

Score Level 2

The people of Rose, New York felt that they wouldn't be able to send mail or get mail any day of the week.

The people of Rose took off the old shingles on the roof and replaced them with with new cedar shingles and cleaned up the debris. The people tore down the siding of the post office and put new siding up. The people had bushes planted next to the post office, the bushes grew big obliterated the numbers on the sign, so they cut down the bushes and planted flowers and replaced the sign.

Commentary
Score Level 2

- Answers all aspects of task by citing preservation work
- Uses inaccurate data to describe citizens' feeling
- Weak development of ideas with little understanding of citizen or community action to save the post office operation
- References some documents
- Lacks a logical plan of organization

Score Level 2

In June 1985 the people in the town of Rose had just been told that their post office was going to be closed. The people would have to go to another post office in another town and they could only go three times a week. The people decided to try to stop them in different ways. 91 people got together and had a meeting about why they want their post office to stay open. On August 22 1985 a large group of people met at the Rose Grange Hall. On November 26 1985 people found out that they ~~could~~ had saved their Postal Office.

Commentary Score Level 2

- Answers some aspects of task by referencing one document and citing one example of community action (people had a meeting); provides no description of the citizens' feelings
- Uses some accurate data, but two dates are used incorrectly
- Demonstrates weakness in development of ideas with only one supporting detail: 91 people at the Grange Hall meeting
- Attempts to express and organize ideas, yet lacks adequate support

Score Level 2

The people of Rose loved their post office because the post office was in the town. The people of Rose town wrote letters to save the post office and made calls and had meetings. The people that own the post office finally gave in and the people of Rose town were happy. And when the post office volunteers put on new roof shingles when the post office was done they had a Annual meeting and Elections with a potluck Dinner bring to pass and there is table service.

Commentary Score Level 2

- Answers some aspects of task with vague references to three documents in support of citizen action and with an inaccurate statement about residents' feelings
- Demonstrates weakness in development of ideas with only vague support and no detail
- Attempts to organize an answer
- Attempts to express ideas clearly

Score Level 1

The people of rose had many concerns because the postal service is going to close their post office. 91 people decided to get together and have a meeting about saving their post office. The people worked together to try to get their post office back. The postal service closed the post office. The postal service reduced service to the City of Rose. The people had to get stamps from another post office. Special services come 3 hours each day. No Saturday operations are allowed. A while later the people got their post office. The people were happy again.

The End

Commentary Score Level 1

- Uses information from one document, showing limited understanding of task
- Answers some aspects of task by citing one example of community action: "having a meeting"
- Lacks a plan of organization by stating the problem, providing one example, and restating the problem
- Ideas are not supported with details

Score Level 1

they were sad and they have
to go to other cities to have stamps
and cards and they have only some
money left they have a Meetings at
Rose Grange Hall too and they want
you to write a letter that said
DO IT NOW ~~and~~ DON'T PUT IT OFF!!!
they want ~~all~~ ~~some~~ ~~money~~ ~~of~~ ~~you~~
and me and people too be helped and
all of us together to help them! 
they want all same money
too so they can build there own
city!!! they don't want them waste
there city

Commentary Score Level 1

- Shows limited understanding of task by describing citizens' feelings and making a vague reference to a meeting at Grange Hall
- Inaccurate information is stated four times
- Misunderstands the problem, stating that "they want money to build their own city"
- Does not express ideas clearly
- Lacks a plan of organization

Score Level 1

The people of Rose, New York, felt good about their Post office. They helped give a new roof to the Post office. They also started cleaning all the debris from the Post office. The people of Rose, New York had an annual meeting and elections for the Rose Post office. It was to be dated on Monday, February, 10, 1992, 6:00 PM is the Post office dinner and at 7:00 PM is the Elections and Program. The guest speaker is U.S. Representative Frank Horton. It will be held at the Rose Glance, Route 114, Rose, NY for more information, call 527-9787.

Commentary Score Level 1

- Shows limited understanding of task, and makes no mention of the central problem of closing a post office. Three examples of helping the post office are given, but not within the context of the central problem. Does not use information to support the central idea of closing the post office
- Demonstrates misunderstanding of task by referencing documents to prove that people like their post office
- Lacks a plan of organization
- Does not express ideas clearly

Appendices

Appendix A

GRADE 5 ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES TEST SPECIFICATIONS GRID

(Revised 12/15/1999)

NUMBER OF MULTIPLE-CHOICE ITEMS BY STANDARD AND UNIT

Standard → Unit ↓	1 US AND NY HISTORY	2 WORLD HISTORY	3 GEOGRAPHY	4 ECONOMICS	5 CIVICS, CITIZEN- SHIP, AND GOVERNMENT	RANGE
1-Culture and History of World Communities	0	2-4	0	0	0	2-4
2-Location and Geographic Characteristics of World Communities	0	0-2	2-4	0	0	2-6
3-Meeting Basic Needs and Wants in World Communities	0	0-2	0	3-4	0	3-6
4-Government of World Communities	0	0-2	0	0	3-4	3-6
5-Early Inhabitants and the European Encounter	2-3	0-1	0-1	0-1	0	2-6
6-Colonial Life and the Revolutionary War in NY State	2-3	0	0-2	0-2	0-2	2-9
7-The New Nation and NY State	2-4	0	0-2	0-2	0-2	2-9
8-Industrial Growth and Expansion in NY State	2-4	0	0-2	0-2	0-2	2-9
9-Government: Local, State, and National	2-4	0	0	0	3-8	5-12
10*-Cross-Topical/Skills-Based	0-2	0-2	2-4	0-2	0-2	2-12
TOTAL						35

*Items placed in column 10 are either cross-topical or test basic social studies skills found throughout the K-4 social studies program.

Appendix B

GRADE 5 ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES TEST SPECIFICATIONS GRID

MULTIPLE-CHOICE ITEMS IN THIS SAMPLER BY STANDARD AND UNIT

Standard → ↓ Unit	1 US AND NY HISTORY	2 WORLD HISTORY	3 GEOGRAPHY	4 ECONOMICS	5 CIVICS, CITIZEN- SHIP, AND GOVERNMENT	RANGE
1-Culture and History of World Communities		5, 12				
2-Location and Geographic Characteristics of World Communities			13			
3-Meeting Basic Needs and Wants in World Communities				14, 15, 16		
4-Government of World Communities						
5-Early Inhabitants and the European Encounter						
6-Colonial Life and the Revolutionary War in NY State	2		1			
7-The New Nation and NY State						
8-Industrial Growth and Expansion in NY State	3, 4		10, 11	9		
9-Government: Local, State, and National	17, 19				18, 20	
10*-Cross-Topical/Skills-Based			6, 7, 8			
TOTAL						20

*Items placed in column 10 are either cross-topical or test basic social studies skills found throughout the K-4 social studies program.

Appendix C

Components and Weighting of the Grade 5 Elementary Social Studies Test

ITEM TYPE	NUMBER OF ITEMS	APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF THE TEST
Multiple-choice items*	35	50%
Constructed response*	3-4	20%
Document-based question* (DBQ)	1	10% - Scaffolded question (or notes) 20% - essay TOTAL = 30%

Components of the Grade 5 Elementary Social Studies Test Sampler Keyed to the Social Studies Standards

ITEM TYPE	STANDARD(S)
Multiple-choice*	(See Multiple-Choice Specifications Grid) (Appendix B)
Constructed response*	Standard 1: History of the United States and New York Standard 2: World History Standard 3: Geography Standard 4: Economics
Document-based question*	Civics, Citizenship, and Government

* Students must answer all questions on each part of the Grade 5 Elementary Social Studies Test. There is no choice of questions.



New York State Education Department, Room 760 EBA, Albany, NY 12234

**Grade 5 Elementary Social Studies Test
Test Sampler Draft, February 2000
Comment Sheet**

YES

No

1. **Content**—Are the questions generally appropriate in content?

Comments:

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2. **Difficulty**—Are the questions generally appropriate in difficulty?

Comments:

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3. **Directions**—Are the directions in the Test Sampler Draft clear and easy for students to follow?

Comments:

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4. **Time**—Would most of the students be able to complete this test (with a total of 35 multiple-choice questions) within the time allotted (two sessions of 1 to 1 1/2 hours each)?

Comments:

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5. **Additional Comments:**

New York State Education Department
Albany, New York 12234

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