

AP Government FRQ Scoring Rubrics (from College Board)

Concept Application Question

Scoring Guidelines

Maximum Possible Points: 3

Rubric Row		Scoring Criteria	Scoring Note
A	Describe (0–1 point)	1 point Describe a political institution, behavior, or process in connection with a scenario.	The response must reference content from the scenario and provide a description.
B	Explain (0–1 point)	1 point In the context of the scenario, explain how the response in part A affects a political process, government entity, or citizen behavior.	The response needs to specify an action and the impact of that action.
C	Explain (0–1 point)	1 point Explain how the scenario relates to a political institution, behavior, or process.	To earn this point, the response must demonstrate a grasp of the appropriate Enduring Understanding.

Quantitative Analysis Question

Scoring Guidelines

Maximum Possible Points: 4

Rubric Row		Scoring Criteria	Scoring Note
A	Identify/Describe (0–1 point)	1 point Identify or describe the data.	
B1	Describe (0–1 point)	1 point Describe a pattern, trend, or similarity/difference as prompted.	
B2	Draw a conclusion (0–1 point)	1 point Draw a conclusion for that similarity or difference.	
C	Explain (0–1 point)	1 point Explain how _____ in the stimulus graphic demonstrates _____.	To earn this point, the response must demonstrate a grasp of the appropriate Enduring Understanding.

SCOTUS Comparison

Scoring Guidelines

Maximum Possible Points: 4

Rubric Row		Scoring Criteria	Scoring Note
A	Identify (0–1 point)	1 point Identify a similarity or difference between the two Supreme Court cases (as specified in the question).	
B1	Identify (0–1 point)	1 point Provide prompted information from the specified required Supreme Court case.	
B2	Explain (0–1 point)	1 point Explain how or why that information is relevant to the second source provided in the question. (Explain the relationship of that information as directed.)	In order to earn the second point in part B, the response must correctly relate specific information from the required source to the new source.
C	Describe or Explain (0–1 point)	1 point Describe or explain an interaction between the holding in the non-required Supreme Court case and a relevant political institution, behavior, or process.	To earn this point, the response must demonstrate a grasp of the appropriate Enduring Understanding.

Argument Essay

Scoring Guidelines

Maximum Possible Points: 6

Rubric Row	Scoring Criteria			Scoring Note
Claim/Thesis	1 point Articulates a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the question and establishes a line of reasoning.			The response cannot earn a point for simply restating the prompt.
Evidence	1 point Provides one piece of evidence that is accurately linked to the topic of the question	OR 2 points Uses one piece of specific and relevant evidence to support the claim or thesis	OR 3 points Uses two pieces of specific and relevant evidence to support the claim or thesis	To earn more than one point, the response must have a claim/thesis.
Reasoning	1 point Explains how or why the evidence supports the claim or thesis			The response must have a claim/thesis to earn a point. The response cannot simply restate the prompt to explain why the evidence supports the claim/thesis. The response cannot earn a point without previously supporting the claim/thesis in B. To earn the point the response must address at least one piece of evidence.
Responds to alternative perspectives	1 point Responds to an opposing or alternate perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal			The response must have a claim or thesis to earn a point. The response must identify an alternative perspective; demonstrate a correct understanding of the perspective; and refute, concede, or rebut the perspective.