussing one aspect of the task less thoroughly than the other aspects of the task
- Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates* information), e.g., *Marshall Plan*: discusses how the devastation of World War II left Europe unstable and vulnerable to communism, how the belief in containment prompted the Truman administration to provide economic aid to rebuild Europe and how communism was contained when Western European economies and democratic governments were strengthened and stabilized; *Vietnam War*: discusses how United States belief in the domino theory, South Vietnam’s weakness, and the North Vietnamese aggression in South Vietnam led President Lyndon Johnson to escalate the war, how South Vietnam fell to North Vietnam after the United States withdrew its troops, and how the experience in Vietnam prompted a reassessment of United States use of troops abroad
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

Score of 3:

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

Note: If ***both*** components of the task for *one* foreign policy action have been thoroughly developed evenly and in depth, and if the response meets most of the other Level 5 criteria, the overall response may be a Level 3 paper.

Score of 2:

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

Score of 1:

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

Score of 0:

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

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

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

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

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – A

From the beginning of the Cold War to the very end, the United States has expended a lot of time, energy, and resources in attempt to stop the spread of communism. From the late 1940s to the early 1990s, the United States implemented many programs, had several wars, and carried out a plethora of secret operations. Two of these measures taken to contain communism were the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Vietnam War. Both of these attempts at stopping the spread of communism were very risky moves for the United States politically, and both were unsuccessful. Even though the United States had a clear purpose for engaging in these two events, both were not successful and impacted the United States in mostly negative ways.

The Bay of Pigs invasion occurred in 1961. United States troops did not engage in any of the fighting, but the United States was behind the invasion, and fully supported it. The plan was to train exiles from Cuba to invade Cuba and help overthrow the new communist Cuban government controlled by Fidel Castro. This plan also counted on the people of Cuba, who were discontented with the new government, to rise up during the invasion, and overthrow Castro's government. The exiles who were invading were considered the catalyst to start a new revolution by the people of Cuba. The planning for this invasion began in March 1960.

Prior to the invasion, the United States had supported the corrupt government of F. Batista for many years. When Fidel Castro started a revolt against Batista, the United States believed that Batista would win. However, Fidel Castro overthrew Batista's Cuban government in early 1959. Castro was determined to end the economic exploitation of Cuba by foreigners. Many Americans were hopeful that the Cubans

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – A

were going to choose democracy instead of communism. Once in power, Castro made anti-US speeches and began to seize and redistribute foreign owned land in Cuba, showing that he had picked the side of the Soviets and entered the Cold War. Soon Cuba began opening their sugar trade with the Soviet Union, and the United States halted their imports of Cuban sugar. Then Castro's government seized American-owned sugar mills and the United States government responded by denying Cuba any aid or loans. Vice President Nixon suggested an invasion to overthrow Castro and the planning began under Eisenhower's administration. The exiles were trained by the CIA in Latin American countries that were enemies with Castro's Cuba. Meanwhile power in the United States was transferred from Eisenhower to Kennedy.

In April 1961, the military began bombing Cuban air bases from Nicaragua to aid with the invasion, but they were unsuccessful. Several days later, the actual invasion of the Bay of Pigs occurred. Castro and his officials were already suspicious and had heard about the invasion. The invading exiles were met with heavy resistance and were not successful in fueling a revolution. Even if they were not met with resistance, Castro ordered the arrest of hundreds of suspected dissidents, so the revolution that the United States counted on never occurred. The last thing that went horribly wrong was the fact that the United States was behind the invasion became known to Castro and the Soviets. The Bay of Pigs invasion was highly unsuccessful in containing communism. It created an increase in tension between the United States and the Soviet Union. Cuba also remained communist, meaning that the effort made by the United States was much more

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – A

detrimental to them than helpful. Castro gained stature while the United States was embarrassed and humiliated.

The Vietnam War was also a measure taken by the United States government to help contain communism. The North Vietnamese, supported by the Soviet Union and Communist China, and the so-called democratic South Vietnamese were in the middle of a civil war. Under Ho Chi Minh, the North Vietnamese wanted to reunite their country and spread communism to the South Vietnam. The United States government sent thousands of military personnel, written off as advisors, to Vietnam to aid the South Vietnamese.

The real intervention in Vietnam from the United States, however, came after the Gulf of Tonkin incident. This incident, which occurred in international waters near Vietnam, was a skirmish between an American destroyer and a Vietnamese boat. This was used as President Lyndon Johnson's excuse for sending more troops to aid the South Vietnamese. By the end of 1965, almost 200,000 troops were in Vietnam in order to help stop the spread of communism. Another argument that Johnson made was on the domino theory which stated that if one country fell to communism, then the adjacent ones would and the world would become Communist. The war, however, took many turns for the worse, especially during the Tet offensive.

The American intervention in Vietnam and illegal bombings in Cambodia ended under President Richard Nixon. He wanted to pull American troops out of Vietnam but support the South Vietnamese. This, too, failed, and Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese shortly after the Americans withdrew. The war was a major failure. The American government was publicized in a bad light afterwards, and

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – A

communism was spread. The United States faced tremendous opposition to the war both at home and abroad and would be far less likely to fight another war for containment. A decade later, Congress opposed President Reagan's efforts to fight communism in Nicaragua by banning military aid to the Contras who were anti-communist.

Out of the many measures taken by the United States government to stop the spread of communism during the Cold War, the Bay of Pigs invasion and Vietnam War were, arguably, the two most unsuccessful. Not only did the Americans fail at their primary objectives, but communism was spread to the areas where they were trying to stop the spread. Although these two measures were failures, not all of the things done by the U.S. failed. Some, in fact, were highly successful including the Marshall Plan, Korean War, and Nixon's visit to China.

Anchor Level 5-A

The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing the historical circumstances that led to the Bay of Pigs invasion and the escalation of the Vietnam War and the extent to which each action was successful in limiting the expansion of communism
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Bay of Pigs invasion*: United States was behind the invasion and supported it; exiles to help overthrow the new communist Cuban government; the exiles were considered the catalyst to start a new revolution by the people of Cuba; United States had supported the corrupt government of Batista; Castro overthrew Batista's Cuban government, began sugar trade with Soviet government, seized and redistributed foreign owned land; created an increase in tension between the United States and the Soviet Union; Castro gained stature while the United States was embarrassed and humiliated; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: the North Vietnamese, supported by the Soviet Union and communist China, and the so-called democratic South Vietnamese were in the middle of a civil war; Ho Chi Minh and North Vietnamese wanted to reunite their country; the United States faced tremendous opposition to the war, both at home and abroad and would be far less likely to fight another war for containment; a decade later, Congress opposed President Reagan's efforts to fight communism in Nicaragua by banning military aid to the Contras, who were anti-communist)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Bay of Pigs invasion*: United States trained exiles from Cuba; Vice President Nixon suggested plan during Eisenhower administration; CIA trained exiles in Latin American countries; power transferred to Kennedy; April 1961 bombing of Cuban air bases from Nicaragua; met with heavy resistance; arrest of hundreds of suspected dissidents; Kennedy; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: taken to contain communism; thousands of military personnel as advisors; Gulf of Tonkin incident in international waters; almost 200,000 troops; domino theory; Tet Offensive; illegal bombings in Cambodia; President Richard Nixon; Saigon fell after Americans withdrew)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that calls the two actions “risky and unsuccessful” and a conclusion that argues these actions were the most unsuccessful efforts of the Cold War

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The inclusion of high-level analysis, the demonstration of a broad knowledge of Cold War events, and the thorough exploration of the tasks, especially for the Bay of Pigs invasion, make this a strong response.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – B

From 1945, at Yalta, until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the U.S. foreign policy was dominated by a single goal: to contain the spread of communism. Such a goal led to conflict with the communist nations, specifically the Soviet Union, in what became known as the Cold War. Ironically, however, this "Cold" War was not really without "heat"—military action—for direct conflict never broke out between the U.S. and USSR. However, the U.S. did enter into several armed conflicts in order to stop the spread of "red." These entanglements, in Korea and Vietnam, are prime examples of the misguidedness of U.S. foreign policy at this period. Neither of these could be called a success.

The impetus for the Korean War came when North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950; the nation had been split into a communist North and a noncommunist south following World War II. The split was meant to be a temporary measure, but the rise of Cold War tensions and two Korean governments with different goals raised the stakes. While most of the U.S. attention was focused on the Cold War in Europe, the first "hot" war erupted in East Asia. Because the USSR was boycotting the UN over the failure to seat Communist China, the USSR was not at the UN when the news of the invasion arrived, and so could not use its veto (allotted to it because of its Security Council status) to stop the UN from sending a military force to intervene in North Korea, which it did. Because of the United States' total commitment to containment, over 90% of the forces were American, and the troops were led by Douglas MacArthur, also an American. The UN forces initially succeeded in pushing back the North Koreans, but went too far and pushed back too much into North Korean territory,

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – B

causing China, also communist, to send troops to help the North Koreans. (MacArthur wanted to bomb China, but Truman, angry that he was attempting to defy Presidential orders, was forced to fire him). The war dragged on until 1953, when an armistice—and not a peace treaty—was signed that restored the border between North and South to roughly where it had been in 1950 at the 38th parallel. The U.S. had stopped communism, but had not made any gains against it, and had lost many men. This new “limited” war was too costly, unpopular at home, and destroyed President Truman’s standing. North Koreans remain under a brutal communist dictator and the border between North and South remains one of the most heavily guarded today, with American troops remaining at the DMZ to protect South Korea from communist aggression. Today North Korea’s development of nuclear weapons and the firing of test missiles makes it one of America’s greatest threats.

The Vietnam War proved to be the worst failure for the U.S., as it became the only war, up until today, that America had lost. Vietnam had, like Korea, been divided into a communist north and noncommunist south following World War II. The French had once had control of the region as a colony, and fought to keep it so, but the Vietnamese fought for independence. Against its own ideals of national sovereignty and democracy, the United States ignored the pleas of Ho Chi Minh when he espoused such nationalist beliefs in a letter to the U.S. president, Truman. So, on the heels of the communist aggression in Korea, the U.S. intervened to help the French, and then, when they lost, aided the South Vietnamese all on their own. If containment was good enough for Europe and Korea, then it could be

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 5 – B

applied to Vietnam. This policy incorporated the domino theory. (If one country became communist, then other nearby countries would follow.) Later, other American presidents were willing to use ground forces, bombing raids and vast amounts of money to prevent the "dominoes" from falling throughout Southeast Asia. JFK, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon all kept ordering more force (despite Nixon's idea of Vietnamization, transferring responsibility to the South Vietnamese). Ultimately, the U.S., unable to withstand either the guerilla tactics of the Vietcong or the mounting opposition to the war at home, was forced to pull out of the war, letting South Vietnam fall to the Communists. The conflict represented an utter failure of containment. Korea is still divided, but Vietnam is a unified communist country, one of the few left in the world. Later, the United States opened trade with communist Vietnam. It is ironic that although the Vietnam War is seen as a great failure, capitalism now has a place there and the United States does not view Vietnam as a threat to our security.

The Korean and Vietnam Wars were attempts by the U.S. to use the military to support the policy of containment, originally proposed by Kennan. Both interventions were plagued by mistakes and undermined by being "limited" for the U.S. military, but it was "all-out war" for the North Koreans and the North Vietnamese. This combination led to only a partial success in North Korea and utter failure in Vietnam. Neither war ended communism in the regions as they were meant to.

Anchor Level 5-B

The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing the historical circumstances that led to intervention in Korea and the escalation of the Vietnam War and the extent to which each action was successful in limiting the expansion of communism
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*intervention in Korea*: while most of the United States attention was focused on the Cold War in Europe, the first “hot” war erupted in East Asia; USSR was boycotting the United Nations over the failure to seat Communist China; because of the United States total commitment to containment, over 90% of the forces were American and the troops were led by Douglas MacArthur; China sent troops to help North Korea; limited war was unpopular at home and destroyed President Truman’s standing; today, North Korea’s development of nuclear weapons and the firing of test missiles makes it one of America’s greatest threats; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: against its own ideals of national sovereignty and democracy, the United States ignored the pleas of Ho Chi Minh when he espoused such nationalist beliefs in a letter to the United States President; United States intervened to help the French and then the South Vietnamese; if containment was good enough for Europe and Korea, then presidents Truman and Eisenhower would also apply it to Vietnam; later presidents willing to use ground forces, bombing raids, and vast amounts of money to prevent “dominoes” from falling; the United States, unable to overcome either the guerilla tactics of the Viet Cong or the mounting opposition to the war at home, was forced to pull out of the war, letting South Vietnam fall to the communists; although the Vietnam War is seen as a great failure, capitalism now has a place there and the United States does not view Vietnam as a threat to our security)
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*intervention in Korea*: split meant to be temporary; North Korea invaded South Korea; communist North; non-communist South; Security Council status; pushed back the North Koreans; armistice restored border at 38th parallel; United States lost many men; brutal communist dictator; heavily guarded border; DMZ; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: worst failure; communist North; non-communist South; French colony; Vietnamese fought for independence; Southeast Asia; JFK; Lyndon Johnson; President Nixon; Vietnamization; unified communist country; United States opened trade with communist Vietnam)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that notes the Cold War lasted from Yalta to the collapse of the Soviet Union and a conclusion that credits George Kennan with the containment policy and points out that neither conflict ended communism in those regions

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the similarities and differences between the United States involvement in Korea and in Vietnam during the Cold War and the long-term effects of these conflicts today.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – A

During the Cold War the U.S. took actions to limit the spread of communism, including the implementation of the Marshall Plan and involvement in the Vietnam War. These economic and military actions were successful and unsuccessful, respectively. The United States action during the Cold War ultimately did not completely limit the spread of communism.

The Marshall Plan implemented after World War II was very successful. After World War II, many nations in Europe were severely impoverished as a result of wartime spending and they needed to rebuild from wartime damage. Often during times of economic downturn, the citizens of a country look for a change in leadership or in form of government. The U.S. had seen this happen in Germany, when Hitler rose to power due to bad economic conditions in Germany, which were the result of their involvement in World War I. In order to prevent these economically depressed European nations from turning to communism, the U.S. implemented the Marshall Plan. Under the Marshall Plan, the U.S. gave monetary aid to European countries (especially in the West) in order to prevent them from turning to communism. The Marshall Plan was very successful because it led to feelings of goodwill towards the U.S. because the surge of industry created better economic conditions in many European countries. The rebuilding of Western Europe stabilized the governments so the people were not tempted by the promises of communism. This was a major test of the containment policy and helped convince Western Europe that the U.S. meant to stay involved after World War II. Although the Marshall Plan was successful, the Vietnam War, which came after, was not.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – A

The Vietnam War was not successful in containing the spread of communism. In the 1950s, the struggle for independence in Vietnam led to a schism between the North and South. North Vietnam became communist and was led by the nationalist, Ho Chi Minh. In order to prevent the spread of communism, the U.S. backed Ngo Dinh Diem in power in the South. The Eisenhower administration believed in the domino theory in which neighboring nations would fall to communism "like dominoes". To preserve South Vietnam as a noncommunist nation, the U.S. sent military advisors into the region to combat the North. These efforts did not work well and South Vietnam remained weak. After an American ship in the Gulf of Tonkin was fired on by the North Vietnamese (though whether or not this actually occurred is the subject of some controversy), president Lyndon B. Johnson increased military presence in Vietnam. He sent over 500,000 troops and bombed extensively. This war (although it was never officially declared as such) was ultimately unsuccessful. The Vietnam War was the first to be heavily televised, and so the American public was able to see the levels of violence and death that were occurring, especially during the Tet Offensive. The North Vietnamese found support in the South from the Viet Cong. There was vocal opposition to the war in the U.S. both as a result of the brutality of the war, the use of the draft and the high American casualty rate. Decreasing public support for the war eventually forced President Nixon to negotiate an end to U.S. involvement in the war.

After the U.S. withdrew, the North Vietnamese took over the South, unifying Vietnam. In addition, as a result of American bombing in Cambodia (an attempt to disrupt North Vietnamese supply lines), the

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – A

region became more unstable and Pol Pot was able to take power in Cambodia. Pol Pot forced the country to return to an agrarian state, which included mass killings of educated people. This was similar to the Great Leap Forward in China but with greater death rates.

Ultimately, the war in Vietnam was not successful in preventing the spread of communism. Not only did Vietnam become communist after United States troops pulled out, neighboring Cambodia also fell, which war hawks viewed as a fulfillment of the domino theory.

During the Cold War, the U.S. took many diplomatic, military, and economic actions to prevent the spread of communism. Some of them, such as the Marshall Plan, were successful. Others, such as the Vietnam War were unsuccessful and caused an increase in communism.

Anchor Level 4-A

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the implementation of the Marshall Plan less thoroughly than the escalation of the Vietnam War
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*implementation of the Marshall Plan*: often during times of economic downturn, the citizens of a country look for a change in leadership or in the form of government; Hitler rose to power due to bad economic conditions in Germany; the rebuilding of Western Europe stabilized the governments so the people were not tempted by the promises of communism; major test of the containment policy; helped convince Western Europe that the United States meant to stay engaged after World War II; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: struggle for independence led to a schism between north and south; the Eisenhower administration believed in the domino theory; North Vietnamese found support in the south from Viet Cong; brutality of the war, draft, and high American casualty rate forced President Nixon to negotiate an end to United States involvement; American bombing in Cambodia to disrupt North Vietnamese supply lines made the region more unstable; not only did Vietnam become communist after United States troops pulled out, neighboring Cambodia also fell, which war hawks viewed as a fulfillment of the domino theory)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*implementation of the Marshall Plan*: nations in Europe severely impoverished; wartime spending; needed to rebuild; United States gave monetary aid; led to goodwill toward the United States; surge of industry; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: Ho Chi Minh; Ngo Dinh Diem; military advisors; Gulf of Tonkin; President Lyndon B. Johnson; never officially declared as war; first to be heavily televised; Tet Offensive; Pol Pot forced agrarian state; mass killing of educated people)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that generally restate the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response recognizes important forces that led to these actions and provides a detailed and analytical discussion of the extent to which the Vietnam War was successful. However, the discussion of the Marshall Plan is slightly less developed.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – B

After the defeat of the Axis powers in World War II it was evident that the victors would come out as the new world powers. With the United States and the Soviet Union being the strongest nations of the victorious Allies they were the two countries who emerged as the new world powers but their views varied drastically. The Democratic U.S. and the Communist Soviets butted heads about each other's views and the U.S. wanted to halt the spread of communism so it couldn't get to the rest of the world. The U.S. adopted a policy of containment to keep communism in the USSR and the other places it had spread. The U.S.'s main goal was to prevent the spread of communism and they did everything diplomatically, militarily, and economically in their power to do so.

One of the actions the U.S. took to limit the spread of communism was the establishment of NATO. After WWII Eastern Europe fell to the spread of communism and was under the Soviets' influence and power. The nations of Western Europe were still democratic and the U.S. didn't want them to fall to communism like the east so they formed a military alliance called NATO to unite the Western European nations and the democratic U.S. against the Soviets and the communist satellite states. The United States contributed most of the money, troops and leadership to the organization. However, joining NATO was a huge break from past U.S. policy which had always followed George Washington's advice to avoid entangling alliances. With the formation of NATO it was very successful in preventing the spread of communism to western Europe because the Soviets knew that if they did anything to one of the nations in NATO then they would have to answer to and face the rest of the nations in NATO. NATO was

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – B

also successful because the countries who joined got the military support from the U.S. and the other joined nations. Even though the communists answered NATO with the formation of the Warsaw Pact this didn't expand communism any farther into Western Europe so NATO was very successful in preventing the spread of communism. In the 1990s, as the Soviet Union broke up and communist governments fell, NATO remained strong and today, some of the Warsaw Pact nations have joined it.

Another action that the United States took to limit the spread of communism was the U.S. intervention in Korea which became the Korean War. Korea had been controlled by the Japanese during WWII and had been temporarily split between the U.S. in the South and the Soviets in the North. With the outbreak of the Cold War, a plan for reuniting Korea was not done. The North Koreans decided to unify the country through war, not knowing that the U.S. would move to stop them. President Truman decided that the U.S. couldn't let communism spread that easily under the policy of containment. When the North Korean troops had pushed their way into South Korea the U.S. knew that the South Koreans would soon fall to communism if they didn't interfere so the U.S. joined the United Nations in sending troops. Under the command of General MacArthur the U.S. troops fought the North Koreans and pushed them back past the parallel border between South Korea and North Korea. General MacArthur kept pushing farther into North Korea and was going to push right up to the border with China. The Chinese then invaded North Korea to keep the U.S. troops from completely reuniting Korea. The U.S. troops fell back across the 38th parallel into South Korea. A truce

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – B

was later declared because the goal of containment had been reached because South Korea was free from the North Koreans and communism letting them become the democratic nation they are today. Thousands of United States troops remain in South Korea because North Korea is still an aggressive communist dictatorship. The limited war was successful in stopping the expansion of communism but the United States has spent billions of dollars over the years to defend the line between the two countries.

The Cold War may not have been full of bloodshed and military battles but it is one of the hardest wars the U.S. ever fought. The U.S. hated communism and wanted with all its power to stop it and fought for years to do so. With actions like the formation of NATO and the intervention in Korea the U.S. did all it could to follow its policy of containment and stop the spread of communism in its tracks. The U.S. limited the expansion of communism as well as it could and used great effort to do so. The policy of containment they followed and the great actions they took against communism shows how serious of a problem communism was and what lengths the U.S. went to to keep it down.

Anchor Level 4-B

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task for the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and for intervention in Korea
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization*: after World War II, Eastern Europe fell to the spread of communism and was under the Soviets' influence and power; nations of Western Europe were democratic; formation of NATO was very successful in preventing the spread of communism to Western Europe because the Soviets knew that if they did anything to one of the nations in NATO, then they would have to answer to and face the rest of the nations in NATO; United States contributed most of the money, troops and leadership; today, some Warsaw Pact nations have joined NATO; *intervention in Korea*: Korea had been controlled by the Japanese during World War II; split was temporary, but with outbreak of Cold War, no plan to reunite was done; the United States could not let communism spread that easily under the policy of containment; United States troops remain because North Korea is still an aggressive communist dictatorship; the limited war was successful in stopping the expansion of communism but the United States has sent billions of dollars over the years to defend the line between the two countries)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization*: military alliance; satellite states; Soviet Union broke up; communist governments fell; NATO remained strong; *intervention in Korea*: Korean War; United Nations; General MacArthur; China; President Truman; 38th parallel; truce declared)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes a good introduction with historical circumstances that led to both actions and a conclusion that notes the difficulty of pursuing the policy of containment

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response demonstrates a good understanding of containment and the lasting effects of the two actions. However, it is somewhat repetitive and lacks the depth and analysis of a Level 5 paper.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – C

Following the end of World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union entered a period known as the Cold War. This struggle to be the leading superpower also led to the U.S. foreign policy of containment. For several decades, the majority of U.S. involvement was based on limiting, if not stopping, the spread of communism. The blockade of Cuba in 1962 and the escalation of the Vietnam War were both examples of U.S. attempts of containing the spread of communism.

The Blockade of Cuba in 1962 was a prime example of U.S. attempts at preventing the spread of communism. After Fidel Castro took control of Cuba, he allied himself with the Soviet Union, receiving aid and supplies from the Communist superpower. In 1962 planes shot aerial footage of missile's that had been placed on the island by the Soviet Union. These missiles were pointed at the United States, and could successfully reach U.S. cities quickly. President Kennedy demanded that the missiles be disabled and removed from the island. In 1962, the United States Navy Blockaded Cuba, preventing any Soviet ships with supplies and weapons to reach the island. As the Soviet ships sailed closer and closer, the U.S. demanded they return to the Soviet Union. For days the ships waited in range of each other and the world was on the brink of nuclear war. The Soviet ships eventually turned around and went home. The missiles were soon disabled and removed from Cuba.

The blockade of Cuba protected the U.S. from a Soviet nuclear attack. In fact, the Soviets had little intention of using the missiles to farther the spread of communism, but were used as a threat to the U.S. Soon after the tense standoff, relations between the USSR and the United States relaxed somewhat. The Nuclear Test Ban treaty was

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – C

signed to stop nuclear testing in the atmosphere and under water.

President Kennedy also installed a special "hot line" with the Soviet Union so that the nations could avoid a nuclear disaster from miscommunication. Nuclear war was avoided, but Cuba was still a communist country supported by the Soviet Union.

The escalation of the Vietnam war from 1964 to 1973 was a failed attempt by the United States to limit the spread of communism.

Vietnam had been split into Communist North Vietnam and democratic South. The Geneva Accords said that elections would be held to decide how Vietnam would be ruled. The president of the South, president Diem, refused to hold elections when the time came. Diem was disliked by his people, as he discriminated against their religion of Buddhism, and did little to prevent poverty. After Diem refused to hold elections, some people in the South, the Vietcong, began to rebel and fought for Ho Chi Minh and the communists. President Johnson sent thousands of troops to the war in hopes of preventing the spread of communism into the South. After a long period of fighting, victory seemed unlikely and under President Nixon the U.S. slowly gave control of the war to the South Vietnamese. Soon after the last U.S. soldiers left, the North invaded, but the U.S. went back on its promise to protect them and let communist North Vietnam take over the South.

U.S. involvement in Vietnam was a failure at limiting communism. While they were able to prevent the spread for years, when the United States gave over control to the South Vietnamese, they were powerless against the strong Northern army. U.S. involvement did not limit the spread, as all of Vietnam soon became communist. U.S. actions to prevent communism from spreading into

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 4 – C

Southeast Asia failed for many reasons. The U.S. attempted to play the offensive against guerilla rebels in a land they did not know how to fight in.

United States involvement in limiting the spread of communism was a mix of success and failures. While they were able to prevent the spread in some areas, they failed in others.

Anchor Level 4-C

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the extent to which the blockade of Cuba prevented the spread of communism in more depth than for the escalation of the Vietnam War
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*blockade of Cuba*: planes shot aerial footage of missiles on the island that were pointed at the United States and could reach United States cities quickly; for days, the ships waited in range of each other and the world was on the brink of nuclear war; Soviets had little intention of using missiles to further the spread of communism, but were used as a threat to the United States; Nuclear Test Ban Treaty signed to stop nuclear testing in the atmosphere and under water; nuclear war was avoided, but Cuba was still a communist country supported by the Soviet Union; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: Diem was disliked by his people as he discriminated against their religion and did little to prevent poverty; President Johnson sent thousands of troops, but victory seemed unlikely; United States involvement was a failure)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*blockade of Cuba*: Fidel Castro allied with communist superpower; President Kennedy; United States navy blockaded supplies and weapons; Soviet ships turned around; hot line installed; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: communist North Vietnam; democratic South; Geneva Accords; Diem refused to hold elections; Viet Cong; Ho Chi Minh; President Nixon; guerilla rebels)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a brief conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response includes ample detail about the historical circumstances leading to each action as well as a good discussion of the success of the Cuban blockade. However, the discussion of the extent to which the escalation of the Vietnam War was successful in limiting communism is general and repetitive.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 3 – A

The Cold War represents a period of diplomatic tension between the democratic world, represented by the United States, and the communist world primarily led by the Soviet Union. The threat of the expansion of communism led to certain actions being taken to preserve democracy. The Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War both represent events that occurred that had the sole purpose of containing communism where it already was. Ultimately, these events experienced varying degrees of success.

The Cuban Missile Crisis is arguably one of the most important events in American history. If handled incorrectly, a World War III could have commenced with the threat of a nuclear holocaust. In 1962, US airplanes spotted Soviet missile bases in Cuba, an island dangerously close to the tip of Florida. President John F. Kennedy recognized the urgency of the situation, so he acted quickly yet with a great deal of care. Aggression would have been countered with severe retaliation, so JFK knew that this was not a possibility. Instead, he forcefully blockaded Cuba to "persuade" the Soviets to leave the island. Thankfully, no harm was done but relations between the nations were obviously strained. Historians typically refer to the Cuban Missile Crisis as one of JFK's crowning achievements. The ability to get the job done without losing American lives marks a great success in containing communism without letting the way of life spread.

The Vietnam War is definitely not regarded with the same praise that the handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis is. The US feared the domino theory that stated that all of Asia would fall to communism if it was not contained in North Vietnam. The US sent military advisors and money to try to strengthen South Vietnam, but this did not work.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 3 – A

well and our help kept growing from the 1950s into the 1960s. The United States got involved in combat after communist forces in South Vietnam with help from North Vietnam threatened to overwhelm South Vietnam. This war ultimately turned out to be a huge failure on many fronts. The rise of television led many to see the atrocities of warfare, and this led to public support for the war diminishing. Young people and students held rallies against America's cause in Vietnam. This may not seem like a big deal, but it's difficult for a government to continue a war when the majority of its constituents weren't for it. Also, Lyndon B. Johnson promoted a domestic policy called the Great Society, primarily based around ending poverty. Unfortunately, much of the government's money went to supporting the war instead of the Great Society, leaving the true potential of this domestic policy unfulfilled. Finally, the Vietnam War did not even accomplish what it set out to do. America was ill-prepared for a war in someone else's homeland as the Viet Cong was familiar with the land. American forces left Vietnam while the fighting was still going on and communist forces would ultimately take over South Vietnam. Therefore, this event to curtail communist expansion was unsuccessful, with American forces failing and communism expanding.

For most of the Cold War, the United States concerned itself with limiting communist expansion. Several events, including the response to the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War portray this belief albeit with much different degrees of success. The Cuban blockade was extremely successful as communism was contained and no American lives were lost. The Vietnam War on the other hand was

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 3 – A

nearly the exact opposite. Communism spread and many American lives were lost. This contrast ultimately represents the varying degrees of success the United States experienced in their attempt to control communism.

Anchor Level 3-A

The response:

- Develops the historical circumstances that led to the blockade of Cuba and the escalation of the Vietnam War and the extent to which Vietnam failed to limit the expansion of communism in some depth
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*blockade of Cuba*: if handled incorrectly, a World War III could have commenced with the threat of a nuclear holocaust; United States airplanes spotted Soviet missile bases in Cuba, an island dangerously close to Florida; blockaded Cuba to persuade the Soviets to leave the island; the Cuban blockade was extremely successful as communism was contained and no American lives were lost; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: war definitely not regarded with same praise that the handling of Cuban missile crisis is; United States sent military advisors and money to strengthen South Vietnam, but this did not work well; communist forces in South Vietnam with help from North Vietnam invaded South Vietnam; this war ultimately turned out to be a failure on many fronts; television led many to see the atrocities of warfare; American forces left while fighting was still going on; communism spread and many American lives were lost); includes faulty application (*escalation of the Vietnam War*: the United States feared the domino theory that stated that all of Asia would fall to communism if it was not contained in North Vietnam)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*blockade of Cuba*: President John F. Kennedy acted quickly; crowning achievement; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: student rallies; Lyndon B. Johnson; Great Society; Viet Cong)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that is somewhat beyond a restatement of the theme and a conclusion that contrasts the degree of success of the two actions

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response provides some analysis of the historical circumstances leading to each action and the lack of success in Vietnam. However, it fails to develop the extent of the success of the blockade of Cuba.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 3 – B

Following 1945, the end of the WWII, tensions arose between the United States and the Soviet Union that eventually escalated into the cold war. The USSR fought to spread communism while the U.S. sought to contain it. The U.S. sought to contain communism through the Marshall Plan and the intervention of Korea.

The Marshall Plan was implemented from 1947–1952. After WWII, there was widespread destruction and the economies of western Europe were struggling. The U.S. feared that if they did not help improve economic conditions in western Europe, then those countries might find communism appealing. To contain the spread of communism, President Truman enacted the Marshall Plan, to send billions in monetary aid to these western countries. They believed that this money would help rebuild the economy and preserve the democratic governments in western Europe. The Marshall Plan was very successful in that it prevented western Europe from turning communist. The aid that those countries received helped to stabilize their economies. It made communism less appealing because jobs were created and countries were rebuilt. Overall, the Marshall Plan contained communism and strengthened ties between the United States and western Europe.

The intervention in Korea was another action taken by the U.S. to limit communism. Korea at this time was divided into North Korea and South Korea. North Korea was controlled by a communist government while South Korea was controlled by a democratic government. The North was backed by the Soviet Union and China while the South was backed by the U.S. The Korean War began when North Korea invaded South Korea. With the help of the United Nations

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 3 – B

and U.S. troops, South Korea managed to push back northern troops to near the Chinese border. The Chinese considered this a threat and eventually drove the southern troops out of North Korea. This conflict ended with the boundary between North and South Korea remaining at the original 38th parallel. The Korean War is an example of how the U.S. tried to contain communism. It was successful in that it kept South Korea free of communism. It helped contain communism and kept it in the North. Even to this day, North and South Korea have not signed a peace treaty. Even though there are no actual battles, the 2 countries are still enemies and United States troops still protect South Korea.

Overall, the Marshall Plan and the intervention of Korea fulfilled the U.S.'s original goal. The U.S. just wanted to contain communism. It did so in that it helped nations rebuild so that communism won't look appealing and helped stop communism from expanding into South Korea.

Anchor Level 3-B

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth for the implementation of the Marshall Plan and intervention in Korea
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*implementation of the Marshall Plan*: the United States feared that if they did not help improve economic conditions in Western Europe, then these countries might find communism appealing; money would help rebuild the economy and preserve the democratic governments; the Marshall Plan helped to contain communism and strengthened the ties between the United States and Western Europe; *intervention in Korea*: the Korean war began when North Korea invaded South Korea; helped contain communism and kept it in the North; the two countries are still enemies and United States troops still protect South Korea)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*implementation of the Marshall Plan*: widespread destruction; President Truman; billions in monetary aid; jobs were created; countries were rebuilt; *intervention in Korea*: communist government; democratic government; United Nations; 38th parallel)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes a brief introduction and conclusion that are slightly beyond a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response demonstrates an understanding of how containment was accomplished in Western Europe and Korea, but it lacks depth and analysis.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 3 – C

When Bolshevik revolutionaries passionately declared that the workers of the world should unite to overthrow the governments of their respective countries after the Russian Revolution of 1917, America became fearful of a communist revolution or uprising that could happen in the US at any time. This especially became a big fear shared by many American citizens after the end of World War II when America's World War II ally, the USSR, became America's new enemy. The USSR encouraged the spread of communism, alarming the US. Harry Truman started the policy of containment, which was where the US would stop the spread of communism throughout the world by any means necessary. Two examples of the US trying to contain the spread of communism after World War II are the Vietnam War, which was largely unsuccessful in stopping the spread of communism, and the Korea War, which largely was.

An example of the US using any means necessary to stop communism from spreading around the world after WWII was by fighting the Korean War from 1950-1953. After the end of World War II, Japan had to relinquish control of Korea. Korea was then divided into 2 halves, a communist northern part and a capitalist southern part. In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. Following the policy of containment, the US intervened to stop communism from spreading to all of Korea. This case was successful because the war ended in 1953, with South Korea remaining independent and capitalist, just like how it was before the war and still is today. This was a successful case of the US preventing communism from spreading to non-communist parts of the world.

Another initiative that America took to stop the spread of

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 3 – C

communism was by fighting the Vietnam War. When the US saw communist North Vietnam invade capitalist South Vietnam after the independence of Vietnam from the French in 1954, the US didn't want to stand by while another country, South Vietnam, would become communist. The US was afraid that communism would spread throughout Southeast Asia, and many Americans believed in the saying "better dead than red". The US decided to send troops to Vietnam to follow the policy of containment, which was to stop communism from spreading to more countries such as South Vietnam. But, this was unsuccessful because in 1973, the US pulled out of South Vietnam, ending the war. However, South Vietnam fell to North Vietnam 2 years later, making it become communist. This shows the Vietnam War was unsuccessful in stopping the spread of communism in this case, which was to South Vietnam.

Two examples of the US trying to prevent the spread of communism around the world after World War II are the Vietnam War and the Korean War. The Vietnam War was unsuccessful because South Vietnam was taken over by communist North Vietnam, but the Korean War was successful because South Korea remained independent and capitalist after the war.

Anchor Level 3-C

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth for the intervention in Korea and the escalation of the Vietnam War
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*intervention in Korea*: in 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea; this case was successful because the war ended in 1953 with South Korea remaining independent and capitalist; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: we were afraid that communism would spread throughout Southeast Asia, and many Americans believed in the saying, “better dead than red”; United States pulled out of South Vietnam; however, South Vietnam fell to North Vietnam two years later, making it become communist)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*intervention in Korea*: Japan had to relinquish control; divided into two halves; communist northern part; containment; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: communist North Vietnam invaded capitalist South Vietnam; independence from the French in 1954; containment)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction about the post–World War II spread of communism and a conclusion that reiterates the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The introduction provides some information about the historical circumstances that are common to each action. In general, however, the response is a cursory and repetitious review of the actions.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – A

In the post WWII years, the U.S took measures to prevent the spread of communism. Having emerged as a world leader, the U.S took the responsibility of containment, or limiting communism to places where it already existed, like China and the Soviet Union. The Marshall Plan was meant to ensure that democracy would thrive in Europe, and when communism threatened to spread to Vietnam, the U.S sent American troops to fight the Vietcongs.

Western Europe was in a mess after WWII. Millions of families were torn apart, the economy was in a slump, and poverty was rampant. Afraid that these countries would turn to communism, the U.S decided to loan Western Europe money to rebuild its infrastructure, and more importantly, to keep democracy alive. From 1947–1952, the U.S gave more than \$13 billion in aid to numerous countries. This not only helped Western Europe recover, it also stimulated American business and manufacturing because the countries were only allowed to buy American products and couldn't use U.S aid to trade with communist nations. The Marshall Plan successfully prevented the spread of communism for Western Europe after WWII.

While the Marshall Plan had peacefully contained communism, US involvement in Vietnam was aggressive from the start. North Vietnam was led by communist Ho Chi Minh while South Vietnam was led by Ngo Dinh Diem in favor of democracy. The South was fighting a losing battle and so U.S troops were sent in 1964 to aid the Southern Vietnamese. During the course of 9 years, more and more American soldiers were stationed in Vietnam and actively fighting the Vietcong. However, South Vietnam still fell to the North Vietnamese.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – A

when the Vietcong captured the South's capital of Saigon. Around 50,000 Americans had died in the war the American public felt that it was a wasted effort. In fact, President Johnson had withheld much information about the cost and number of soldiers in Vietnam, so the public was not prepared for the defeat that had seemed imminent to Johnson's military advisor, Ball. The loss of South Vietnam to Northern Vietnamese Communism was a low blow for Americans who felt that US soldiers had died in vain.

The Red Scare was a fear of communism, a practice that seemed to go against all the virtues of democracy and capitalism. To protect its interests, the US passed the Marshall Plan to aid Western Europe after WWII and make sure that it wouldn't fall to communism. When communism threatened to take over Vietnam the country went to war against the North Vietnamese. The Marshall Plan was effective, while the Vietnam War ended in democratic defeat.

Anchor Level 2-A

The response:

- Develops most aspects of the task in little depth for the implementation of the Marshall Plan and the escalation of the Vietnam War
- Is primarily descriptive (*implementation of the Marshall Plan*: in Western Europe after World War II, millions of families were torn apart, the economy was in a slump and poverty was rampant; United States gave more than \$13 billion in aid to numerous countries; successfully prevented the spread of communism to Western Europe; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: North Vietnam was led by communist Ho Chi Minh while South Vietnam was led by Ngo Dinh Diem in favor of democracy; the loss of South Vietnam to North Vietnamese communism was a low blow for Americans who felt that United States soldiers had died in vain); includes faulty application (*escalation of the Vietnam War*: President Johnson had withheld much information and the public was not prepared for the defeat)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*implementation of the Marshall Plan*: money to rebuild its infrastructure and keep democracy alive; stimulated American business and manufacturing; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: Viet Cong; Saigon; 50,000 Americans died; Johnson's military advisor, Ball); includes inaccuracies (*implementation of the Marshall Plan*: United States decided to loan Western Europe money; only allowed to buy American products; could not use United States aid to trade with communist nations)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that is somewhat beyond a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. Despite several inaccuracies, the response includes some relevant details about the historical circumstances of each action. The response is also weaker in developing the extent to which each action limited the expansion of communism.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – B

Following World War II there was a lot of chaos and devastation in the world. The most prevalent of the remains of the war was confusion and fear. In the eyes of America the biggest fear was communism. The eyes of the world looked up to the super power, that was America and wondered how they would proceed after such a victory over Japan, Germany, and the USSR. America felt this responsibility and carried this burden. With the world on its shoulders America began implementing strategies such as the Marshall Plan and the NATO Alliance.

After World War II Europe was in turmoil and confusion. Everything was broken, including homes, villages, economies and spirits. America realized how vulnerable these countries were and knew that if they didn't help, then the Soviet Union would. In an attempt to contain communism, Congress passed the Marshall Plan. It began as a 12 billion program called the European Recovery Act. It was U.S. money offered to stimulate and repair the failing European Economy. It was later changed to a \$13.15 billion program now known as the Marshall Plan. This recovery led to many beneficial European programs, including the European Union which created a unified currency.

Another program that was created in order to contain the threat of communism, was the NATO Alliance. Western Europe at the time was still too vulnerable and weak to fight off the strong force of communism presented by Eastern Europe. America, being the superpower that it was, had the resources and the power to create a defense against Eastern Europe. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization formed an alliance between the U.S., Canada, and

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – B

Western Europe. If there was an attack on any one, then all the others would be defense.

These programs proved to be effective. Western Europe regained its strength and place in this world. The repair touched the economy, the communities, and the people. Government was restored, and there was now an order. The United States suppressed the spread of communism, and made the world an open place for democracy.

Anchor Level 2-B

The response:

- Develops some aspects of the task in some depth for the implementation of the Marshall Plan and the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- Is primarily descriptive (*implementation of the Marshall Plan*: everything was broken including homes, villages, economies, and spirits; United States money offered to stimulate and repair the failing European economy; *establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization*: America had the resources and the power to create a defense against Eastern Europe; formed an alliance between the United States, Canada, and Western Europe)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*implementation of the Marshall Plan*: European Recovery Act; European Union; unified currency; *establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization*: Western Europe, vulnerable and weak; America, a superpower); includes an inaccuracy (America's victory over the USSR)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that emphasizes the fear of communism and America's position as a superpower and a conclusion that is somewhat beyond a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response offers concise descriptions of the conditions in Western Europe that led to the Marshall Plan and NATO but includes only limited statements about the extent to which the actions were successful in containing communism.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – C

After World War II, the United States and its citizens feared the further rise and spread of communism. These feelings of fear were known as Red Scare. The United States Government took a number of actions to limit the communistic influence of the Soviet Union and China. Some of these actions were successful while others were not. Two examples of strategies used include the intervention in Korea and the blockade of Cuba.

Korea in the 1950s was in the midst of a civil war. Northern Korea had fallen to a communist government. The USSR was helping Northern Korea spread its communist ideas south to the rest of Korea. The Southern Part of Korea fought back, favoring democratic ideas and government. The United States stepped in to try and contain the communist ideas in North Korea, or push for Democracy all together. In 1953, a cease fire was reached. Korea was divided at a parallel with a demilitarized zone in the middle. The United States action of stepping in was somewhat successful. It limited the spread of communism to just North Korea and also set up Democracy in the South.

In 1962, Cuba, the island nation only about 100 miles from the southern coast of Florida, had a communist government headed by Fidel Castro. At the Bay of Pigs, the U.S. had planned on leading a revolt to overthrow him. However, it was unsuccessful. Later on, Castro allowed the USSR to build missile launch pads facing the United States. This was known as the Cuban Missile Crisis. The U.S. warned Cuba and the USSR to remove them. After ignoring those demands, the U.S. Navy blockaded Cuba. This was a red flag that the U.S. was on the brink of war. High tensions in the air, the Soviet Union finally removed the missile sites. Cuba remained as a communist Nation.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 2 – C

These actions of the United States Government were very affective in containing communism.

Communism was feared all throughout the United States after World War II. Knowing communism would spread, the United States Government attempted to contain it through the intervention in Korea and the blockade in Cuba. Both actions were successful.

Anchor Level 2-C

The response:

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for intervention in Korea and the blockade of Cuba
- Is primarily descriptive (*intervention in Korea*: the southern part of Korea fought back, favoring democratic ideas and government; United States stepped in to contain the communist ideas in North Korea; Korea was divided at a parallel with a demilitarized zone in the middle; *blockade of Cuba*: island nation about 100 miles from Florida; Castro allowed the USSR to build missile launch pads facing the United States; Soviet Union removed the missile sites; Cuba remained as a communist nation); includes faulty application (*intervention in Korea*: Northern Korea had fallen to a communist government)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*intervention in Korea*: civil war; cease fire; *blockade of Cuba*: unsuccessful Bay of Pigs; Cuban missile crisis; United States Navy; brink of war)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that emphasize the United States fear of communism after World War II

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response shows a general knowledge of the two actions but lacks depth.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 1 – A

Following World War II, the spread of communism became a threat to the United States, which led them to take various actions to limit the global influence of the Soviet Union and China. Two specific actions taken by the United States was, the intervention in Korea and the visit of President Richard Nixon to China.

The United States chose to intervene in Korea because North Korea was communist and South Korea was not. North Korea was attempting to take over South Korea and the US did not want communism to spread. So the US sent troops to help fight back against the communist side of Korea. This stopped North Korea from taking over South Korea.

Another action taken by the US to stop the spread of communism was President Nixon's visit to China. China was a communist country. President Nixon went to China to recognize it as a communist country. This helped stop the spread of communism and lessened the tensions between the nations.

The United States was led to take various actions following World War II because the spread of communism became a threat. Two specific actions that were taken to stop the spread of communism was the intervention in Korea and President Richard Nixon's visit to China.

Anchor Level 1-A

The response:

- Minimally develops the task for intervention in Korea and for President's Nixon's visit to China
- Is descriptive (*intervention in Korea*: North Korea was attempting to take over South Korea and the United States did not want communism to spread; this stopped North Korea from taking over South Korea; *President's Nixon's visit to China*: went to recognize it as a communist country; lessened tensions between the nations)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*intervention in Korea*: North Korea was communist; United States sent troops; *President's Nixon's visit to China*: China was communist)
- 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 response contains a few general statements about both actions with little elaboration.

Anchor Paper – Thematic Essay—Level 1 – B

After World War II the Soviet Union had control of many parts of Asia and Europe. This led to red scare which was the spread of communism. The Soviet Union was turning the countries it had control of into communist nations, and this was a major threat to democracy for the United States. It is because of this scare that the United States had to do something to stop the spread of communism.

One thing the United States put in place was the Truman Doctrine, the Truman Doctrine stated that the U.S. would help countries from being taken over. The first thing the United States did was send 400 million dollars to Turkey and Greece so that they could build up their economies and militaries. This was a major help because it prevented the Soviet Union from taking them over as communist nations.

Another thing the United States did to stop communism was in Germany with the Berlin Wall. After World War II Germany was divided into four zones and controlled by the allied nations. During the Cold War, France, Great Britain, and the United States, combined their territories to form Western Germany and the Soviet Union controlled East Germany. Berlin was the dividing line between communism and democracy. There, there was a wall, the Berlin Wall, also known as the Iron Curtain. It was what separated the two parts of Germany and stopped further spread of communism, because the Soviet Union didn't have total control of Berlin.

The Berlin Wall and the Truman Doctrine were major during post World War II and the cold war. They were successful in slowing down and stopping the spread of communism, and keeping the world safe for democracy.

Anchor Level 1-B

The response:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task for the enactment of the Truman Doctrine
- Is descriptive (*enactment of the Truman Doctrine*: doctrine stated that the United States would help countries from being taken over; this was a major help because it prevented the Soviet Union from taking them over as communist nations)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details (*enactment of the Truman Doctrine*: \$400 million; Turkey and Greece; built up their economies and militaries)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that links the Red Scare to actions aimed at stopping the spread of communism and a brief conclusion

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response shows some knowledge of the Truman Doctrine but incorrectly implies that the United States was responsible for the Berlin Wall and that its purpose was to stop the further spread of communism.

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – A

The after effects of WWII led the United States to initiate actions to attempt to cease the spread of communism from influential nations, such as, the Soviet Union and China. The means of which the actions were qualified as included diplomatic, military, and economic initiatives. The implementation of the Marshall Plan and escalation of the Vietnam War are two actions taken by the United States. However, these decisions were met with varying success.

Directly after the end of WWII, President Truman declared the Marshall Plan in 1947, which entailed that America would provide billions of dollars of economic aid to the desperate nations in Europe to assist them in their recovery from the enormous destruction of war. Bridges, roads, schools and factories had been destroyed by the Germans. Countries like England and France worried about another severe depression. The United States had not suffered the same widespread devastation and could offer aid to our friends. While this opportunity was available to all, only western Europeans received this service. The Soviet-controlled Eastern Europeans were not permitted to accept the provisions from the United States because the Soviets wanted to prevent American influence in their sphere. Some of the Eastern Europeans desired the aid; but Soviet puppet governments prevented them from having any choice in the matter. The Marshall Plan was extremely successful in that it accomplished its goal of containing communism. The program provided for the Western Europeans and that area was able to recover. Without it, they might have lost popular support and been replaced by pro-communist governments. Instead of an economic depression, factory production quickly tripled, cities were rebuilt and families survived. Eastern

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – A

European countries who were not allowed to accept United States aid had a harder time recovering from the war. The Marshall Plan is the epitome of an American economic action to limit the influence of communism in Europe.

The decision to contain communism in Europe naturally led to other commitments in other places. During the 1950s, aid to Vietnam was a result of the domino theory. If South Vietnam fell to communism then so would its neighbors. The United States embarked on diplomatic, military, and economic actions during the escalation of the Vietnam War to try to stop the spread of communism in North Vietnam to the democratic South Vietnam. However, this proved futile for the Americans due to difficult conditions in Vietnam and opposition at home. In the beginning, the United States sent money and military aid to support Diem, the democratic leader in South Vietnam. However, he was very unpopular with the people because of his corrupt, authoritarian policies and western ways. Moreover, a rebel South Vietnamese group known as the Vietcong emerged in support of North Vietnam's communist regime and threatened Diem's government. Later, President Johnson took stronger military action by sending thousands of combat troops to support the South Vietnamese troops battling the Viet Cong and Ho Chi Minh's North Vietnam army invasion. Yet, even with America's military power, escalation of the war, and a few victories, this was not enough to win the war. Americans were unfamiliar with the terrain and guerilla warfare was being used by the Vietnamese. It was difficult for American troops to know who was a friend and who was an enemy. With all of the obstacles, communist rule was inevitable. However, President Nixon

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – A

still had one more card to play with diplomatic action. With the war at standstill, the United States signed the Paris Peace agreement with North Vietnam which called for United States troop withdrawal. Once the United States troops withdrew, South Vietnam was overcome by the communists. Overall, the Vietnam was a disastrous war that did not contain the spread of communism.

In conclusion, even though the United States made diplomatic, military, and economic actions to try to prevent the spread of communism, they resulted in various conclusions. Some of the policies succeeded, while others were unsuccessful. The Marshall Plan prevented the spread of communism in Western Europe, but could not help Eastern European nations. In addition, even with the influx of America soldiers and aid in Vietnam, the spread of communism was unable to be contained. All in all, these Cold War actions were met with varying results.

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – B

After World War II, the three nation leaders met together in a conference, Great Britain, Soviet Union and the United States, to discuss their next course of action. The Soviet Union dictator wanted to protect its borders and strengthen its country after the devastating effects the war took on it. In order to protect itself, the country wanted to form alliances with other bordering countries and spread communism. In order to protect the freedoms of self-government for other countries, the U.S. took on the foreign policy of containment. These turn of events led up to the Cold War and the Vietnam War.

The Soviet Union soon became allies with Cuba after revolutionary leader Fidel Castro seized the government. With Fidel Castro and his regime, the country became communist. The Soviet Union gave Cuba supplies to build nuclear weapons. Once the United States discovered the nuclear threat in Cuba by the U2 spy plane, President John F. Kennedy decided to blockade the trading ports in Cuba. Through this blockade, Soviet Union ships could not transport materials to build a nuclear bomb. The U.S. also started their own nuclear arms race, creating the atomic bomb and later the hydrogen bomb. These nuclear weapons were used as defense in case the Soviet Union threatened to attack the country. This intervention was successful because the Soviet Union backed off and ended the trade with Cuba. In return both countries created a negotiation to remove some nuclear weapons from enemy lines. A hot line was also established between both leaders in case of emergency.

In 1964, there was internal conflict within Vietnam. The North Vietnamese wanted a communist regime, whereas the South was against it. Northern Communist Leader Ho Chi Minh created the North

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – B

Vietnamese Army to fight against the South Vietnamese. In order to resolve this conflict and contain communism, the U.S. became involved in the war. America did not immediately intervene with the military force but sent aid and supplies to the South Vietnamese people. However, the war soon became "Americanized" and American forces took over the fight against the North Vietnamese. New, advanced weapons were made in defense against the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese Army such as napalm. These weapons had a devastating impact on the environment and killed and injured many innocent civilians. The intervention was not successful and it limited American supplies and killed many soldiers. This led to the peace movement in America in the 1970s, many college students had also gotten involved. America did not succeed in containing communism and eventually extracted American soldiers from Vietnam.

Through the foreign policy of containment, the U.S. had become militarily involved with many other foreign countries besides the Soviet Union. The U.S. advanced its nuclear technology during the Cold War however the Vietnam War was not as successful. America takes on the "Older Brother" role, seeking to defend independent, self-governed countries despite the military costs and casualties of a war, and whether or not America succeeds.

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – C

Following World War II, the threat of communist expansion led to the United States to take diplomatic, military, and economic actions to limit the global influence of the Soviet Union and China. These cold war actions met with varying degrees of success. The blockade of Cuba, and the escalation of the Vietnam War, helped America expand.

First, the blockade of Cuba helped America expand because America had economic businesses in Cuba. When Cuba was attacked America lost a lot of business and money. When Cuba was attacked America declared war and conquered new territories, so America expanded by gaining new territories like Puerto Rico and other islands.

Second, the escalation of Vietnam War helped America to gain new territories and expand. When America Attacked Vietnam, they lost a lot of money sending soldiers and making new weapons. After America defeated Vietnam they gain new territories and money for defeating Vietnam. The money they lost on the war they got it back.

In conclusion, the Blockade of Cuba and the escalation of the Vietnam War both helped America gain new territories and expand. Also the country became wealthy and powerful just because they won every battle or every struggle they faced.

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – D

Following the end of World War II, Europe found itself divided by an "iron curtain." The United States, which was democratic, and the Soviet Union, which was communist, "fought" for their influence over the other countries. While the Soviet Union attempted to spread communism, the United States tried to contain it through the use of their diplomatic, military, and economic actions.

The Berlin airlift is an example of a successful action headed by the United States. Before the imminent defeat of Germany, France, Great Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union had divided Germany and the capital, Berlin, into four parts. After the war, democratic countries, France, Great Britain, and the United States combined their pieces of land; however, the Soviet Union kept their piece. Thus, Germany was divided into the democratic West Germany and West Berlin along with the communist East Germany and East Berlin. However, West Berlin, since it was in East German territory, was surrounded by communism. In an attempt to convert West Berlin into a communist establishment, the Soviet Union cut off all supplies going into West Berlin so they would be forced to turn to communism. So, to prevent the spread of communism, the United States organized airplanes to ship food and medical supplies to West Berlin in the late 1940's. This campaign was very successful since West Berliners didn't turn to communism. The Soviet Union lifted the blockade after a year.

However, the United States were unsuccessful with containing the spread of communism in Vietnam. Before the United States intervened, Vietnam was experiencing a civil war. Vietnam was divided into democratic South Vietnam and communist North

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – D

vietnam; however, North Vietnam was attempting to make South Vietnam communist as well. So, to prevent the spread of communism, the United States intervened with an accusation that North Vietnam had attacked them in the Gulf of Tonkin. The United States then increased the number of troops and its military presence. However, our efforts were a complete failure. Millions of young Americans protested about the drafts and urged for peace. Also, in Vietnam, the Americans had trouble tracking down the Vietcong since they were using guerilla warfare. In addition, many Southern Vietnamese people hated the Americans since they thought American soldiers were oppressing them. Realizing that it was impossible to win the war, the United States pulled their troops out in 1973. Shortly after that, North Vietnam took over South Vietnam.

All of the actions taken by the United States were completely necessary. If it wasn't for the United States' efforts, the whole entire world might be communist today. And although there were unsuccessful attempts to contain communism, the United States couldn't just stand by and do nothing. Every action they made was essential.

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – E

Following World War II, the US and the Soviet Union who were allied against Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan became two superpowers and split apart ideologically. The US feared that the USSR would gain power worldwide and spread communism, undermining US capitalist interests. The US sent troops to Korea in 1950 and aided the mujahideen in Afghanistan from 1979–1989 in an effort to stop Soviet expansion.

President Truman sent military forces to Korea in 1950 as part of a United Nations attempt to prevent the communist North Koreans from taking over South Korea and spreading communism further across Asia. In 1949, China had undergone a revolution, and Mao Zedong and the communist People's Republic of China took power. The US greatly feared communist China's intervention in N. Korea and the possible takeover of the entire peninsula. The US troops were initially pushed back to the Southeast corner, but then General Douglas MacArthur successfully landed troops behind enemy lines at Inchon, and the US troops pushed the North Koreans all the way back to the Chinese border. At this point, communist Chinese forces invaded Korea, and the US Marines were trapped in a ferocious battle at Chosin Reservoir. Eventually, then Colonel Lewis "Chesty" Paller lead this men south to Koto-ri, where they were able to regroup. A small Marines force inflicted terrible causalities against a large portion of the Chinese Army and were not overrun. Eventually, an armistice was signed, setting the border at the 38th parallel again, although to this day, a peace treaty has not been signed, and North and South Korean troops patrol the demilitarized zone.

The Korean war was successful at stopping the spread of

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – E

communism, because it prevented North Korea or communist China from taking over South Korea, however, it did so only at the expense of many thousands of lives.

Another example of the U.S attempting to stop the spread of communism was US aid to the mujahideen in Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation. The Soviets entered Afghanistan in 1979 to prop up the failing Marxist dictator, and initially took over the country with superior firepower. The Carter Administration protested the Soviet invasion by boycotting the 1980 Moscow Olympics and stopping the export of grain to the Soviets. Moreover, the CIA gave the mujahideen Stinger missiles with which to shoot down Soviet helicopters, and training to defeat the Soviets. After 10 years of being slowly destroyed by this force of Afghan warlords and their supporters, the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan and collapsed completely two years later, in 1991.

The US aid to the mujahideen was very effective in limiting the spread of communism in Afghanistan. Also, the failed Soviet occupation severely strained the resources of the ailing superpower, and was one of the causes of its demise. By aiding the mujahideen, the U.S defeated the USSR by proxy. However, United States support of the Afghan rebels created another problem because, following the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, the U.S failed to help rebuild Afghanistan with education, health care, and employment, and so many of the U.S trained mujahideen turned against the U.S, such as Osama bin Laden and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who would later form Al-Qaeda and Hezb-e-Islami respectfully to try to destroy the U.S.

The Korean war was effective at blocking the spread of communism,

Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – E

because it stopped North Korea from taking over South Korea, but only at the expense of thousands of lives. The U.S aid to the mujahideen also stopped the spread of communism and ended up weakening the USSR, but failed U.S policy after led to the creation of radical anti-U.S terrorist groups.

Practice Paper A—Score Level 4

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the implementation of the Marshall Plan more thoroughly than the escalation of the Vietnam War
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*implementation of the Marshall Plan*: bridges, roads, schools and factories had been destroyed by the Germans; England and France worried about another severe depression; the United States had not suffered the same widespread devastation and could offer aid to our friends; factory production tripled, cities were rebuilt, and families survived; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: if South Vietnam fell to communism, so would its neighbors; futile due to conditions in Vietnam and opposition at home; United States sent money and military aid to support Diem, very unpopular with people because of corrupt authoritarian policies and western ways; difficult for American troops to know who was a friend and who was an enemy; President Nixon signed the Paris Peace agreement which called for United States troop withdrawal; once the United States troops withdrew, South Vietnam was overcome by the communists)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*implementation of the Marshall Plan*: President Truman; billions of dollars of economic aid; Western Europeans; Soviet-controlled Eastern Europeans; puppet governments; extremely successful in containing communism; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: domino theory; communism in North Vietnam; democratic South Vietnam; Viet Cong; President Johnson sent thousands of combat troops; Ho Chi Minh's North Vietnamese army invasion; America's military power; few victories; unfamiliar with terrain; guerilla warfare)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that is little more than a restatement of the theme and a conclusion that restates the introduction

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response includes a good discussion of the historical circumstances and a good evaluation of the Marshall Plan's success. However, the discussion of the escalation of the Vietnam War would have benefited from further development.

Practice Paper B—Score Level 2

The response:

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for the blockade of Cuba and the escalation of the Vietnam War
- Is primarily descriptive (*blockade of Cuba*: the Soviet Union soon became allies with Cuba after revolutionary leader Fidel Castro seized the government; this intervention was successful because the Soviet Union backed off; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: America did not immediately intervene with military force but sent aid and supplies to the Vietnamese people; war became Americanized; America did not succeed in containing communism and eventually extracted American soldiers from Vietnam); includes weak and isolated analysis (*escalation of the Vietnam War*: it limited American supplies)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*blockade of Cuba*: nuclear threat; U2 spy plane; President John F. Kennedy; hotline; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: internal conflict; Ho Chi Minh; North Vietnamese army; Viet Cong; napalm; peace movement; college students); includes several inaccuracies (*blockade of Cuba*: Soviet Union gave Cuba supplies to build nuclear weapons; the United States also started their own nuclear arms race, creating the atomic bomb and later the hydrogen bomb; Soviet Union ended trade with Cuba)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that describes United States and Soviet national interests after World War II and a conclusion that primarily refers to the United States role in Vietnam

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. Some knowledge of the historical circumstances that led to each action is apparent, but the response lacks adequate discussion of the extent to which communism was limited by either action. Chronological errors weaken this response.

Practice Paper C—Score Level 0

The response:

Fails to develop the task

Conclusion: The response fits the criteria for Level 0. Discussions of the Cuban blockade and the Vietnam War lack understanding of containment and include no relevant information. In addition, the response incorrectly cites territorial expansion and success in every battle as proof of the success of each action.

Practice Paper D—Score Level 3

The response:

- Develops the historical circumstances that led to the implementation of the Berlin airlift and the escalation of the Vietnam War in some depth and the extent to which these actions were successful in limiting the expansion of communism in little depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*implementation of the Berlin airlift*: France, Great Britain, and the United States combined their pieces of land; West Berlin was surrounded by communism; in an attempt to convert West Berlin into a communist establishment, the Soviet Union cut off all supplies going into West Berlin so they would be forced to turn to communism; United States organized airplanes to ship food and medical supplies to West Berlin in the late 1940s; West Berliners did not turn to communism; the Soviet Union lifted the blockade after a year; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: before the United States intervened, Vietnam was experiencing a civil war; United States intervened with accusation that North Vietnam had attacked them in Gulf of Tonkin; United States increased the number of troops and its military presence; Americans had trouble tracking down the Viet Cong; United States pulled their troops out in 1973; shortly after that, North Vietnam took over South Vietnam)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*implementation of the Berlin airlift*: defeat of Germany; divided Germany into four parts; democratic West Germany; communist East Germany; East Berlin; *escalation of the Vietnam War*: democratic South Vietnam; communist North Vietnam; young Americans protested drafts; guerilla warfare)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that describes Europe as divided by an iron curtain and a conclusion that overstates the United States role in containing communism

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response includes descriptions of the historical circumstances that led to each action but makes only a few statements about the success of each action in limiting the expansion of communism.

Practice Paper E—Score Level 4

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the extent to which intervention in Korea limited the expansion of communism less thoroughly than the extent to which aid to the mujahideen in Afghanistan did during the Soviet occupation
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*intervention in Korea*: the United States greatly feared communist China's intervention in North Korea and the possible takeover of the entire peninsula; eventually, an armistice was signed, setting the border at the 38th parallel again; to this day, a peace treaty has not been signed and North and South Korean troops patrol the demilitarized zone; *aid to the mujahideen in Afghanistan*: the Soviets entered Afghanistan in 1979 to prop up the failing Marxist dictator and initially took over the country with superior firepower; Carter administration protested by boycotting the 1980 Moscow Olympics and stopping the export of grain to the Soviets; after ten years of being destroyed by Afghan warlords and their supporters, Soviet Union withdrew; the failed Soviet occupation severely strained the resources of the ailing superpower and was one of the causes of its demise; United States failed to rebuild Afghanistan with education, healthcare, and employment and mujahideen turned against the United States)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*intervention in Korea*: President Truman; United Nations; Mao Zedong; Communist People's Republic of China; General Douglas MacArthur; Inchon; United States Marines; Chosin Reservoir; Colonel Lewis "Chesty" Puller; Koto-ri; terrible casualties; expense of thousands of lives; *aid to the mujahideen in Afghanistan*: CIA; stinger missiles; Soviet helicopters; training; Osama Bin Laden; Gulbiddin Hekmatyar; Al-Qaeda; Hezb-e-Islami)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that describes the onset of the Cold War and a conclusion that notes both actions stopped the spread of communism but at a cost

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The descriptions of the historical circumstances that led to the two actions are strong, especially the military campaigns in Korea. The discussion of aid provided to the mujahideen shows an understanding of United States involvement in Afghanistan. However, the discussion of the extent to which the Korean War was successful in limiting the expansion of communism lacks development.

United States History and Government Specifications

August 2013

Part I

Multiple-Choice Questions by Standard

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

Parts II and III by Theme and Standard

	Theme	STANDARDS
Thematic Essay	Foreign Policy; Presidential Decisions and Actions; Places and Regions	Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5: United States and New York History; World History; Geography; Economics; Civics, Citizenship, and Government
Document-based Essay	Citizenship; Civic Values; Constitutional Principles; Change; Government; Presidential Decisions and Actions; Reform Movements	Standards 1, 3, 4, and 5: United States and New York 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 August 2013 Regents Examination in United States History and Government* will be posted on the Department's web site at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/> on the day of the examination. Conversion charts provided for the previous administrations of the United States History and Government examination must NOT be used to determine students' final scores for this administration.

Submitting Teacher Evaluations of the Test to the Department

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

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