

In-Class Essay will be given on Tuesday December 15, 2015

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: Reform Movements 1800 – 1860

Throughout the early 1800s, reformers sought to solve the social, political, and economic problems of the period. Various methods were used by reformers to address these problems, which allowed the them to achieve varying degrees of success.

Task:

Identify *two* reform movements of the early 1800's and for *each*

- **Describe** the historical circumstances that instigated the movement
- **Analyze** the methods used by the reformers to address the problem(s)
- **Evaluate** the extent to which the movement was successful

You may use any reform movement from the period of 1800-1860. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include: abolitionism, women's rights, education reform, temperance, and prison and mental institution reform.

You ARE limited to these suggestions.

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!