

History Essay Rubric

(applicable to both short essays and term papers)

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<p>Argument 30%</p>	<p>Evidence 30%</p>	<p>Clarity 20%</p>	<p>Synthesis and Analysis 20%</p>
<p><i>Points awarded for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly stated thesis statement • Consistent overall organization around theme • Clear explanation, throughout the paper, of how evidence presented is relevant to the thesis • Clear relevance of argument to the question asked 	<p><i>Points awarded for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence clearly related to thesis statement • Evidence is sufficient to answer the question asked • Moderate use of direct quotations • Proper documentation of sources (click here for info) 	<p><i>Points awarded for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper grammar • Appropriate essay structure • Use of linking words (however, although, etc.) to guide the reader through the essay • Use of strong topic sentences to summarize each paragraph's contents and link the evidence in the paragraph with the essay's overall topic 	<p><i>Points awarded for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originality of thought • Ability to make links between different historical events or different historical sources • Sensitivity to biases, limitations, etc. of sources • Understanding and application of theories of history to material under study
<p><i>Points deducted for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of clear thesis statement • Repeated departures from the stated topic 	<p><i>Points deducted for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence unrelated to question asked • Insufficient evidence 	<p><i>Points deducted for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor grammar • No clear paragraph structure • Misspelled words, typos, improper punctuation 	<p><i>Points deducted for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A "narrative" approach to your topic- chiefly descriptive rather than analytical

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essay topic not clearly related to the topic assigned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long, unexplained direct quotations• Incorrectly documented or undocumented sources• Factual inaccuracies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weak topic sentences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of sensitivity to the type, bias, and limitations of sources used• Basing arguments on assumptions, not facts
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Click [here](#) for a sample short essay