Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Unit 3 (first marking period) – Thematic Essay**

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

**Theme: The Constitution and Change**

|  |
| --- |
| The United States Constitution not only provides a basic framework of government, but also allows for the flexibility to adapt to changes over time. |

**Task:**

|  |
| --- |
| • Identify *two* basic constitutional principles and discuss how each principle allows the government to adapt to changes in the United States  • For *each* constitutional principle you discuss, describe a specific historical circumstance when the principle was used to meet the changing needs of American political, social, *or* economic life |

You may use any constitutional principle from your study of United States history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include: the amendment process, the elastic clause, judicial review, strict v. loose interpretation of the Constitution, and the unwritten constitution.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Guidelines:**

**In your essay, be sure to:**

**•** Develop all aspects of the task

**•** Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details

**•** Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**In developing your answer, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:**

**(a) discuss means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”**

**(b) describe means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it”**

**Thematic Essay Scoring Rubric**

**5 = 100**

\* Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth

\* Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates information)

\* Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details

\* Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**4 = 90**

\* Develops all aspects of the task, but may do so somewhat unevenly

\* Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates information)

\* Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details

\* Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**3 = 80**

\* Develops all aspects of the task with little depth or develops most aspects of the task in some depth

\* Is more descriptive than analytical

\* Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some minor inaccuracies

\* Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that may be a restatement of the theme

**2 = 65**

\* Minimally develops all aspects of the task or develops some aspects of the task in some depth

\* Is primarily descriptive; may include faulty, weak, or isolated application or analysis

\* Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some inaccuracies

\* Demonstrates a general plan of organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addresses; may lack an introduction and/or a conclusion

**1 = 50**

\* Minimally develops some aspects of the task

\* Is descriptive; may lack understanding, application, or analysis

\* Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details; may include inaccuracies

\* May demonstrate a weakness in organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addresses; may lack an introduction and/or a conclusion

**0 = 0pts**

\* Failure to complete assignment