

# FOR TEACHERS ONLY

The University of the State of New York

REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

## UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, January 22, 2025 — 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., only

### RATING GUIDE FOR PART III A AND PART III B (CIVIC LITERACY ESSAY QUESTION)

VOLUME  
**2** OF **2**  
CIVIC LITERACY  
ESSAY QUESTION

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: <https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/high-school-regents-examinations/> 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.

#### Contents of the Rating Guide

For **Part III A** Scaffold (open-ended) questions:

- A question-specific rubric

For **Part III B** Civic Literacy Essay Question (CLE):

- A content-specific rubric
- Prescored answer papers. Score levels 5 through 1 have one paper 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:

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

#### Mechanics of Rating

The procedures on page 2 are to be used in rating essay papers for this examination. More detailed directions for the organization of the rating process and procedures for rating the examination are included in the *Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examination in United States History and Government*.

Copyright 2025

The University of the State of New York  
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
Albany, New York 12234

## Rating the Essay Questions

(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 Part II essay must be rated by one rater.

## Rating the Scaffold (open-ended) Questions

(1) Follow a similar procedure for training raters.

(2) The scaffold questions are to be scored by one rater.

(3) The scores for each scaffold question must be recorded in the student's examination booklet and on the student's answer sheet. The letter identifying the rater must also be recorded on the answer sheet.

(4) Record the total Part III A score if the space is provided on the student's Part I answer sheet.

**Schools are not permitted to rescore any of the open-ended questions (scaffold questions, Short-Essay Questions, Civic Literacy Essay Question) 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.**

The scoring coordinator will be responsible for organizing the movement of papers, calculating a final score for each student's essay, recording that score on the student's Part I answer sheet, and determining the student's final examination score.

The conversion chart for this examination will be located at <https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/high-school-regents-examinations/>, and must be used for determining the final examination score.

**United States History and Government  
Content-Specific Rubric (Questions 31-36)  
Civic Literacy Essay (Question 37)  
January 2025**

**Go on to the next page ➡**

**United States History and Government**  
**Part A Specific Rubric (Questions 31-36)**  
**Civic Literacy Essay**  
**January 2025**

**Document 1**

During World War I, President Woodrow Wilson announced his 14 Points, which he hoped would be included in the Treaty of Versailles.

*“I [Woodrow Wilson] can predict with absolute certainty that within another generation there will be another world war if the nations of the world do not concert the method [agree to a plan] by which to prevent it.”*

Once Wilson knew that the U.S. would be unable to avoid entering the war, he worked to find a way to stop such a war from happening again. In January 1918 he announced the 14 Points, a set of principles designed to remove the causes of another great war. The 14 Points included an international organization to keep the peace, by providing a place where disputes could be discussed and mediated. The 14 Points inspired the peoples of the Allied Nations and gave them hope that another great war could be prevented. When Wilson traveled to Europe in late 1918 to attend the Paris Peace Conference, he was met by crowds numbering in the millions in Britain, France and Italy.

At the Peace Conference in 1919, Wilson moved the seat of the presidency to Paris for six months while he commanded the attention of the world. He was faced with the leaders of the Allied Nations determined to win as many concessions and as much territory as they could for their countries. Wilson argued and fought with them through June of 1919 to make as fair a treaty as possible under the circumstances. Wilson drew up terms of peace including his design for a League of Nations, a world body to settle future conflicts among nations. . . .

Source: “League of Nations,” The President Woodrow Wilson House (adapted)

**31 Based on this document, what is *one* historical circumstance surrounding the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles?**

**Score of 1:**

- States a historical circumstance surrounding the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles based on this document

*Examples:* Wilson proposed including the 14 Points/League of Nations in the Treaty of Versailles; Wilson feared there would be another world war within the next generation if nations of world did not agree on plan to prevent it; unable to avoid entering World War I, Wilson worked on a plan to avoid future wars; inclusion of international organization in 14 Points gave Allied nations hope that another great war could be prevented; 14 Points included a place where disputes could be discussed/mediated; inclusion of world body to settle future conflicts among nations, including a design for a League of Nations drawn up by Wilson; during the peace conference, Wilson moved the seat of the presidency to Paris for six months; Wilson fought to make a fair treaty, despite the determination of Allied nations to win as many concessions/territories as they could

**Score of 0:**

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* United States refusing to enter World War I; 14 Points was the United States' organization to keep peace; 14 Points caused the war; Allied nations not interested in getting territory
- Vague response  
*Examples:* predicted with absolute certainty; Wilson worked to find a way; Wilson argued and fought with them
- No response

## Document 2

After discussing the proposed treaty provisions relating to the League of Nations with President Woodrow Wilson, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge gave an address to the United States Senate on February 28, 1919.

. . . Animated by the conviction that he would “follow no man and vote for no measures which, however well intended, seem in my best judgement to lead to dissensions [disagreements] rather than to harmony among the nations or to injury, peril, or injustice to my country,” and his insistence that the Senate, “which is charged with responsibility. . . should investigate every proposal with the utmost thoroughness,” Lodge’s address was a painstaking critique of the League’s constitution. He began with the impassioned argument that the document repudiated [contradicted] George Washington’s September 17, 1796, Farewell Address and the Monroe Doctrine, two sacred canons [principles] of American foreign policy. “I ask the press and the public and, of course, the Senate to consider well the gravity of this proposition,” Lodge pleaded, “before it takes the heavy responsibility of finally casting aside these policies which we have adhered to for a century and more and under which we have greatly served the cause of peace both at home and abroad.”

Turning to the specific provisions of the proposed draft, Lodge argued that the provision guaranteeing the independence and territorial integrity of all members was particularly troubling. He warned that, to insure that guarantee, the United States “must be in possession of fleets and armies capable of enforcing them at a moment’s notice.” . . .

Source: “Henry Cabot Lodge: Constitution of the League of Nations,” *Classic Senate Speeches*, U.S. Senate

### 32 Based on this document, what is *one* historical circumstance surrounding the debate over ratification of the Treaty of Versailles?

#### Score of 1:

- States a historical circumstance surrounding the debate over ratification of the Treaty of Versailles based on this document  
*Examples:* it contradicted George Washington’s Farewell Address/Monroe Doctrine; it would cast aside policies we have followed for a century that have greatly served the cause of peace, both at home and abroad; provision guaranteeing independence and territorial integrity of all members troubling; United States would have to be in possession of fleets and armies capable of enforcing provisions at moment’s notice; insistence that Senate should investigate every proposal with thoroughness

#### Score of 0:

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* included ideas from Washington’s Farewell Address/Monroe Doctrine; the Senate was not thorough in its investigation; the United States could not have an army
- Vague response  
*Examples:* animated by the conviction; a painstaking critique; arguments were impassioned; gravity of the proposition, this document was different
- No response

### Document 3

Again and again, my fellow citizens, mothers who lost their sons in France have come to me and, taking my hand, have shed tears upon it not only, but they have added, "God bless you, Mr. President!" Why, my fellow citizens, should they pray God to bless me? I advised the Congress of the United States to create the situation that led to the death of their sons. I ordered their sons oversea. . . . They believe, and they rightly believe, that their sons saved the liberty of the world. They believe that wrapped up with the liberty of the world is the continuous protection of that liberty by the concerted [united] powers of all civilized people. They believe that this sacrifice was made in order that other sons should not be called upon for a similar gift—the gift of life, the gift of all that died. . . .

You will say, "Is the League an absolute guaranty against war?" No; I do not know any absolute guaranty against the errors of human judgment or the violence of human passion, but . . . I ask you this: If it is not an absolute insurance against war, do you want no insurance at all? Do you want nothing? Do you want not only no probability that war will not recur, but the probability that it will recur? The arrangements of justice do not stand of themselves, my fellow citizens. The arrangements of this treaty are just, but they need the support of the combined power of the great nations of the world. . . .

Source: President Woodrow Wilson, The Pueblo Speech, September 25, 1919

### 33 According to President Woodrow Wilson, why should the Senate approve the Treaty of Versailles?

#### Score of 1:

- States a reason the Senate should approve the Treaty of Versailles according to President Woodrow Wilson

*Examples:* so mothers would not have to lose their sons who saved the liberty of the world; the liberty of the world needs continuous protection of united powers of all civilized people; would be insurance against errors of human judgment/violence of human passion; would decrease the probability that war will recur; treaty needs the support of the combined powers of the great nations of the world; terms of treaty are just/fair

#### Score of 0:

- Incorrect response

*Examples:* League is absolute guarantee against war; Congress declared war; it is an unjust treaty; United States does not need to support the great nations of the world

- Vague response

*Examples:* arrangements of justice stand by themselves; insurance is not absolute; there is no probability, it's better/good

- No response

## Document 4

. . . Opposition in the Senate to the Covenant of the League of Nations, led by Republican Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, was directed in particular at Article X, which stated that members would “undertake to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all Members of the League” and that “the Council shall advise upon the means.” Many Americans believed with Lodge that through the treaty the United States would be committed to an “entangling alliance” and that other nations could determine its foreign policy by obliging it to participate in action against aggressors.

Deciding that an appeal to the country would force the Senate into line for the necessary two-thirds vote, President Wilson traveled over 8,000 miles by train and spoke forty times in twenty-two days. He became ill, and was forced to abandon his appeal. Wilson never succeeded in mustering enough votes to have the treaty passed as he had originally proposed it. Yet his belief in the original proposal was so intense that he used his influence to keep his supporters from agreeing to the changes which could have brought passage. . . .

Source: Leonard F. James, *American Foreign Policy*, Scott, Foresman and Company, 1967

### 34 According to Leonard F. James, what is *one* reason Senator Henry Cabot Lodge opposed the League of Nations?

#### Score of 1:

- States a reason Senator Henry Cabot Lodge opposed the League of Nations according to Leonard F. James

*Examples:* he did not like Article X; many Americans supported the belief that the United States would be committed to entangling alliances; believed other nations could determine United States’ foreign policy; United States would be obliged to participate in action against aggressors

#### Score of 0:

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* President Wilson traveled more than 8,000 miles by train; Wilson became ill and was forced to abandon his appeal; Wilson spoke 40 times in 22 days in support of the League; Wilson used influence to keep supporters from agreeing to changes; changes could have resulted in passage
- Vague response  
*Examples:* opposition was directed; foreign policy would be determined; original proposal was intense; could have brought passage; it was bad
- No response



Document 5a

ALL MERCHANDISE ADVERTISED IN THE TRIBUNE IS GUARANTEED

# New York Tribune

First to Last - the Truth: News-Editorials-Advertisements

Vol. LXXIX No. 26,788 SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1920

THE WEATHER  
Snow or rain to-day; probably fair and slightly warmer tomorrow; increasing strong winds. Full Report on Last Page

## Senate Kills Treaty; Returns It to Wilson; Vote Is 49 to 35; 24 Democrats Oppose It

TWO CENTS

Source: *New York Tribune*, March 20, 1920

Document 5b

### The Gap in the Bridge



Source: Leonard Raven-Hill, *Punch* (adapted)

**35 Based on these documents, what is *one* impact of the efforts to ratify the Treaty of Versailles?**

**Score of 1:**

- States an impact of the efforts to ratify the Treaty of Versailles based on these documents  
*Examples:* Senate killed/defeated treaty; Democrats opposed treaty; vote for treaty 49 to 35 in Senate; United States did not join League of Nations; treaty returned to Wilson after Senate defeat; without United States membership, the League of Nations might not be successful; keystone of United States missing from “League of Nations Bridge”; failure of United States to join League of Nations created “Gap in the Bridge”

**Score of 0:**

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* House of Representatives passed treaty; vote was 49 to 35 in favor of treaty; Wilson passed the treaty
- Vague response  
*Examples:* gap in the bridge; keystone USA; bridge designed by the president; it improved things
- No response

## Document 6

. . . In the end Wilson failed largely because the country had never really abandoned its isolationist predilections [preferences], particularly the assumption that the United States unaided could maintain its national security. During the war, these convictions were driven underground. It is astonishing that despite the tradition of isolation, despite Wilson's collapse, despite partisan bitterness and the animosity of ethnic groups, 85 per cent of the senators voting on November 19 were willing to accept the League in some form. Yet even if the country had entered the League, it is doubtful that Americans would have been willing to assume their full obligations. The United States had not been prepared by a threat to its own security for the kind of enterprise [action] it was later to undertake in Korea. It had insufficient incentive for abandoning either isolation or absolute national sovereignty. It would take the chastening experience of World War II, Hiroshima, and the Cold War to provide that incentive. . . .

Source: William E. Leuchtenburg, *The Perils of Prosperity: 1914–1932*, The University of Chicago Press, 1993

### 36 According to William E. Leuchtenburg, what is *one* reason President Woodrow Wilson was not successful in gaining support for the Treaty of Versailles?

#### Score of 1:

- States a reason President Woodrow Wilson was not successful in gaining support for the Treaty of Versailles, according to William E. Leuchtenburg  
*Examples:* country had never really abandoned isolationist preferences; United States felt it could maintain own national security; tradition of isolation; Wilson collapsed; partisan bitterness; animosity of ethnic groups; not enough incentive to abandon isolation/absolute national sovereignty

#### Score of 0:

- Incorrect response  
*Examples:* 85 percent of voting senators willing to accept League in some form; country was ready to abandon isolation; Wilson not interested in national security; United States could not maintain its own national security
- Vague response  
*Examples:* World War II/Hiroshima/Cold War provided experience; convictions were driven underground; he did things wrong
- No response

**United States History and Government**  
**Content-Specific Rubric**  
**Civic Literacy Essay (Question 37)**  
**January 2025**

**Historical Context: Debate Over Ratification of the Treaty of Versailles**

Throughout United States history, many constitutional and civic issues have been debated by Americans. These debates have resulted in efforts by individuals, groups, and governments to address these issues. These efforts have achieved varying degrees of success. One of these constitutional and civic issues is *the debate over ratification of the Treaty of Versailles*.

**Task:**

- Describe the historical circumstances surrounding this constitutional or civic issue
- Explain efforts by individuals, groups, and/or governments to address this constitutional or civic issue
- Discuss the impact of the efforts on the United States and/or on American society

**Scoring Notes:**

1. This civic literacy essay has a minimum of **four** components (describing the historical circumstances surrounding the debate over ratification of the Treaty of Versailles, explaining *at least two* efforts to address this issue by individuals, groups, and/or governments, and discussing the impact of the efforts on the United States and/or on American society).
2. The description of historical circumstances may focus on immediate or long-term circumstances.
3. The efforts to address the debate over ratification of the Treaty of Versailles may focus on efforts by individuals, efforts by groups, efforts by governments, or any combination of these.
4. Individuals, groups, and/or governments do not need to be specifically identified as long as they are implied in the discussion.
5. The efforts to address the debate over ratification of the Treaty of Versailles may be positive, negative, or a combination of both.
6. The discussion of the impact of the efforts to address the debate over ratification of the Treaty of Versailles may be on the United States, on American society, or on both the United States and American society.
7. The discussion of the impact of the efforts to address the debate over ratification of the Treaty of Versailles may focus on immediate or long-term results.
8. The same or similar information may be used to address more than one aspect of the task as long as the information is relevant to the aspect of the task being addressed.
9. The explanation of efforts to address the debate over ratification of the Treaty of Versailles may be included in the discussion of the impact of the efforts on the United States and/or on American society.
10. The response may discuss efforts to address the debate over ratification of the Treaty of Versailles and the impact of the efforts from different perspectives, as long as the position taken is supported by accurate historical facts and examples.
11. For the purposes of meeting the criteria of using *at least four* documents in the response, documents 5a and 5b may be considered separate documents *if* the response uses specific information from *each* document.
12. When scoring, the rubric should not be used as a checklist, and no one bullet should prevent a paper from receiving a higher score, e.g., if a response lacks a conclusion, it could still receive a score of 5 if it meets the other criteria for that score point.

**Score of 5:**

- Thoroughly develops **all** aspects of the task evenly and in depth by describing the historical circumstances surrounding the debate over ratification of the Treaty of Versailles, explaining *at least two* efforts to address the issue by individuals, groups, and/or governments, and discussing the impact of the efforts on the United States and/or on American society
- Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates\* information)
- Incorporates relevant information from *at least four* documents (see Key Ideas chart)
- Incorporates relevant outside information (see Outside Information chart)
- Richly supports the theme with many 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 4:**

- Develops **all** aspects of the task but may do so somewhat unevenly by discussing one aspect of the task less thoroughly than the other aspects of the task
- Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates\* information)
- Incorporates relevant information from *at least four* documents
- Incorporates relevant outside information
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**Score of 3:**

- Develops **all** aspects of the task with little depth *or* develops *at least three* aspects of the task in some depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical (applies, may analyze and/or evaluate information)
- Incorporates some relevant information from some of the documents
- Incorporates limited relevant outside 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

**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
- Incorporates limited relevant information from the documents *or* consists primarily of relevant information copied from the documents
- Presents little or no relevant outside information
- 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
- Makes vague, unclear references to the documents or consists primarily of relevant and irrelevant information copied from the documents
- Presents no relevant outside information
- 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 historical context and/or the task as copied from the test booklet; *OR* includes only entire documents 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.**

## Debate Over Ratification of the Treaty of Versailles

### *Key Ideas from the Documents* (This list is not all-inclusive.)

#### Historical Circumstances

- Doc 1**—Wilson’s acceptance that United States unable to avoid entering World War I  
Work of Wilson to find a way to stop a world war from happening again  
Wilson’s announcement of 14 Points (included an international organization to keep peace by providing place where disputes could be discussed and mediated)  
Inspiration and hope provided to people of Allied nations that another great war could be prevented with 14 Points  
Paris Peace Conference in 1918 attended by Wilson (met by crowds numbering in the millions in Britain, France, and Italy)  
Seat of presidency moved by Wilson to Paris for six months during Paris Peace Conference  
Attempt by Wilson to make a fair treaty (leaders of Allied nations determined to win as many concessions and as much territory as possible for countries)  
Terms of peace drawn up by Wilson, including design for League of Nations (world body to settle future conflicts among nations)
- Doc 2**—Role of Washington’s Farewell Address and Monroe Doctrine in American foreign policy in serving cause of peace at home and abroad
- Doc 3**—Congress advised by President Wilson to declare World War I  
Belief of mothers that deaths of sons in World War I saved liberty of world; sacrifices made, so similar sacrifices would not have to be made by others in the future

## Debate Over Ratification of the Treaty of Versailles

### *Key Ideas from the Documents (continued)*

(This list is not all-inclusive.)

#### **Efforts to Address**

**Doc 2**—Senator Henry Cabot Lodge’s address was critical of League’s constitution (contradiction of Washington’s Farewell Address and Monroe Doctrine that had been followed for more than a century)  
Lodge’s warning that guaranteeing independence and territorial integrity of all members would be a problem (would mean United States must be in possession of fleets and armies capable of enforcement at moment’s notice)

**Doc 3**—Arguments of President Wilson for Senate approval of Treaty of Versailles (League not absolute guarantee against war but insurance; support of combined power of great nations of world needed)

**Doc 4**—Opposition in Senate led by Republican Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts

Lodge’s opposition directed in particular at Article X (members would undertake to respect and preserve against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members)

Belief of many Americans that treaty would commit United States to “entangling alliance”; other nations could determine United States foreign policy by obliging it to participate in action against aggressors

Appeal made by Wilson to country to influence Senate (traveled more than 8,000 miles by train; spoke 40 times in 22 days; became ill and forced to abandon appeal)

Influence of Wilson kept supporters from agreeing to changes that could have brought passage

**Doc 6**—85 percent of voting senators willing to accept League in some form

#### **Impact of Efforts**

**Doc 5**—Defeat of Treaty by Senate (vote 49 to 35; opposition of Democrats)

Without United States membership, success of League of Nations in doubt

**Doc 6**—Defeat of treaty (country never abandoned isolationist preferences; belief that United States unaided could maintain national security)

85 percent of voting senators willing to accept League in some form

Doubtful if country had entered League that Americans would have been willing to assume full obligations

United States not prepared for threat to its own security until experiences of World War II, Hiroshima, Cold War, Korea



## Debate Over Ratification of the Treaty of Versailles

### *Relevant Outside Information*

(This list is not all-inclusive.)

#### **Historical Circumstances**

Tradition of avoiding entanglements with Europe (Proclamation of Neutrality, 1793; details about Washington's Farewell Address; details about Monroe Doctrine)  
Increasing international involvement as result of emergence as world power in 1890s (Spanish-American War)  
Issuance of Proclamation of Neutrality when war broke out in Europe in 1914  
Maintenance of neutrality difficult (ethnic group sympathies; economic ties with Europe; pro-Allied sympathies; British blockade; German submarine warfare; *Lusitania*; Zimmermann Note)  
Wilson reelected in 1916 on campaign promise to keep United States out of war  
Declaration of war in 1917 ("world must be made safe for democracy")  
Details about 14 Points ("moral diplomacy")  
Impact of wartime experiences on Wilson and American thinking (trench warfare; poison gas; number of deaths; numbers of wounded; death from disease)  
Decision of Wilson to attend Paris Peace Conference without Republican representatives  
Determination of Allies for revenge as opposed to idealism

#### **Efforts to Address**

Development of factions to promote point of view (uncompromising isolationists; those with reservations)  
Compromises by Wilson to exempt Monroe Doctrine, tariffs, and immigration from League jurisdiction  
Newspaper coverage divided on support for League of Nations  
Criticism of treaty by ethnic groups (community activities; newsletters; social organizations)  
Role of individuals (Senator William Borah; Jane Addams; W. E. B. Du Bois)

#### **Impact of Efforts**

Disillusionment of many Americans about internationalism after World War I (no peace without victory)  
Details about negative impact of deterioration of Wilson's health on treaty ratification  
Loss of interest by public tired of war and war-related issues (Return to Normalcy; Red Scare)  
Continuation of public support for isolationist attitudes in 1920s (Quota Acts; tariffs)  
Belief of some that defeat of treaty led to rise of fascism (World War II)  
Eventual call for international peacekeeping organization by President Franklin D. Roosevelt (endorsed by Congress; supported by public opinion)  
Appeal by Truman to build strong United Nations organization

During the 1790's the United States was a new nation and England and France were fighting and President Washington declared neutrality. In his Farewell Address Washington stated that trade with Europe was ok but we should not agree to any entangling alliances. Although involvement with other nations increased during manifest destiny generally the ocean kept us apart from Europe in the 1800s.

However, during the early 1900s, as the United States became stronger it expanded its influence abroad as the Spanish American war led to significant territorial gains, but also to debates over imperialism. President Taft supported a revolution in Nicaragua, and earlier President Roosevelt had set forth the Roosevelt corollary to the Monroe doctrine which enabled intervention in the affairs of Latin American nations, such as constructing the Panama Canal and negotiating the Treaty of Portsmouth. However, in the buildup to World War I, America remained neutral and only following the Zimmerman telegram and the failures of the Sussex pledge did America enter the war in 1917. After the conflict, there were intense debates regarding postwar international diplomacy and U.S. involvement. Woodrow Wilson endorsed his 14<sup>th</sup> point that became the League of Nations to be included in the Treaty of Versailles in an effort to inaugurate a new age of American internationalism which would help guarantee world peace. However, Republicans in the Senate opposed the League due to isolationist predispositions and the desire for independent sovereignty, resulting in the triumph of isolationism and disunity domestically.

Following the World War I command economy and work of the war industries board, the devastating international losses in the European

theater of the war, and the expansion of the progressive impulse for reform domestically, Wilson hoped to make the 14 points the basis of the peace treaty but he could not get the other world leaders in Paris to agree. However, the league of Nations as a means of preventing another great war was included in the treaty (Document 1). This document suggests that Wilson supported provisions which established a new world order in which the U.S. was hegemonic which improved the chances of achieving peace and making certain that World War I would be the “war that ended all wars”. Woodrow Wilson’s desire for the ratification of the treaty of Versailles rested on the idea that while a cooperative coalition international framework could not reduce the chances of war to zero, it could facilitate more diplomatic approaches to global problems and greatly improve the odds of an enduring peace that he had hoped for in his Fourteen Points (Document 3). Thus, Wilson advocated for the treaty on the basis that the alternative of doing nothing would be entirely unproductive and misguided (Document 3). As the president of the United States, the man who bore the great responsibility for taking the nation into war and for the loss of American lives in Europe, Wilson bore guilt which informed his point of view and motivated the desire for peace. Overall, this document supports the notion that Wilson attempted to create a new foreign policy framework with the League at its center. In doing this the United States would protect the liberty America’s sons died for, therefore justifying their sacrifice and Wilson’s decision to enter the war.

However, the treaty of Versailles ultimately failed to gain traction in the Senate because Republicans opposed the League of Nations and the Democratic President due to partisanship and their belief in the

importance of independent sovereignty. In an address to the Senate Senator Lodge said the treaty of Versailles violated the principles established by the Monroe doctrine and George Washington's farewell address given that the treaty promoted a new paradigm of America's active involvement in global affairs (Document 2). As an isolationist and a strict interpreter of core documents embedded in U.S. history, Lodge viewed the treaty of Versailles as a threat to policies that have "served the cause of peace at home and abroad," illustrating the internal divisions which plagued the U.S. and eventually led to the triumph of traditional policies of disengagement. This shows that there were concerns over guaranteeing members territorial integrity and the military might be required to do that. Senator Lodge was able to convince many Republican senators to not support the treaty of Versailles because the treaty would have led to Article X, an entangling alliance that Washington's Farewell Address warned against (Document 4). This document highlights the notion that Republicans opposed heavier U.S. investment abroad and deeper connections with allies and wanted to return to normalcy and traditional policies. As a result, the debates over the treaty exacerbated domestic political disunity and destroyed the possibility of a new, coalitional framework for U.S. hegemony despite many Americans who favored the League. Moreover, William E. Leuchtenberg stated that the treaty eventually failed to get the 2/3rds majority needed for ratification despite there being 85% of Senators who were willing to accept the League in some form. (Document 6). Defeat of the Treaty and non-membership in the League didn't have to happen but compromise became impossible and even 24 Democrats voted against it (Document 5). The treaty

was defeated in the Senate in part because the U.S. thought it could take care of its own security. However, the rise of Fascist dictators in Europe and Japanese imperialism led to another world war which, like World War I, the U.S. couldn't avoid. During this period, debates over America's international involvement continued. Charles Lindbergh and others opposed U.S. entry into World War II. After WWII, the Korean and Vietnam wars led to additional debates over how far U.S. containment policies should extend because of the risk to American lives and military expenditures. It appears that debates between isolationism and internationalism will continue to influence foreign policy decision making for a long time.

## Anchor Level 5

### The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth for the debate over the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles
- Is more analytical than descriptive (Wilson supported provisions that established a new world order in which United States was hegemonic and improved chances World War I would be “war that ended all wars”; Wilson’s desire for ratification rested on idea that while a cooperative coalitional international framework could not reduce chances of war to zero, it could facilitate diplomatic approaches to global problems; Wilson bore great responsibility of taking nation into war and for loss of American lives in Europe which informed his point of view; Wilson’s attempt to create a new foreign policy framework would protect the liberty America’s sons had died for, justifying their sacrifice; Lodge felt treaty violated principles established by Monroe Doctrine and Washington’s Farewell Address as it promoted new paradigm of America’s active involvement in global affairs; debates over treaty exacerbated domestic political disunity and destroyed possibility of a new coalitional framework for United States hegemony; defeat of treaty did not have to happen but compromise impossible)
- Incorporates relevant information from all the documents
- Incorporates relevant outside information (although involvement with other nations increased during Manifest Destiny, generally ocean kept us apart from Europe in 1800s; during early 1900s United States expanded its influence abroad as Spanish American War led to territorial gains and debates over imperialism; following Zimmermann Telegram and failure of Sussex Pledge, America entered war in 1917; expansion of Progressive reform led to Wilson’s hopes to make 14 Points basis of treaty; Republicans opposed heavier United States investment abroad and deeper connections with Allies and wanted to return to “normalcy”; rise of fascist dictators in Europe and Japanese imperialism led to another world war United States could not avoid; debates over America’s international involvement continued; Korean and Vietnam Wars led to debates over how far United States containment policies should extend, because of risk to American lives and military expenditures)
- Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details (Wilson endorsed his 14th Point which became League of Nations; Republicans in Senate opposed League; League of Nations included in treaty; Treaty of Versailles failed to gain traction in Senate because Republicans opposed League of Nations; Lodge able to convince many Republican senators to oppose treaty; treaty failed to get 2/3rds majority needed for ratification, despite 85 percent of senators willing to accept League in some form; 24 Democrats voted against treaty)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that discusses historical circumstances and a concluding sentence that states debates between isolationism and internationalism will continue for a long time

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. Substantive relevant historical details establish an effective context for the element of debate that often accompanied shifts in American foreign policy. A critical appraisal of document information establishes a sophisticated political understanding of the issues surrounding ratification.

World War I was on its way even in the 19th century. Events involving imperialism and colonialism such as the Scramble of Africa in the 1880s made European powers grow in strength. Alliances between certain European powers were tested when Archduke Ferdinand was killed in 1914, and the countries on the Continent became ready to fight each other. Nationalism was high, and many European countries thought WWI would be a fast skirmish. It ended up being a 4 year long war, with 20th century technology devastating European soldiers who were using 19th century tactics. The U.S. would join in 1917, and the war would finally end the year after. President Wilson had promised to keep the country out of the war, yet despite his Neutrality Proclamation he felt compelled to break that promise when Germany broke theirs with more submarine warfare. Determined to prevent that wartime destruction from happening again President Wilson would try to work with Europe after the war so lasting peace could be made. However, there was not always agreement among the Big Four. Wilson's objectives were not always the same as other Allied leaders who were not interested in being forgiving of Germany. A lasting peace to Wilson meant a League of Nations should be included in the Treaty which complicated the debate over the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles. This debate led to America trying to figure out its responsibilities and role in the world going into the 1920s as a world power.

WWI is known as the great war, and for good reason. With millions killed and countries devastated, Wilson felt compelled to help the world out. During the war, Wilson announced his 14 points to assure Nations fighting the war that a second great war could be prevented. He would travel to Paris in late 1918 to help in the Paris Peace conference, and

desired to finalize a treaty that would be fair to all and include his Fourteen Points. Wilson helped draw up terms of peace including his design for a League of Nations, a world body to settle future conflicts among nations..." (Doc. 1). In Document 3, he mentions that it might not be totally successful in preventing another war, but it would be better than doing nothing to stop another great war.

U.S. opinion was split on whether it should continue to be involved with Europe after WWI. Some thought the U.S. should never have gotten involved in the war in the first place and others believed like Wilson that liberty won in the war should be protected. Wilson felt compelled to work for world peace and believed the League was the answer, but Senator Lodge disagreed. In an address to the Senate Senator Lodge mentioned how helping Europe protect its territory as the U.S. would have to do as a member of the League of Nations would contradict Washington's Farewell address of 1796 and the Monroe Doctrine of 1823. "Many Americans agreed with Lodge that through the treaty the United States would be committed to an 'entangling alliance' and that other nations could determine its foreign policy by obliging it to participate in action against aggressors" (Doc. 4). This was not acceptable to people who believed the U.S. was better off just taking care of itself like it had before the war. Americans were afraid that other countries in the League of Nations could require the U.S. to do certain actions that'd go against American policies and beliefs. Wilson wanted a League of Nations so the U.S. could work with other nations for world peace, but the resistance from many Americans and the Senate wouldn't make it possible.

Going into the 1920s, the U.S. returned to isolationism.



---

Anchor Paper – Civic Literacy Essay—Level 4

---

Document 5b shows America as the missing piece of the bridge after the Senate refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. The U.S. wanted to maintain its independence and continue to mature into a world power without taking on too much responsibility after WWI. WWI also didn't result in Americans giving up their isolationist and national sovereignty ways, which would later occur due to WWII. Just like Wilson, FDR couldn't keep the U.S. out of war and just like Wilson he proposed an international organization to settle conflicts. But unlike Wilson this organization, the United Nations, was supported and the U.S. became a member.

For the U.S., the debate over ratifying the Treaty of Versailles ended in failure for Wilson.

## Anchor Level 4

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task for the debate over the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles
- Is both descriptive and analytical (President Wilson tried to work with Europe after war for lasting peace; debate over Treaty of Versailles led to America trying to figure out its responsibilities and role in world in 1920s; with millions killed in World War I and countries devastated, Wilson felt compelled to help world; during World War I, Wilson announced his 14 Points to assure nations fighting war that a second war could be prevented; Wilson felt League might not be totally successful in preventing another war, but better than doing nothing; some thought United States should never have gotten involved in World War I in first place and others believed, like Wilson, that liberty won in war should be protected; many Americans agreed with Lodge that, through the treaty, United States would be committed to an “entangling alliance” and other nations could determine our foreign policy; some Americans felt United States better off just taking care of itself; Wilson wanted League so United States could work with other nations for world peace, but resistance from many Americans and Senate did not make it possible; United States wanted to maintain its independence and continue to mature into world power without taking on too much responsibility after World War I)
- Incorporates relevant information from all the documents
- Incorporates relevant outside information (events involving imperialism and colonialism, such as “scramble for Africa” in 1880s, made European powers grow in strength; alliances between European powers tested when Archduke Ferdinand killed and countries on continent ready to fight each other; President Wilson promised to keep country out of war yet despite Neutrality Proclamation felt compelled to break promise when Germany increased submarine warfare; Wilson’s objectives not always same as other Allied leaders who not interested in forgiving Germany; World War I did not result in Americans giving up isolationist and national sovereignty; like Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt could not keep United States out of war and, like Wilson, he proposed an international organization to settle conflicts but United States became a member)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (Wilson traveled to Paris Peace Conference; Wilson desired to finalize a treaty that would be fair to all and include his 14 Points; Wilson helped draw up terms of peace, including his design for a League, a world body to settle future conflicts among nations; United States opinion split on whether should continue to be involved with Europe after World War I; Senator Lodge felt helping Europe protect its territory as United States would have to do as a member of League would contradict Washington’s Farewell Address and Monroe Doctrine; debate over treaty ended in failure)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that discusses historical circumstances and a concluding sentence

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. Outside historical information supports document interpretation, some good conclusions, and a relevant comparison of Presidents Wilson and Roosevelt. Analytic statements about the issues surrounding ratification would have benefited from additional supporting facts and details.

Since America's beginning, the question of isolationism had been answered clearly by most U.S. presidents. From the Farewell Address of George Washington to the Monroe Doctrine, America's stance has been to be firmly neutral and uninvolved with European Affairs. By the presidency of Woodrow Wilson and the close of World War One however, America's position in the world had begun to change, and the debate in isolationism was sparked again by the issues raised by the Treaty of Versailles.

Prior to the Great War America followed fairly closely Washington's Farewell Address and the Monroe Doctrine, which worked pretty effectively at keeping the U.S. out of European Conflict and Europe out of the western hemisphere. Due to a variety of factors like unrestricted submarine warfare and the Zimmerman telegram though, America felt as if its neutrality had been breached. With American support, the Allied powers were able to win against the Germans, and a peace treaty needed to be signed. Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States during the Great War, came up with 14 points to hopefully prevent another war like this one from occurring. One of these 14 points was the creation of a sort of international organization to encourage cooperation and keep the peace. In order for this to work, the United States as the world's most powerful nation had to be involved in the Treaty's League of Nations. As demonstrated by document 5b, the U.S. was supposed to be the "keystone" in the League of Nations, Back at home, the idea was actually somewhat unpopular. Opposition in the Senate was led by Henry Cabot Lodge who was afraid the League would function as an entangling alliance, which would inevitably pull the U.S. into the very next war Wilson was trying to prevent.

Futhermore, when he addressed the Senate in document 2, he stated that joining the League of Nations would directly go against the advice of George Washington and would reject the Monroe Doctrine, ideas which were still prominent and popular in the late 1910s. Of course, many still did support the League of Nations, especially as Woodrow Wilson advocated for it so strongly. Documents 1 and 3 detail why Wilson so passionately tried to get support for the League, millions of Europeans greeted Wilson when he was working on the Treaty in Paris hoping for a League of Nations to prevent another war. His popularity in Europe made him believe the League would be accepted and have the ability to lessen the chance of another conflict in the coming generations. Wilson's efforts to convince the people and the Senate didn't succeed and America was ultimately, however, in favor of remaining isolationist. The United States never joined the League of Nations, and the U.S. Senate never ratified the Versailles, signing a different treaty with the Central Powers. It wouldn't be until WWII that the U.S. would truly take on its role as world leader and break its isolationist tradition by joining the United Nations.

### Anchor Level 3

#### **The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth for the debate over the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles
- Is more descriptive than analytical (from Farewell Address of Washington to Monroe Doctrine America's stance to be firmly neutral and uninvolved with European affairs; since America's beginning, position of isolationism answered by most presidents; by presidency of Wilson and close of World War I, America's position in world had begun to change; debate on isolationism sparked by issues raised by Treaty of Versailles; purpose of international organization to encourage cooperation and keep peace; to keep peace United States as world's most powerful nation had to be involved in League but idea somewhat unpopular in United States; Lodge feared League would function as entangling alliance, which would inevitably pull United States into war that Wilson was trying to prevent; ideas of Washington and Monroe Doctrine still prominent and popular in late 1910s; many still supported League, especially as Wilson advocated so strongly for it; ultimately America in favor of remaining isolationist)
- Incorporates some relevant information from all the documents
- Incorporates relevant outside information (Washington's Farewell Address and Monroe Doctrine worked pretty effectively at keeping United States out of European conflicts and Europe out of western hemisphere; due to variety of factors, such as unrestricted submarine warfare and Zimmermann Telegram, America felt like its neutrality had been breached; with American support, Allied powers able to win against Germans and a peace treaty needed to be signed; United States signed a different treaty with Central Powers; would not be until World War II that United States would truly take on role of world leader and break isolationist tradition by joining United Nations)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (President Wilson of United States came up with 14 Points to hopefully prevent another war from occurring; one of 14 Points was creation of an international organization; opposition to Treaty in Senate led by Henry Cabot Lodge who stated joining League would go directly against advice of George Washington and would reject Monroe Doctrine; millions of Europeans greeted Wilson when he was working on treaty in Paris; Wilson's efforts to convince people and Senate did not succeed; United States never joined League or ratified the treaty)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that is a restatement of the theme and a concluding sentence

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. A good understanding of important foreign policy concepts support the narrative, which is framed by document interpretation. Further development of impact would have benefited the discussion.

In the early 1900's Woodrow Wilson was working hard to find a way to prevent another "great war." There was lots of discussion contradicting these ideas. In 1918 Wilson introduced his 14 points. These principles were designed to remove causes of a probable great war. These points gave hope to Allied groups that a war would be prevented. In 1919 Woodrow Wilson attended the Paris Peace Conference to make a fair treaty with the other nations. Along with this, he had also introduced his thought of the League of Nations.

There was lots of debate surrounding the conversation of the League of Nations and the treaty of Versailles within the United States. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge expressed his feelings on the topic, and claimed that it would cause the U.S. to be committed to an "entangling alliance." He also believed that it contradicted the ideas presented in the Monroe Doctrine and George Washington's Farewell Address. Henry Cabot Lodge also felt that the League of Nations and Treaty of Versailles interfered with our Foreign Policy of isolationism.

Although Henry Cabot Lodge disagreed with Woodrow Wilson's plan to fix the chances of another great war, Wilson also had opinion on the topic. Woodrow had felt that even though this treaty cannot completely eliminate any chance of war, it still gives the country a sense of security and protection. The ideas that Woodrow had presented at that peace conference would not eliminate war, but would make war less likely to occur. Wilson wanted the people of his country, along with his Allied nations to feel secure with ideas of anti-war.

Concluding this, the ideas that Woodrow Wilson had presented at the Paris Peace Conference had created a lot of controversy among the states and within the house. Some felt that Wilson had failed as a

president by giving up our isolationist preferences. They feel as if the president gave up their only sense of security.

---

**Anchor Level 2**

**The response:**

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for the debate over the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles
- Is primarily descriptive (in early 1900s Woodrow Wilson working hard to find another way to prevent another “great war”; much discussion contradicting Wilson’s ideas; 14 Points designed to remove causes of a probable great war; 14 Points gave hope to Allied groups that war could be prevented; Senator Lodge claimed Treaty of Versailles would cause United States to be committed to an “entangling alliance,” contradicted ideas presented in Washington’s Farewell Address and Monroe Doctrine, and interfered with our foreign policy of isolationism; Wilson felt that even though treaty cannot completely eliminate any chance of war it still gives country a sense of security and protection; Wilson’s ideas would not eliminate war but would make war less likely to occur; Wilson wanted people of his country along with Allied nations to feel secure with ideas of anti-war; some felt Wilson had failed as president by giving up isolationist preferences); includes faulty and weak application (Wilson’s ideas created a lot of controversy within the states and within the House)
- Incorporates limited relevant information from documents 1, 2, and 3
- Presents no relevant outside information
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (Wilson introduced 14 Points in 1918; Wilson attended Paris Peace Conference to make a fair treaty with other nations and introduce his thoughts of a League of Nations)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that is beyond a restatement of the theme and a one sentence conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. While impact is addressed by a general conclusion, relevant statements indicate an understanding of the documents and their relation to the task. But despite some analytic statements, lack of supporting facts and details, especially from outside the documents, weakens the effort.

---

## Anchor Paper – Civic Literacy Essay—Level 1

---

Many efforts have been made in the U.S. to address constitutional and civic issues. There have been many debates over these issues, not only including the government but individuals and groups as well. The main issue in the early 1900's was the debate over the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles.

After World War I, president Woodrow Wilson came up with these ideas of keeping the peace and preventing another great war. He knew there would be another world war if a plan was not made and agreed upon by the nations of the world, as stated in Document one.

Wilson made many efforts with his ideas to address this issue. He spoke out to the people hoping to gain support for his idea of the Treaty of Versailles. In document three he explains, at least with the treaty, they gain some insurance against war. With the treaty there is less probability that war will recur, being that the arrangements of the treaty are just, hoping to gain support from combined powers of nations.

The impacts of these efforts did not lead to good things for the U.S. The senate did not approve the treaty



## Anchor Level 1

### **The response:**

- Minimally addresses all aspects of the task for the debate over the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles
- Is descriptive (after World War I, President Wilson came up with ideas to keep peace and prevent another great war; Wilson knew there would be another world war if a plan not made and agreed upon by nations of the world; Wilson spoke to the people hoping to gain support for Treaty of Versailles; Wilson felt that with treaty there would be less probability war would recur since arrangements of treaty would be just; Wilson hoped to gain support from combined powers of nations; impact of efforts did not lead to good things for the United States)
- Includes minimal information from documents 1, 3, and 4
- Presents no relevant outside information
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (Senate did not approve treaty)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that is a restatement of the theme and a conclusion that makes two general statements about impact

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. General summaries of document information briefly address all aspects of the task by describing Wilson's role in the Treaty of Versailles. A limited understanding of the Treaty of Versailles is demonstrated, and concentration on Wilson's role limits the discussion.

Before World War I, the United States for the most part followed isolationist beliefs. Americans did not want to be involved with foreign countries, hoping it would guarantee peace for them at home. Americans did not want to go against George Washington's wishes of neutrality and the ideas he included in his farewell address. Until our actual involvement in World War I, neutrality worked for awhile, but it became evident that it would not keep the peace forever. Therefore, after World War I was over and the allies won, President Woodrow Wilson helped create the League of Nations as part of the Treaty of Versailles. The League would create alliances between countries in hopes of avoiding another World War.

In his efforts to get the Treaty of Versailles ratified by the Senate, President Wilson "traveled over 8,000 miles by train and spoke forty times in twenty-two days" (document 4). He tried his best to convince Americans that ratifying the treaty was in the best interest of America. He asked his audience "if it is not an absolute insurance against war, do you want no insurance at all?" (document 3). His belief was that the League of Nations and the Treaty of Versailles would add some protection to the United States and save the liberty American soldiers had died for in World War I.

Wilson's opposition included Senator Henry Cabot Lodge who believed the League of Nations and the Treaty of Versailles would not keep peace, but inspire conflict between the United States and other countries. After World War I, Lodge and many Americans were skeptical of other countries, since they had drawn the United States into a war that was resented by many Americans. Because of this skepticism, Senator Lodge did not want the Treaty of Versailles

to be ratified. He believed and worried that a strong army and navy would be needed to insure the guarantee of Article X. This could be expensive considering World War I had just ended. Instead of a Treaty that “repudiated George Washington’s September 17, 1796, Farewell Address and the Monroe Doctrine, two sacred canons of American foreign policy” the United States should just worry about itself and its own safety (document 2). Neutrality had worked for the United States for a long time, so Senator Lodge believed it should still work. World War I was a rare occurrence and America could avoid another world war by not spending a lot of money on building up their military and staying out of entangling alliances. If the United States had a strong military, it might mean we would be more likely to get involved in conflicts with other countries.

Because of Senator Lodge and many other American’s beliefs, it was hard for President Wilson to gain the support needed to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. Due to the lack of Republican support for the treaty in the Senate, its vote was 49 to 35 with 24 democrats also opposing it (document 5a). One of the checks and balances put in place for the government is that two-thirds of the senate must agree in order for a treaty to be ratified. This was not two-thirds of the Senate and therefore, the United States neither ratified the treaty of Versailles nor joined the League of Nations.

It is impossible to know whether or not the United States would have avoided World War II if we would have joined the League of Nations or ratified the Treaty of Versailles, but conflict in Europe was almost unavoidable. In the 1940s, once again a World War began and the United States was forced to militarily intervene after the bombing

of Pearl Harbor. The fighting lasted for years and countries fell to the Axis powers. The United States and its Allies finally won when they defeated Hitler in Europe and the United States bombed Hiroshima, causing Japan to surrender. Although the United States did not have guaranteed alliances through the League of Nations they were able to team up with countries such as England and France. Other countries which were a part of the League of Nations were supposed to prevent conflict and another world war, but still got dragged into the fighting. Because of these events, it is hard to know if the Treaty of Versailles would have helped the United States avoid conflict in the long run.

Americans have debated many constitutional and civic topics throughout American history. Many groups, individuals and even governments have tried to address these ideas. Some were not completely successful, but some had more success than others. One of these constitutional and civic issues was the debate over the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles. The treaty began to be drafted even before the end of the war, partly by Woodrow Wilson, the U.S. president at the time. To try and prevent future wars, Wilson created 14 points, one of which being an international organization to keep the peace (Doc 1). Despite this idea being incorporated into the Treaty of Versailles as the League of Nations as a way to protect world peace, many in the American Senate were against it. Through this debate over the Treaty there were many attempts to address the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles.

After Woodrow Wilson compromised the Treaty of Versailles into existence by giving up most of his Fourteen Points to get the League included in the Treaty he had to get it ratified by the U.S. Senate. Criticisms coming from different immigrant groups, such as the Germans, and political parties made ratification a challenge. To do this, Wilson gave speeches throughout the U.S. to create support for the Treaty of Versailles and its League of Nations. Although Wilson admitted the League was not a guarantee that there would be no future wars, he believed it would help to prevent war, thus honoring the sacrifice of Americans who had died for liberty in World War I—a war he tried unsuccessfully to keep the U.S. out of (Doc 3). Wilson urged the Senate to ratify the Treaty with the League to help establish an international peace keeping force to preserve the liberty Americans had died for.

However many Americans, such as Senator Henry Cabot Lodge,

had wanted the U.S. to stay out of World War I and after the war led an isolationist movement. He felt the Treaty of Versailles would lead to dangerous entangling, international alliances. Even as Wilson gave speeches for ratification, Henry Cabot Lodge gave speeches against ratification. Lodge argued to the Senate that the Treaty and League went against traditional American principles of isolationism laid out in George Washington's farewell address and the Monroe Doctrine (Doc 2). Lodge, and many Republicans in the U.S. Senate felt that joining the League of Nations would only draw the U.S. into more international conflicts. Many thought the U.S. had already sacrificed too much defending the Allies in World War I. One of the major reasons that many Americans disliked the League was Article X, calling for nations to "respect and preserve us against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the League" (Doc 4). Many felt this could force the U.S. to become more involved internationally at a time when many Americans were more concerned about their own country and worried about immigrants, communists, and the Red Scare. Wilson's speeches tried to address this, but he fell ill and was unable to continue to rally support and had difficulty carrying out his responsibilities as president. Angry at Lodge and not feeling his best, Wilson also refused any compromises proposed by opponents of the League leading to the failure of the U.S. Senate to ratify the Treaty of Versailles.

The refusal of the U.S. Senate to ratify the treaty led to a weak League of Nations and the continuance of American isolationism until World War II. As president of the U.S., Woodrow Wilson had proposed that the Treaty of Versailles include the League of Nations, so

the U.S. was expected to be a participant. However, because the Senate refused to ratify the treaty, the U.S. never joined the League. The League of Nations was thus weakened, as the U.S. would have been the strongest point holding up for the rest of the League, as shown by the cartoon of Document 5b. Without U.S. support the League of Nations was unable to protect world peace, as it had little power and had to deal with European recovery from the war and Germany's anger over the harsh terms of the Treaty. Another effect, as well as a cause of, the refusal to ratify was continuing U.S. isolationism.

The U.S. was largely isolationist throughout most of its history. The nation became involved in World War I begrudgingly, but there was still an undertone of isolationism. Isolationism returned in full force after World War I, and continued into the 1930s with the passage of the Neutrality Acts. The bombing of Pearl Harbor ended our isolationism and led to U.S. involvement in World War II (Doc 6). After another terrible war Americans seemed more willing to support President Roosevelt's idea for a new "League of Nations" and President Truman's containment policies designed to stop the spread of communism in Europe and around the globe.

After the ending of World War I, Americans weren't ready to commit to membership in the League of Nations and the Treaty of Versailles was rejected. Some, like its author Woodrow Wilson, supported the Treaty and League as a peacekeeping force, while others feared it as a threat to American isolationism. Not wanting responsibility for other nations' problems and because of Wilson's refusal to compromise the Senate refused to ratify the treaty.

This led to a weakened League of Nations, unable to prevent the

---

**Civic Literacy Essay—Practice Paper – B**

---

outbreak of World War II. The defeat of the treaty also allowed for the continuance of American isolationism, which would not be ended until the threats of World War II and the Cold War were recognized. As those threats were addressed it became obvious that neither isolation nor absolute national sovereignty would probably ever be possible.



George Washington's farewell address influenced Henry Cabot Lodge's and president Woodrow Wilson's proposed treaty provisions relating to the league of nations. Lodge spoke and said that the league's constitution contradicted Washington's farewell address and Monroe doctrine. Washington's farewell basically stated how to run the country without being corrupt.

President Wilson had traveled over 8,000 miles and spoke over forty times in twenty two days to ratify the league of nations constitution. However he was not successful in getting enough votes as he was forced to abandon his speeches due to illness.

When Wilson's fourteen points were created it inspired allied nations of the U.S. that another great war would've been prevented. Wilson had traveled to other countries in hopes of making a fair treaty. The league of nations was created to help solve future conflicts among nations.

Throughout US history many issues have been debated by the population. One such issue that was widely debated was the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles. Many Americans agreed with the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles and many didn't.

Before WWI Americans had isolationist values and preferences, however during WWI Americans started to steer away from tradition and wanted to get involved in the war. President Wilson knew the terrors that awaited for Americans, so he came up with the 14 points to prevent another war, one of those points was the creation of the League of Nations, doc 1. After the war many Americans wanted to go back to isolationists values. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge lobbied for not ratifying the Treaty of Versailles, doc 2. Lodge and many Americans viewed the League as a way for Europeans to force the US into its affairs, doc 4. Wilson lobbied for the treaties ratification, "If it is not absolute insurance, do you want no insurance at all?" (doc 3). Wilson viewed the treaty as a form of insurance, however despite Wilson travelling thousands of miles making speeches (doc 4), the treaty was ratified but the US didn't join the League of Nations, doc 5.

The debate of ratification of the Treaty of Versailles would later influence FDR's signing of the neutrality act in the 1930's. Despite being widely debated the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles heavily impacted US history.

After the “War to End All Wars”, namely WWI, Europe was scrambling to avoid another bloody, futile conflict. Through this haze of fear came Woodrow Wilson, trumpeting his vision for peace—the League of Nations. However, Wilson’s plan was marred by opposition from Republicans in the Senate. Wilson argued that some semblance of diplomacy over shadowed Republican Senator Henry Cabot Lodge’s favorable view of isolationism.

Wilson, the Democratic president at the time, decided to go directly to the American people to explain why the League was important. He argued in his Pueblo speech that having any insurance against future wars is better than having none (Doc 3). In his speech he spoke about how soldiers, Americans, died for Liberty and, if ratified, the Treaty of Versailles would make their deaths more meaningful and hopefully American soldiers wouldn’t have to fight and die in another world war. He traveled over 8,000 miles around the country because he believed firmly in the League, so much that while in Paris he sacrificed many of his 14 Points to give concessions to the other Allies. (Doc 1).

Since the Senate had to ratify the Treaty, Wilson personally discussed provisions of the League of Nations with Senators but did not get Republican support. The final treaty seemed to have given everyone something to criticize. Republican leader Henry Cabot Lodge argued against Wilson’s ideas for peace because of concerns over isolationism. Except for the 1890s, America had long felt a strong commitment to isolate itself. Before both world wars, we were neutral, unentangled, and respected Washington’s advice almost until the Cold War. (Doc 6) Lodge used this foreign policy tradition against Wilson. He attacked Article X of the Treaty on the basis that it would

threaten America's independence when it came to foreign policy that honored Washington's Farewell Address and the Monroe Doctrine (Doc 4). Article X stated that America would have to possibly fight in a war to protect its allies in the League. This would be antithetical to conservative beliefs and so Lodge fought against the League as hard as Wilson fought for it. Wilson's strong belief in the Treaty meant he would not make any changes that might have led to Lodge and other Republicans voting for ratification. (Doc 4). The Senate returned the Treaty to Wilson and America did not join the League (Doc 5a).

Because America never ratified the Treaty and signed a separate peace treaty with Germany, America was eventually faced with the consequences of another world war. Two decades later, America would be embroiled in another conflict, so World War I did not end all wars as Wilson had hoped. With the establishment of NATO, America entered into a type of League that Wilson would be proud of, and the UN, however effective or ineffective it has been, was based on Wilson's original plan. Wilson himself saw the war in the future once warning that war would erupt in the next 2 decades if there wasn't a League to prevent it. Maybe the Senate and Wilson should have listened more carefully to each other for the good of world peace.

## Practice Paper A—Score Level 3

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth for the debate over the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles
- Is more descriptive than analytical (for most part before World War I, United States followed isolationist beliefs; Americans didn't want to be involved with foreign countries, hoping it would guarantee peace at home; Americans didn't want to go against Washington's wishes of neutrality and the ideas included in his Farewell Address; until actual involvement in World War I, neutrality worked but became evident would not keep peace forever; League would create alliances between countries in hopes of avoiding another world war; Wilson tried his best to convince Americans ratifying treaty in best interests of America; Wilson asked audience if not absolute insurance against war do you want no insurance at all; Wilson believed League and Treaty would offer some protection to United States and save the liberty American soldiers had died for in World War I; Lodge believed League and Treaty would inspire conflict between United States and other countries; after World War I, Lodge and many Americans skeptical of other countries since they had drawn United States into a war resented by many Americans; Lodge believed a strong army and navy needed to insure guarantee of Article X, which could be expensive considering World War I had just ended; Lodge thought United States should worry about itself and its own safety; Lodge believed neutrality should still work as it had worked for a long time; Lodge felt World War I was a rare occurrence and America could avoid another war by not spending a lot of money on building up its military and staying out of entangling alliances; Lodge believed if United States had strong military could lead to greater involvement in conflicts with other countries; Lodge and other Americans made it difficult for Wilson to gain support needed to ratify treaty; impossible to know if United States could have avoided World War II if had signed treaty and joined League)
- Incorporates some relevant information from all the documents
- Incorporates limited relevant outside information (in 1940s, once again a world war began and United States forced to militarily intervene after bombing of Pearl Harbor; World War II lasted years and countries fell to Axis powers; United States and its allies finally won World War II; Hitler defeated in Europe and Hiroshima bombed, causing Japan to surrender; United States able to team up with countries such as England and France even though not a member of League; although League supposed to prevent conflict and another world war, countries dragged into fighting)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (after Allies won World War I, Wilson helped create League as part of treaty; in efforts to get treaty ratified by Senate, Wilson traveled over 8,000 miles by train and spoke forty times in twenty-two days; Senator Lodge opposed Wilson's ideas; treaty would repudiate Washington's Farewell Address and Monroe Doctrine; due to lack of Republican support, the Senate voted 49 to 35 in opposition to the treaty, with 24 Democrats also opposing it; two-thirds of Senate needed for treaty to be ratified; United States did not ratify treaty or join League)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that is beyond a restatement of the theme and a conclusion that discusses impact

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response is framed by document information that includes some thoughtful analytic statements. Additional supporting facts and details would have strengthened the discussion, especially in the treatment of historical circumstances.

## Practice Paper B—Score Level 5

### The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth for the debate over the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles
- Is more analytical than descriptive (Wilson compromised most of his 14 Points to get League included in treaty; although Wilson admitted League not a guarantee against future wars, he believed it would help prevent war; Wilson wanted to honor sacrifice of Americans who died for liberty in World War I; even as Wilson gave speeches for ratification, Lodge gave speeches against it; Lodge felt treaty would lead to dangerous, entangling alliances; Lodge and many Republicans in Senate felt that joining League would only draw United States into more international conflicts; many Americans disliked Article X because they felt it would force United States to become more involved internationally; angry at Lodge and not feeling his best, Wilson refused to consider any compromise proposals; refusal of Senate to ratify treaty led to a weak League and continuance of American isolation until World War II; United States expected to be a participant in League as Wilson had proposed the idea; without United States support League unable to protect world peace; after ending of World War I, Americans not ready to commit to membership in League)
- Incorporates relevant information from all the documents
- Incorporates relevant outside information (criticisms of treaty came from different immigrant groups and political parties making ratification a challenge; Wilson unsuccessful at keeping United States out of World War I; Lodge wanted United States to stay out of World War I and led isolationist movement; many thought United States had already sacrificed too much defending Allies in World War I; Americans more concerned about own country and worried about immigrants, communists, and Red Scare; Wilson had trouble carrying out his responsibilities as president when he fell ill; Europe had to deal with recovery from war and Germany's anger over harsh terms of treaty; isolationism returned in full force after World War I and continued into 1930s with passage of Neutrality Acts; bombing of Pearl Harbor ended American isolationism and led to United States involvement in World War II; after another terrible war Americans seemed more willing to support President Roosevelt's idea for a "new League of Nations" and President Truman's containment policies designed to stop spread of communism; as threats of World War II and Cold War addressed, it became obvious that neither isolation nor absolute sovereignty would be possible)
- Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details (League of Nations incorporated into treaty; many in Senate against League; treaty had to be ratified by Senate; Wilson gave speeches throughout United States to get support for treaty and its League; Lodge argued that treaty and League went against traditional American principles of isolationism laid out in Washington's Farewell Address and Monroe Doctrine; Wilson fell ill and unable to continue rally to support League; Senate failed to ratify Treaty of Versailles so United States never joined)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that is beyond a restatement of the theme and a conclusion that focuses on impact

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. Analytical treatment of the issues surrounding the debate demonstrate a good understanding of the influence of domestic factors and Wilson's leadership on the ratification process. Thoughtful conclusions recognize the complex nature of foreign policy issues.

## Practice Paper C—Score Level 1

### **The response:**

- Minimally addresses all aspects of the task for the debate over the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles
- Is descriptive (Washington’s Farewell Address influenced Henry Cabot Lodge’s and President Wilson’s proposed treaty provisions relating to League of Nations; Lodge said League’s constitution contradicted Washington’s Farewell Address and Monroe Doctrine; Wilson inspired Allied nations of the United States that another great war could be prevented; Wilson traveled to other countries in hopes of getting a fair treaty; League of Nations created to help solve future conflicts among nations); includes faulty and weak application (Washington’s Farewell Address basically stated how to run the country without being corrupt)
- Includes minimal information from documents 1, 2, and 4
- Presents no relevant outside information
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (President Wilson traveled over 8,000 miles and spoke over forty times in twenty-two days for ratification of League of Nations; Wilson forced to abandon his speeches due to illness; Wilson not successful in getting enough votes)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; lacks a specific introduction and a conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. Simplistic interpretation of document information generally addresses the task. Although a basic understanding of the task is demonstrated, generalizations that lack supporting facts and details further weaken the effort.

## Practice Paper D—Score Level 2

### **The response:**

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task for the debate over the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles
- Is primarily descriptive (many Americans agreed with Treaty of Versailles and many did not; Wilson knew terrors awaited Americans so he came up with 14 Points to prevent another war; after the war many Americans wanted to return to isolationist values; Lodge and many Americans viewed League as a way for Europeans to force the United States into its affairs; Wilson viewed treaty as a form of insurance)
- Incorporates limited relevant information from documents 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
- Presents little relevant outside information (before World War I, Americans had isolationist values and preferences; however, during World War I, Americans started to steer away from tradition and wanted to get involved in the war; debate over ratification of Treaty of Versailles later influenced Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Neutrality Act in 1930s)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (League of Nations one of 14 Points; Senator Lodge lobbied for not ratifying Treaty of Versailles; Wilson lobbied for ratification of Treaty of Versailles; Wilson traveled thousands of miles and made speeches; treaty ratified but United States did not join League of Nations)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a one sentence conclusion that are a restatement of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. Simplistic and general statements briefly address all aspects of the task. A few thoughtful conclusions are included, but lack of development weakens their effectiveness.



## Practice Paper E—Score Level 4

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task for the debate over the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles
- Is both descriptive and analytical (Wilson’s plan marred by opposition from Senate Republicans; Wilson arguments about some semblance of diplomacy overshadowed Lodge’s favorable view of isolationism; Wilson decided to go directly to American people to explain why League important; Wilson argued having any insurance against future wars better than having none; Wilson hoped treaty would make deaths of American soldiers in World War I more meaningful and hopefully American soldiers would not have to fight and die in another world war; Wilson believed in League so much that while in Paris sacrificed many of his 14 Points to give concessions to other Allies; final treaty seemed to have given everyone something to criticize; Lodge used America’s foreign policy tradition of isolationism against Wilson; Lodge attacked Article X on basis it would threaten America’s independence on foreign policy because would be antithetical to conservative beliefs; Lodge fought against treaty as hard as Wilson fought for it; Wilson’s strong belief in treaty meant he would not make any changes that might have led Lodge and other Republicans to vote for ratification; America eventually faced consequences of another world war, so World War I did not end all wars as Wilson had hoped; Wilson saw war in future would erupt if not a League to prevent it; maybe Wilson and Senate should have listened more carefully to each other for good of world peace)
- Incorporates relevant information from all the documents
- Incorporates some relevant outside information (after World War I, Europe scrambling to avoid another bloody, futile conflict; Wilson personally discussed provisions of League with senators but did not get Republican support; Lodge had concerns over isolationism that, except for 1890s, America long felt a commitment to; before both world wars, America was neutral, unentangled, and respected Washington’s advice, almost until Cold War; America signed separate peace treaty with Germany; with establishment of NATO, America entered into type of League Wilson would be proud of; United Nations, however effective or ineffective it has been, based on Wilson’s original plan)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (Wilson’s League of Nations was his vision for peace; Wilson traveled more than 8,000 miles because he firmly believed in League; Senate had to ratify treaty; Republican Senator Lodge argued against Wilson’s idea for peace; America’s foreign policy honored Washington’s Farewell Address and Monroe Doctrine; Article X stated America would possibly have to fight in a war to protect its Allies in League; Senate returned treaty to Wilson and America did not join League)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that is beyond a restatement of the theme and a concluding sentence

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. While document interpretation is generally thoughtful, additional supportive outside information would have strengthened the discussion. However, some analytic statements in the treatment of efforts to ratify lead to good conclusions.

***The Chart for Determining the Final Examination Score for the January 2025 Regents Exam in U.S. History and Government will be posted on the Department’s web site at: <https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/high-school-regents-examinations> 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.***

### **Online Submission of 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 <https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/teacher-feedback-state-assessments>.
2. Click Regents Examinations.
3. Complete the required demographic fields.
4. Select the test title from the Regents Examination dropdown list.
5. Complete each evaluation question and provide comments in the space provided.
6. Click the SUBMIT button at the bottom of the page to submit the completed form.