

In-Class Essay will be given on Tuesday October 28, 2014

You may prepare for the essay by taking notes and creating an outline on the other side of this paper.
You are strongly encouraged to create a thesis statement for your essay!
You may bring in this paper on the date of the essay and use it while you are writing. No other notes will be allowed!

United States History and Government I

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

Theme: The Constitutional Convention

In 1787-1788, the Constitution offered promises of needed changes but also raised significant fears. After significant debate and many compromises, the Constitution was finally ratified and became the “law of the land”.

Task:

Identify *two* major arguments that caused intense debate at the Constitutional Convention and for *each*

- **Describe** the opposing viewpoints of each side of the argument
- **Analyze** the compromises that were reached to resolve the issues and **evaluate** whether those compromises adequately satisfied both sides in the arguments

You may use any major issue from your study of United States history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include: representation in Congress, taxation, the importation of slaves, strengthening of the national government (creation of federalism), creation of the executive branch (Presidency), and inclusion of a Bill of Rights.

You are not limited to these suggestions.

See textbook at home:
Pages 140 – 149.

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

In developing your answer to Part II, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) **analyze** means “to determine the nature and relationship of the component elements”
- (b) **describe** means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it”
- (c) **evaluate** means “to examine and judge the significance, worth, or condition of; to determine the value of”

Remember the following:

1. This essay will count as a **TEST grade!** It is important that you spend thoughtful time working on creating a good outline with detailed notes!
2. This essay will be graded based on the rubric that is used for Regents Exams (this rubric is posted on the class webpage – titled Thematic Essay Rubric). This is important practice for your preparation for the exam.
3. If you need help with this essay, seek tutoring **BEFORE** Tuesday!