

2024



AP[®] United States History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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Question 2: Long Essay Question, Eighteenth-Century Settler Expansion

6 points

General Scoring Notes

- Except where otherwise noted, each point of these rubrics is earned independently; for example, a student could earn a point for evidence without earning a point for thesis/claim.
- **Accuracy:** The components of these rubrics require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, essays may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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 practices described below.

Evaluate the extent to which settler expansion influenced North America from 1754 to 1800.

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
<p>Row A Thesis/Claim [0-1 points]</p>	<p>0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.</p>	<p>1 point Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning.</p>
Decision Rules and Scoring Notes		
<p>Responses that do not earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are not historically defensible. • Only restate or rephrase the prompt. • Do not respond to the prompt. • Do not establish a line of reasoning. • Are overgeneralized. 		<p>Responses that earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a historically defensible thesis or claim about the extent to which settler expansion influenced North America from 1754 to 1800. The thesis or claim must either provide some indication of the reason for making that claim OR establish categories of the argument.
<p>Examples that do not earn this point:</p> <p>Provide a restatement of the prompt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Settler expansion influenced North America from 1754 to 1800.”</i> <p>Provide a historically defensible claim, but do not establish a line of reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Westward expansion strongly impacted Native Americans.”</i> <p>Provide a claim that is not historically defensible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Settler expansion to the West inspired the idea of Manifest Destiny.”</i> 		<p>Examples that earn this point:</p> <p>Establish a line of reasoning that evaluates the topic of the prompt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Settler expansion from 1754 to 1800 led to disputes with the British government, which most significantly contributed to the independence of the United States.”</i> <p>Establish a line of reasoning that evaluates the topic of the prompt with analytic categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Settler expansion led to military conflict with Native Americans and disagreement over the status of slavery after 1783.”</i> <p>Establish a line of reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Expansion led to conflict with Native Americans.”</i> [Minimally acceptable thesis/claim]
<p>Additional Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The thesis or claim must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion [which may not be limited to the first or last paragraphs]. • The thesis or claim must identify a relevant development[s] in the period, although it is not required to encompass the entire period. 		

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row B Contextualization	0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.	1 point Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
[0-1 points]	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes	
	<p>Responses that do not earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overgeneralized statement about the time period referenced in the prompt. • Provide context that is not relevant to the prompt. • Provide a passing phrase or reference. <p>Examples that do not earn this point:</p> <p>Do not provide context relevant to the topic of the prompt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Republican motherhood showed the importance of women educating their children.”</i> <p>Provide an overgeneralized statement about the time period referenced in the prompt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“European settlers came into conflict with Native Americans.”</i> 	<p>Responses that earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurately describe a context relevant to settler expansion in North America from 1754 to 1800. <p>Examples of relevant context that earn this point include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American lifeways before European contact • Columbian Exchange • Encomienda system and treatment of Native Americans by the Spanish • Early European settlements in North America [i.e. Jamestown, Plymouth] • Growth of trade relationships between Europeans and Native Americans • Louisiana Purchase • Forced removal of Native Americans to reservations • Manifest Destiny • Annexation of Texas • Mexican-American War • Domestic slave trade • Transcontinental Railroad <p>Example of acceptable contextualization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“When Europeans first came to the Americas during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, they brought with them diseases like smallpox, which killed many Native Americans.”</i> • <i>“English colonists came to eastern North America in the 1600s and developed plantations to make money.”</i> [Minimally acceptable contextualization]
	<p>Additional Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response must describe broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question that are relevant to the topic of the prompt. • To earn this point, the context provided must be more than a phrase or reference. 	

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
<p>Row C Evidence [0-2 points]</p>	<p>0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.</p>	<p>1 point Provides specific examples of at least two pieces of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt.</p>	<p>2 points Supports an argument in response to the prompt using at least two pieces of specific and relevant evidence.</p>
Decision Rules and Scoring Notes			
	<p>Responses that do not earn points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a single piece of evidence. Provide evidence that is not relevant to the topic of the prompt. Provide evidence that is outside the time period or region specified in the prompt. Repeat information that is specified in the prompt. <p>Examples that do not earn points:</p> <p>Provide evidence that is outside the time period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“Many American pioneers traveled along the Oregon Trail to western settlements.”</i> 	<p>Responses that earn 1 point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify at least two specific historical examples relevant to settler expansion in North America from 1754 to 1800. <p>Examples of evidence that are specific and relevant include the following (two examples required):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Seven Years’ War American Revolution Spanish missions in California Royal Proclamation of 1763 Pontiac’s War [1763] Neolin Fur trade networks Transatlantic slave trade Quebec Act Land speculation Weyapiersenwah [Blue Jacket] Northwest Ordinance [1787] Southwest Ordinance [1790] Anthony Wayne Battle of Fallen Timbers Treaty of Greenville [1795] Alexander McGillivray [Hoboi-Hili-Miko] Pickney’s Treaty [1795] / Mississippi right of deposit Whiskey Rebellion <p>Example of a statement that earns one point for evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“The United States negotiated Jay’s Treaty to gain better access to the old Northwest and Pickney’s Treaty so settlers could have the right of deposit when shipping goods on the Mississippi River.”</i> 	<p>Responses that earn 2 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use at least two specific historical examples to support an argument regarding the extent to which settler expansion influenced North America from 1754 to 1800. <p>Examples that successfully support an argument with evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“As British settlers were seeking to gain more western land after the Seven Years’ War, the king issued the Royal Proclamation of 1763 to stop conflicts with Native Americans.”</i> [Uses evidence to support an argument about how settlers’ expansion contributed to the end of salutary neglect in the British North American colonies] <i>“As more British colonists moved west of the Appalachian Mountains, it increased tensions with Native Americans, causing conflicts such as Pontiac’s War, which united several Native American nations against the British.”</i> [Uses evidence to support an argument about how increasing colonization led to warfare between Europeans and Native Americans] <i>“The expansion of British territory after the Seven Years’ War led to problems as the French colonists living in that territory were not happy with British rule. The Quebec Act was passed to try and ease these tensions, but it caused problems with American colonists who objected to Quebec’s special treatment.”</i> [Uses evidence to support an argument about how settler expansion led to increased conflicts between Great Britain and its North American colonies]

Additional Notes:

- Typically, statements credited as evidence will be more specific than statements credited as contextualization.
- If a response has a multipart argument, then it can meet the threshold of two pieces of evidence by giving one example for one part of the argument and another example for a different part of the argument, but the total number of examples must still be at least two.

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
<p>Row D Analysis and Reasoning [0-2 points]</p>	<p>0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.</p>	<p>1 point Uses historical reasoning [e.g., comparison, causation, continuity, and change] to frame or structure an argument that addresses the prompt.</p>	<p>2 points Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt through sophisticated argumentation and/or effective use of evidence.</p>
Decision Rules and Scoring Notes			
	<p>Responses that do not earn points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May include evidence but offer no reasoning to connect the evidence to an argument. May assert the use of historical reasoning but does not use it to frame or structure an argument. <p>Examples that do not earn points:</p> <p>Provide evidence but offer no reasoning to connect the evidence to an argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“The Northwest Ordinance created a process for admitting new states.”</i> 	<p>Responses that earn 1 point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must demonstrate the use of historical reasoning to frame or structure an argument about the extent to which settler expansion influenced North America from 1754 to 1800. The reasoning might be uneven or imbalanced, or the evidence may be overly general or lacking specificity. <p>Using a historical reasoning process to frame or structure an argument could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparing the settlement patterns and practices of French, Spanish, and/or British settlers during the time period. Discussing the effects of the changes in European imperial land claims over the course of the period on Native American and colonists interactions. <p>Example of acceptable use of historical reasoning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“As more American settlers moved into the Northwest territory, conflict with Native Americans in the region increased, resulting in warfare between the United States and a confederacy of</i> 	<p>Responses that earn 2 points:</p> <p>May demonstrate a complex understanding through sophisticated argumentation that is relevant to the prompt. This may be done in a variety of ways, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explaining multiple themes or perspectives to explore complexity or nuance; OR Explaining multiple causes or effects, multiple similarities or differences, or multiple continuities or changes; OR Explaining both cause and effect, both similarity and difference, or both continuity and change; OR Explaining relevant and insightful connections within and across periods or geographical areas. These connections should clearly relate to an argument that responds to the prompt. <p>May demonstrate a complex understanding through effective use of evidence relevant to an argument that addresses the prompt. This may be done in a variety of ways that might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explaining how multiple pieces of specific and relevant evidence [at least four] support a nuanced or complex argument that responds to the prompt; OR Using evidence effectively to demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of different perspectives relevant to the prompt. <p>Demonstrating a complex understanding might include any of the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A response may argue that the effects of settler expansion on North America varied by region. It discusses the similarities and differences between the growth of the Spanish mission system in the Southwest, United States relations with the Muscogee [Creek] Nation in the Southeast, and conflict with the Northwest Confederacy of Native Americans in the Great Lakes region. [Explains insightful connections across geographical areas] A response may argue that settler expansion often brought White colonists and Native Americans into increased conflict with one another. It then qualifies the argument with evidence of specific Native American nations entering into alliances with Euro-American settlers to fight other groups, such as the alliance between the British

		<p><i>Native American nations.</i>" [Indicates an effect of settler expansion.]</p>	<p>and some Haudenosaunee [Iroquois] nations during the American Revolution. [Explains multiple effects]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A response may argue that settler expansion led to increased economic prosperity for White Americans. It then modifies that argument with evidence of class conflict between settlers and state governments and the federal government over the fairness of taxation and economic regulation for less wealthy Americans. [Uses evidence to demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of different perspectives]
<p>Additional Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To earn the first point for analysis and reasoning, the response must use historical reasoning to structure a response to the prompt, although the reasoning might be uneven or imbalanced, or the evidence may be overly general or lacking in specificity. • This complex understanding must be part of the argument and may be demonstrated in any part of the response. • While it is not necessary for this complex understanding to be woven throughout the response, it must be more than merely a phrase or reference. 			

During the period 1754 to 1800 America had witnessed a sharp rise in settler expansion with the growing influence of the Enlightenment principles on colonists. From the French and Indian War to the American Revolution, there was a continual push to expand and take control of the "God given rights" that were outlined by John Locke. Settler expansion had a large influence on North America by reshaping American identity, establishing new conflicts with foreign nations, and establishing a new notion of the expectations for a free America.

American identity had witness a transformation from settler expansion during the period 1754 to 1800. During the French and Indian War settlers British citizens had fought against French and Indian powers over the Ohio River Valley territory. As the war continued Americans had continued to be a large aspect of those who participated in the war effort, leading them to believe they should enjoy the fruits of their labor when the Treaty of Ghent was signed as the French and Indian War came to a closing. However, instead of the dreams of western expansion, British establishment the Proclamation line of 1763, forbidding Americans from expanding west of the Appalachian mountains. By expanding settlers out west, North America had witnessed its first wave of western expansion. This wave would be a continuous theme of American identity throughout American history. American expansion had led to the belief of Manifest Destiny and even government involvement in persuading settlers to move out west through policies like the Homestead Act and Pacific Railroad Act. These Acts had given governmental subsidies to companies or citizens to inspire them to populate the west. However, acts found later in period were only possible because of the influence that settler expansion in 1763 had laid the foundation for.

As a result of settler expansion from the first wave at the conclusion of the French and Indian Wars, America had witnessed a continuous trend of conflict with Natives. The Pontiac rebellion, was one of the very first rebellions with Natives and set a standard for how the rest of the period would continue. The rebellion was ultimately crushed by American forces, however, that does not distract from its violent nature that led to the death of hundreds of Americans and Natives. Natives were then initially regarded as an independent nation that settlers should leave alone, however, this notion was not held by settlers. Following the end of the American Revolution, in which America won and acquired even more territory towards the Mississippi river, settlers had continued to expand out westward. North America was no longer a conglomerate of different nations laying claim to one big land mass but a united power that Americans held the majority of jurisdiction over. Spain had given America the territorial rights over Florida, and in 1803 America would gain an even greater amount of mass with the Louisiana Purchase.

With such a surge in newly acquired land, North America and the policies of American government had to transform alongside the increased grasp of settlers. Settlers could now move as far out west as they deemed possible now that British government had no influence over American society following the end of the American revolution. In response to this expansion of territory and sovereignty two political sides of American society were established: the federalist and the anti-federalist. The Articles of Confederation was the first major attempt by American government to see the way at which American government would be maintained. The Articles of Confederation had a very limited role of the American federal government and placed a majority of the rights of the nation in the hands of the states. As a result of these rebellions like Shay's rebellion were able to persist and Boston had no government to reply upon. However, after the formation of the Constitution which favored federalist, the constitution recognized the importance of a strong federal government and was able to easily put down the Whiskey Rebellion. Since settler expansion had continued through

the century, new forms of government had to continue alongside the wave of the freedom that was newly acquired. After books like Thomas Paine's Common sense that called for revolution, independence had seemed to be the only answer. However, with this new acquired independence there had to be a greater push towards regulation and determining the role of the federal government. This theme of determination alongside expansion was not a sole characterisitc of America from 1754 to 1800 but a continous driving force in foreign policies like after the war of 1812 and even the American civil war.

Throughout the late 15th and 16th centuries, European powers had the desire to explore land elsewhere. Spain wanted to grow their religion and spread Catholicism to the new world, while French and Dutch desired a more trade-based approach. Similarly, people from England wanted to escape religious persecution and colonize elsewhere. The start of this exploration led to the development of North America into becoming a major global power. English settler expansion between 1754-1800 influenced North America to a large extent by promoting the establishment of its independence and creating political reform from previous governmental systems.

To start off, new ideas of independence had formed in North America that stemmed from English settlers expanding and colonizing the region during 1754-1800. America's New England colonies, middle colonies, and areas in the south were all under British rule despite their location of establishment being in America. Since they were halfway across the world, taxation without representation was a problem, as British taxed the colonists to pay for their debt through acts on sugar, stamps, and other goods without them being able to be there to advocate against it. The Intolerable Acts became so bad that American colonists grew tired of maintaining loyalty to England and staged the Boston Tea Party, where colonists threw imports of tea into the Boston Harbor to express their hatred. This represents a major change because for so long, the American colonists had remained loyal to England, despite the religious persecution and other factors that they faced there. One man, Thomas Paine, decided he wanted change, and distributed out the pamphlet *Common Sense*, which inspired many to join the revolt in fighting against the British. He wrote about why such a little island on the other side of the world should have so much power on the colonies. This caused many American's to experience even more dissent, and when the colonists sent over the Olive Branch petition as a last resort, and that didn't work, they declared the start of the Revolutionary War. This left a lasting effect on American society because from then on, America realized the importance of independence and how it needed to continue being maintained in order for settlers to prosper.

To continue, political reform in North America was a major effect of English settler expansion in between 1754-1800. The nation drafted the Articles of Confederation which was the first governmental document that attempted to encompass the new guidelines of how North America was going to be run. However, it proved its limitations when the nation realized it had no power to regulate commerce or call for a national army. Governmental officials knew they needed to make change, so they called for a Constitutional Convention to draft the United States Constitution. Some groups were against this document, as it granted more power to the central, federal government. These people were known as Anti-Federalists. However, they agreed upon the inclusion of a Bill of Rights to protect the citizens individual liberties. The Constitution is still in use today, and acts as a guideline over how the United States is governed. As well as this, the colonists wanted to make sure the government didn't end up being as controlling as the English government. They made sure that the Constitution established a system of checks and balances to guarantee that one branch of government didn't have excessive power. They also established a bicameral legislature made up of the House of Representatives and Senate. This helped to ensure more equality in decisions. Both of these political reforms are important to consider because without them, the United States could have become an extremely tyrannical powerhouse.

All in all, English settler expansion between 1754-1800 influenced North America to a large extent by causing a call for independence and enacting political reform. Without colonists sprouting a drive for independence, America would have remained under British rule, never allowing it to become a self-governing country. As well as this, if they hadn't advocated for fairness and equality, the settlers would have migrated for nothing, and possibly still be under the oppressive rule of England - even today.

During the mid 18th century to the 19th century settler expansion influenced North America because European countries such as Spain, French and Britain wanted to conquer land in North America so that their people would have more land. These countries had different methods when they wanted to conquer North America. Britain and Spain each wanted to take over the land from the Native Americans even if it had to be by force whereas the French wanted to start trading with the Native Americans. Settler expansion led to change in government structure and hunting methods in North America.

In 1754 to 1800 settlers changed the government structure of North America when the Natives didn't give up their land. Spain wanted the Native Americans to give their land up but when the Native Americans didn't give it up they decided to take it by force by enslaving the Native Americans. When Britain wanted to take over land they wanted the Native Americans to be under their rule which happened and the native Americans hated it. These two countries caused the natives to understand what it was like to be under the control of another government which for the British was a united government.

Settlers also changed their hunting methods in North America during 1754 to 1800 when they introduced animals from their countries such as horses. Before the horses the Natives would do all their hunting on foot but now that they had horses it made it easier for them to catch up to their food source when they ran away. This made it easier for natives to kill the woolly mammoths which provided them a food source as well as fur to keep them warm during the winter. The introduction of the horses made it easier for the natives to obtain fur and then trade it with the French so that there could be peace between them.

Long Essay Question 2

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

- Responses were expected to demonstrate knowledge of the extent to which settler expansion influenced North America from 1754 to 1800.
- Responses could utilize a wide range of content knowledge, including differences in European settlement patterns, colonists' relationships with Native Americans, the conquest of Native American lands, European imperial policies, such as the Navigation Acts, and the extent to which they were enforced (e.g., salutary neglect), systems of labor (e.g., indentured servitude and chattel slavery), Anglicization, the development of colonial culture (e.g., the Enlightenment), the influence of the Proclamation of 1763, various revenue acts following the Seven Years' War, the gradual movement toward independence, and the ideals expressed in relevant documents of the period (e.g., Declaration of Independence).
- This question primarily addressed Topics 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, and 3.13.

Sample: 2A

Thesis: 1

Contextualization: 1

Evidence: 2

Analysis and Reasoning: 2

Total Score: 6

A. Thesis/Claim (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for the thesis, arguing in the first paragraph that settler expansion “had a large influence on North America by reshaping American identity, establishing new conflicts with foreign nations, and establishing a new notion of the expectations for a free America.” This is a historically defensible claim that establishes a line of reasoning.

B. Contextualization (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for contextualization. In the introduction, the response situates settler expansion in the context of the Enlightenment and John Locke’s ideas about “God given rights.” Additionally, the response discusses the context of settler expansion in later time periods, claiming that expansion would be “a continuous theme of American identity throughout American history.” It describes the idea of Manifest Destiny and later examples of government legislation that encouraged United States expansion, including the Pacific Railway Act and the Homestead Act.

C. Evidence (0–2 points): 2

The response earned 1 point for evidence by providing several pieces of specific evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt, including the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War), Pontiac's War, the Proclamation of 1763, and the American Revolution.

Long Essay Question 2 (continued)

The response earned 1 point for using at least two specific historical examples to support an argument in response to the prompt. The response argues how the end of the Seven Years' War led to the “first wave of Westward expansion” that would contribute to later expansion. It also claims that Pontiac’s War established a pattern of conflict with Native Americans over the expansion of White settlement.

D. Analysis and Reasoning (0–2 points): 2

The response earned 1 point for using historical reasoning. The response consistently demonstrates historical causation, discussing effects of settler expansion in this time period, such as territorial expansion after 1800, conflicts with Native peoples, and demands for more effective forms of governance.

The response earned 1 point for demonstrating a complex understanding. The response explains how four specific historical examples support a nuanced argument about the causes and effects of settler expansion. The response effectively explains how competition over the Ohio River valley contributed to the Seven Years War, how conflicts between White settlers and Native peoples, such as Pontiac’s War, led the United States to deny Native American sovereignty as “indep[en]dent nations,” how the American Revolution facilitated United States expansion from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River, and how the acquisition of territory led to a need for more effective governance, eventually contributing to the replacement of the Articles of Confederation with a stronger Constitution.

Sample: 2B

Thesis: 1

Contextualization: 1

Evidence: 1

Analysis and Reasoning: 1

Total Score: 4

A. Thesis/Claim (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for the thesis. The last sentence of the first paragraph establishes a line of reasoning about United States independence and the political changes of transitioning from a constitutional monarchy into a republic and also makes a historically defensible claim about how settler expansion influenced North America to a large extent: “English settler expansion between 1754-1800 influenced North America to a large extent by promoting the establishment of its independence and creating political reform from previous governmental systems.”

B. Contextualization (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for contextualization. The response establishes context at the beginning of the first paragraph by addressing the reasons for European colonialism in North America and specifically outlines the Spanish, French, Dutch, and English motives.

Long Essay Question 2 (continued)

C. Evidence (0–2 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for using evidence through its inclusion of numerous examples of factual evidence relevant to the time period of the prompt, including the Intolerable Acts, the Boston Tea Party, and the Olive Branch petition.

Although the response contains many specific historical examples relevant to the prompt, they are not sufficiently used in support of an argument about the influence of settler expansion to earn the second point. In the second paragraph, the response discusses how the publication of *Common Sense* “inspired many to join the revolt in fighting against the British,” but it does not make clear how this supports an argument about the influence of settler expansion. In the third paragraph, the response connects the Constitutional Convention to the drive for a more powerful central government, but again does not make clear how this supports an argument about settler expansion.

D. Analysis and Reasoning (0–2 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for using historical reasoning. In the second paragraph, the response establishes a causation argument that addresses the prompt by discussing the chain of causation after the Boston Tea Party that led to the Revolutionary War: “One man, Thomas Paine, decided he wanted change, and distributed out the pamphlet *Common Sense*, which inspired many to join the revolt in fighting against the British. This caused many American’s to experience even more dissent, and when the colonists sent over the Olive Branch petition as a last resort, and that didn't work, they declared the start of the Revolutionary War. This left a lasting effect on American society because from then on, America realized the importance of independence and how it needed to continue being maintained in order for settlers to prosper.” This discussion of causation, while uneven, earns the response point for historical reasoning.

The response did not earn the point for demonstrating a complex understanding. The response does not demonstrate a complex understanding through either sophisticated argumentation or effective use of evidence. Although the response contains at least four pieces of specific and potentially relevant evidence including the Articles of Confederation, Constitutional Convention, the Bill of Rights, and a bicameral legislature, they are not used to support a nuanced or complex argument that responds to the prompt.

Sample: 2C

Thesis: 1

Contextualization: 1

Evidence: 0

Analysis and Reasoning: 0

Total Score: 2

A. Thesis/Claim (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for the thesis. The first sentence of the response claims, “During the mid 18th century to the 19th century settler expansion influenced North America because European countries such as Spain, French and Britain wanted to conquer land in North America so that their

Long Essay Question 2 (continued)

people would have more land.” This claim responds to the prompt with a historically defensible line of reasoning.

B. Contextualization (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for contextualization. The second half of the first paragraph discusses the various trends and motives for settlement by separate European powers: “These countries had different methods when they wanted to conquer North America. Britain and Spain each wanted to take over the land from the Native Americans even if it had to be by force whereas the French wanted to start trading with the Native Americans.”

C. Evidence (0–2 points): 0

The response did not earn the point for evidence. The response provides overly general discussion of two different aspects of European settlement. The second paragraph includes a vague discussion of Native enslavement at the hands of the Spanish that does not count towards earning the point. Although the response discusses the fur trade between Native Americans and the French, it mistakenly includes the introduction of the horse, which began much earlier than the time period of the prompt.

The response did not earn the second point for evidence as it only makes a minimal attempt to support an argument in response to the prompt through its discussion of the fur trade.

D. Analysis and Reasoning (0–2 points): 0

The response did not earn the point for historical reasoning. The response’s discussion of the effect of horses on hunting techniques does not address the time period of the prompt.

The response did not earn the point for demonstrating a complex understanding because it makes no attempt at sophisticated argumentation or effective use of evidence.