

Extended Response Answer Guidelines – Social Studies Test

Please use the guidelines below as you answer the Extended Response question on the Social Studies test. Following these guidelines as closely as possible will ensure that you provide the best response.

- 1. Please note that this task must be completed in no more than 25 minutes.**
However, don't rush through your response. Be sure to read through the passage(s) and the prompt. Then think about the message you want to convey in your response. **Be sure to plan your response before you begin writing.** Draft your response and revise it as needed.
- 2. Fully answering a Social Studies ER prompt often requires 3 to 5 paragraphs of 3 to 7 sentences each** – that can quickly add up to 200 to 400 words of writing! A response that is significantly shorter could put you in danger of scoring a 0 just for not showing enough of your writing skills.
- 3. As you read the quotation and the passage, think carefully about the enduring issue** expressed in the quotation given. An enduring issue reflects the founding principles of the United States and is an important idea that people often grapple with as new situations arise.
- 4. When you write your essay, be sure to**
 - **develop an argument** about how the ideas expressed by the author of the passage are related to the excerpt or quotation that is presented first
 - **support** your explanation with multiple pieces of evidence, **using ideas from both the quotation or excerpt and the passage**
 - **incorporate your own knowledge** of the topic's background and historical context into your response
 - **answer the prompt directly** by staying focused on the passage and the quotation or excerpt throughout your response
 - **build your main points thoroughly**
 - **put your main points in logical order** and tie your details to your main points
 - **organize your response carefully** and consider your **audience, message, and purpose**
 - **use transitional words and phrases** to connect sentences, paragraphs, and ideas
 - **choose words carefully** to express your ideas clearly
 - **vary your sentence structure** to enhance the flow and clarity of your response
 - **reread and revise your response** to correct any errors in grammar, usage, or punctuation