

# WHAP DBQ SHORT RUBRIC

## Introductory notes:

§ Except where otherwise noted, each point of the rubric is earned independently. For instance, a student could earn a point for evidence beyond the documents without earning a point for thesis/claim.

§ Accuracy: The components of this rubric each require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, a response may contain errors that do not detract from its overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.

§ Clarity: Exam essays should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and reasoning processes described in the rubrics.

## THESIS/CLAIM

(0–1 pt)

**Scoring Criteria:** Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning.

**Decision Rules:** To earn this point, the thesis must make a claim that responds to the prompt rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion.

## CONTEXTUALIZATION

(0–1 pt)

**Scoring Criteria:** Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.

**Decision Rules:** To earn this point, the response must relate the topic of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question. This point is not awarded for merely a phrase or reference.

## EVIDENCE

(0–3 pts)

**Scoring Criteria:** 1pt. Uses the content of at least three documents to address the topic of the prompt.

OR 2 pts. Supports an argument in response to the prompt using at least six documents.

**Decision Rules:** To earn one point, the response must accurately describe — rather than simply quote — the content from at least three of the documents. To earn two points, the response must accurately describe — rather than simply quote — the content from at least six documents. In addition, the response *must use the content of the documents to support an argument* in response to the prompt.

Evidence Beyond the Documents: **Scoring Criteria:** To earn this point, the response must describe the evidence and must use more than a phrase or reference. This additional piece of evidence must be different from the evidence used to earn the point for contextualization.

**Decision Rules:** Uses at least one additional piece of the specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt.