

REGENTS REVIEW ASSIGNMENT #1 – PART II

Answers to the essay question are to be written in the separate essay booklet.

Part II

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

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

Theme: The Constitution and Change

The United States Constitution not only provides a basic framework of government, but also allows for flexibility to adapt to changes over time.

Task:

Identify *two* basic constitutional principles. For *each* constitutional principle identified:

- Discuss how each principle allows the government to adapt to changes in the United States.
- Describe a specific *historical circumstance** when the principle was used to meet the changing needs of American political, social, or economic life.

You may use any constitutional principle from your study of United States history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the amendment process, the elastic clause, judicial review, equality, civil liberties, presidential power in foreign affairs, and presidential power during wartime.

You are not limited to these suggestions.

** Historical Circumstance* means a specific time in US history when the constitutional principle was used. You might need to do a little research from your textbook or notes for this part of the essay.

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) *describe* means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it”
- (b) *discuss* means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”

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Part II

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

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

Theme: Constitutional Change

Amendments to the United States Constitution have changed our government and our society.

Task:

Identify *two* amendments to the United States Constitution and for *each*

- Discuss the *historical circumstances** that led to the adoption of the amendment.
- Discuss how the amendment changed the United States government and/or American society.

You may use any constitutional amendment from your study of United States history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the 1st Amendment – personal freedoms (1791), 15th Amendment – right to vote (1870), 16th Amendment – income tax (1913), 17th Amendment – election of senators (1913), 18th Amendment – Prohibition (1919), 19th Amendment – suffrage (1920), or 22nd Amendment – term limits (1951).

You are not limited to these suggestions.

* *Historical Circumstance* means a specific time in US history when the constitutional amendment was created. You might need to do a little research from your textbook or notes for this part of the essay.

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) *discuss* means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”