DBQ Essay Scoring Guide

Contextualization – 1 Point Possible

____ *Relates the topic of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occurred before, during, or continued after the time frame of the question. (1)*
Improvement Needed
____Attempts at contextualization are underdeveloped, lack explanation, are a laundry list or hastily phrased.
____There are no attempts at contextualization.

Thesis/Claim – 1 Point Possible

____ *Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning. (1)*
Improvement Needed
____Thesis is properly argumentative but is too simplistic and lacks the necessary level of specificity.
____Thesis simply restates or rephrases the prompt.
____Thesis contains awkward organization, may be off-topic, or contain inaccuracies.

Document Evidence and Analysis – 3 Points Possible

____*Utilizes the content of at least **three** documents to address the topic of the prompt. (1)*
____*Supports an argument in response to the prompt using at least **six** documents. (2)*
____*For at least **three** documents, explains how or why the historical situation, audience, purpose, and/or point of view is relevant to the essay's argument. (1)*

Document Usage

	DOC 1	Doc 2	Doc 3	Doc 4	Doc 5	Doc 6	Doc 7
Summary(Use of Doc)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Prompt (Support of Doc)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Why (HIPP)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Improvement Needed:

____Documents are described superficially or simply quoted.
____Only one or two documents are utilized effectively.
____Historical situation, intended audience, purpose, and/or point of view for at least three documents is not used

Evidence Beyond the Documents – 1 Point Possible

____ *Provides additional pieces of specific historical evidence beyond those found in the documents relevant to the argument about the prompt. (1)*
Improvement Needed:
____Outside evidence consists of the same material in the documents or other scoring categories of this rubric.
____Outside evidence lacks explanation, is inaccurate or irrelevant, or non-existent.

Analysis and Reasoning – 1 Point Possible

____*Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question*
Improvement Needed:
____Explaining both similarity and difference, or explaining both continuity and change, or explaining multiple causes, or explaining both causes and effects

Additional Feedback:

____be more organized	____budget your time	____improve topic sentences	____more evidence
____improve doc usage	____no quoting	____more support from docs	____specific evidence

Score: _____/7 Points   **Grade:_____**