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**Scoring Information and Samples of Scoring Materials  
for the Component Retesting Program  
in Social Studies**

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## **Generic 3-Point Scoring Rubric for Extended Response Questions**

**(For use with Global History and Geography and  
United States History and Government  
Component Retests)**

### **Score of 3:**

- Shows a good understanding of the topic
- Addresses all aspects of the task
- Includes relevant facts, examples, and/or details

### **Score of 2:**

- Shows a satisfactory understanding of the topic
- Addresses some aspects of the task fully or addresses all aspects of the task in a limited way
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and/or details

### **Score of 1:**

- Shows a limited understanding of the topic
- Attempts to address some aspects of the task
- Includes little relevant information in the form of facts, examples, and/or details

### **Score of 0:**

- Fails to address the topic
- Has no accurate or relevant facts, examples, or details
- Is illegible
- Is incoherent
- Is a blank paper

**Samples of Student Responses with Scoring Commentaries  
for an Extended Response Question for the Component B Retest in  
United States History and Government**

**Sample Question**

*Directions:* Write a one- to two- paragraph response for each of the questions below. Be sure to include facts, examples, and details to support your answer.

Various Supreme Court decisions have affected the rights of students in schools. Several cases and the issue addressed by each case are listed below.

***Supreme Court Cases***

*Engel v. Vitale* (1962) – school prayer

*Tinker v. Des Moines School District* (1969) – freedom of expression

*New Jersey v. TLO* (1985) – illegal search and seizure

*Vernonia School District 47J v. Acton* (1995) – drug testing

Choose ***one*** of these cases and:

- Discuss the situation surrounding this case
- Explain how the Court’s decision in the case affected the rights of students in schools

**Sample of a**  
**Content-Specific Rubric**  
**For the Supreme Court Question**

**Score of 3:**

- Shows a good understanding of how one Supreme Court decision has affected the rights of students in schools
- Addresses both aspects of the task by selecting one Supreme Court case and:
  - (1) discussing the situation surrounding the case
  - (2) explaining how the Court's decision in the case affected the rights of students in schools
- Includes relevant facts, examples, and/or details

**Score of 2:**

- Shows a satisfactory understanding of how one Supreme Court decision has affected the rights of students in schools
- Addresses one aspect of the task fully or addresses both aspects of the task in a limited way
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and/or details

**Score of 1:**

- Shows a limited understanding of how one Supreme Court decision has affected the rights of students in schools
- Attempts to address some aspects of the task by mentioning some information about the case or by mentioning something about how the Court's decision in the case affected the rights of students in schools
- Includes little relevant information in the form of facts, examples, and/or details

**Score of 0:**

- Fails to answer the topic
- Has no accurate or relevant facts, examples, or details
- Is illegible
- Is incoherent
- Is a blank paper

[Please note that all student responses were printed (in italics) exactly as written. To insure accuracy of scoring, no corrections for spelling, capitalization and/or punctuation were made.]

**Anchor Paper – Extended Response – Level 3-A**

**Student response # 1:**

*The case New Jersey v. TLO deals with illegal search and seizure in schools. In a New Jersey school in 1985 a student was caught smoking in a bathroom. The student's purse was searched and evidence of marijuana smoking was found. The question was if the school administrator had the authority to search the student's purse. The Supreme Court decided that it was not a case of illegal search and seizure and that the school administrator did not need a search warrant. In a school if a student is now suspected of doing something, a school administrator has the right to search the purse legally.*

**The response:**

- Shows a good understanding of how the *New Jersey v. TLO* decision has affected the rights of students in schools
- Addresses both aspects of the task by selecting the *New Jersey v. TLO* case and:
  - (1) discussing the situation that is associated with the case (mentions that this case deals with a student caught smoking in a bathroom and poses the legal question raised in the case)
  - (2) explaining how the Court's decision in the case affected the rights of students in schools by saying that as a result of this case a school administrator has the right to search the purse legally if a student is suspected of doing something illegal
- Includes relevant facts, examples, and details (the administrator searched the student's purse, that evidence was found that basically proved she had been smoking, and that the administrator did not have a search warrant)

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response best fits the criteria for Level 3. This response shows good understanding of the topic.

## Anchor Paper – Extended Response – Level 3-B

### Student response # 2:

*Various supreme court cases have affected the rights of students in school such as Engel v. Vitale. In this case the NY board of regents had a prayer that could be used in schools. The court made school prayer illegal on any part of school grounds in public schools. For many religious students this was upsetting and in order to pray in school today you have to attend private school or pray without it being a distraction to the learning process of other students in the school.*

#### **The response:**

- Shows a good understanding of how the *Engel v. Vitale* decision has affected the rights of students in schools
- Addresses both aspects of the task by selecting the *Engel v. Vitale* case and:
  - (1) discussing the situation that is associated with the case (uses facts to show that this case deals with prayer in a public school in New York State)
  - (2) explaining how the Court’s decision in the case affected the rights of students in schools by saying that this ruling was upsetting for many religious students)
- Includes relevant facts, examples, and details (the case dealt with a prayer adopted by the Regents board for public schools (New York State Board of Regents) and that this ruling would still allow prayer in private schools)

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response best fits the criteria for Level 3. Both aspects of the task are addressed to the minimal level necessary for this score level. Technically there may be some concern about the accuracy of the final comment about “without it being a distraction to the learning process of other students” but the response otherwise contains adequate relevant facts, examples and details.

## Anchor Paper – Extended Response – Level 2-A

### Student response # 3:

*The Supreme Court has affected the rights of students in school. In the case Tinker v. Des Moines School District, a young girl and her brother were suspended from school for wearing arm bands with peace signs that criticized the war. The School District said the arm bands would start fights and problems in the school. The courts reached the decision that they could wear the armbands to school because they were just using freedom of speech.*

#### The response:

- Shows a satisfactory understanding of how the *Tinker v. Des Moines* case has affected the rights of students in schools
- Addresses one aspect of the task fully (discusses the situation associated with the case)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and/or details (a young girl was suspended from school for wearing arm bands that criticized the war, and that the case dealt with an aspect of freedom of speech)

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response best fits the criteria for Level 2. One of the two aspects of the task is discussed fully. The response does not address how the ruling in this case affects the rights of students in general.

## Anchor Paper – Extended Response – Level 2-B

### Student response # 4:

*Throughout history, the Supreme Court has affected the rights of students. An example of this is the Court case Engel v. Vitale. This court case occurred in 1962. The issue of this case was whether or not that there should be prayer in public schools. The first amendment states that there should be separation of church and state. The Supreme Court ruled that due to diversity of religions, prayer was not to be allowed in schools.*

#### The response:

- Shows a satisfactory understanding of how the *Engel v. Vitale* decision has affected the rights of students in schools
- Addresses both aspects of the task in a limited way (points out that the case involved prayer in a public school and that the Court ruled that this prayer was not allowed)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and/or details (includes that the case dealt with public schools, the first amendment provides for separation of church and state, and that the Court ruling was based on diversity of religions)

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response fits the criteria for Level 2. Some detailed information is used to address both aspects of the task, but only in a limited way.

## Anchor Paper – Extended Response – Level 1-A

### Student response # 5:

*In the court case Tinker v. Des Moines School District the children were suspended for wearing black arm bands which represented their anti-war beliefs. The students believed they had the right to wear bands if they wanted to. Students rights suffered because the court had the right to let the principle decide if his students could wear arm bands.*

#### **The response:**

- Shows a limited understanding of how the *Tinker v. Des Moines School District* decision has affected the rights of students in schools
- Attempts to address some aspects of the task by mentioning some information about the case.
- Includes little relevant information in the form of facts, examples, and/or details (the students wore black arm bands representing their anti-war beliefs; the rest of the information is incorrect)

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response best fits the criteria for Level 1. The facts of the case are accurately stated, but both the Court's decision and its impact on students are incorrectly stated.

## Anchor Paper – Extended Response – Level 1-B

### Student response # 6:

*The court case of Vernonia School District v. Acton was based on students having to take a drug test. This case all started when kids were caught doing drug during a sport. So the Court's decision in this case affected the right of students by now having every student take a drug test.*

#### **The response:**

- Shows a limited understanding of how the *Vernonia School District v. Acton* decision has affected the rights of students in schools
- Attempts to address some aspects of the task by mentioning some information about the case.
- Includes little relevant information in the form of facts, examples, and/or details (includes the fact that the drug testing involved students engaged in school sports)

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response best fits the criteria for Level 1. There is some correct but very limited information about the Court case. The reported decision in this case is incorrect.

## Anchor Paper – Extended Response – Level 0-A

### Student response # 7:

*Many Supreme Court decisions have affected the rights of students in schools. One case would be the Vernonia School District v. Acton, this case was in 1995 about drug testing. Acton wanted schools to be tested for drugs, and students didn't want to be tested, they refused and then took Acton to court. The courts decision in the end was that Vernonia School would not have to be tested for drugs.*

**The response:**

- Attempts to address the topic but includes only incorrect information except for a statement which was provided in the test question
- Includes no accurate or relevant facts, examples or details

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response best fits the criteria for Level 0. The response is factually inaccurate because Acton was the student who refused to take a drug test administered by the school. Also the decision in the case is incorrectly stated. There is also no attempt to explain how the decision in this case affected the rights of students.

## Anchor Paper – Extended Response – Level 0-B

### Student response # 8:

*The case in 1969, Tinker v. Des Moines School District, the freedom of expression was debated. The students wanted to express themselves as stated by their basic rights. The students wanted to look or dress their own way without having limits put on them by schools.*

**The response:**

- Fails to answer the topic
- Has no accurate or relevant facts, examples or details

**Conclusion:** Overall, this response best fits the criteria for Level 0. The response does not address the actual issue in this Court case.

Samples of student work with scoring commentaries for at least one Global History Extended Response item is in development and will be added to this web publication as soon as completed.