

# UNITED STATES HISTORY & GOVERNMENT REGENTS

## THE FORMAT OF THE EXAM

### PART I: Multiple Choice Questions

- 28 Questions
- Stimulus-based: document, reading, cartoon, map, graph, etc.
- 2-3 multiple choice questions per stimulus

### PART II: Two Short-Essay Questions

- Two Questions -each question has two documents
- Answer the task using the documents (Set 1 and Set 2 have different tasks)
- No introduction or conclusion –tell a story
- Must use outside information
- One grader: Holistic grade score 1-5

### PART III: Civic Literacy Document-Based Essay

- Students will be given the civic issue
- 6 Documents
- 1 question following each document
- Students must use information from at least 4 documents and outside information for essay
- 2 graders: score 1-5 (weighted by a factor of 3)

## TIPS FOR HOW TO ANSWER SHORT ESSAY QUESTION:

#1 Answering the first bullet:

Describe means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it

“Historical Context refers to “the relevant historical circumstances surrounding or connecting the events, ideas, or developments in these documents “In other words, what was going on in the United States or around the world that led to the idea topic of the documents?”

Context is similar to background information. Basically, it's all the details of the time and place in which a situation occurs.

TIPS:§First, read each document and identify the event, idea or development being described. §Start your writing by stating the overall main idea or event. To give your reader a better understanding of the documents, you'll need to describe the context.

Think about the historical context of this event, idea or development –any details of time, place, location in which the event occurred.

“TIPS: Which relationship should I choose? §First, read the first document. Note the main idea of that document. Next, read the second document. Note the main idea of that document

## TIPS FOR HOW TO ANSWER CIVIC LITERACY DBQ ESSAY

What is Civic Literacy?

Civics= the study of the rights and duties of citizenship.

Civic literacy: The knowledge and skills to participate effectively in civic life through knowing how to stay informed, understanding governmental processes, and knowing how to exercise the rights and obligations of citizenship.

What do I have to write about?

Your civic literacy essay will address a constitutional or civic issue. Think of instances in United States history when:

- Certain rights are denied to groups or a groups’ rights are limited. Individuals and/or groups fought for or pushed for more rights/equal rights
- Government passed new amendments that extend rights to individuals The specific essay task is listed below. You must answer all three parts.
- 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 extent to which these efforts were successful, or Discuss the impact of the efforts on the United States and/or American society

How do I write the essay? What is the format?

The Civic Literacy essay will be a standard five-paragraph essay, with an introduction, thesis statement, and a conclusion. You’ll need to use many of the documents to answer the three bullet points laid out in the instructions. In the standard U.S. Regents Civic Literacy DBQ, you will be instructed to use four of the six documents.

To stay organized and successfully answer the task, it is recommended to write one paragraph per bullet point. For each paragraph, you’ll need to use your knowledge of US history AND information directly from the documents to make your case.