

October 22, 2015

SOCIAL STUDIES ESSAY

WRITTEN RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT

SOURCE STATEMENT:

The powers and responsibilities unique to the Prime Minister, in the Canadian system of government, are suitable for providing good governance to the country. These powers provide for an appropriate structural balance between the stability necessary to govern a country practically and the accountability that citizens require of their leaders.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement?

Assignment: Clearly refer to and thoroughly explain the source statement, to show that you understand it in all its implications and to firmly establish your credibility. Then, answer the question as to what degree you agree or disagree with the source statement, referring to examples and evidence outside the source statement as specifically as possible in order to support your opinion.

SUGGESTED ESSAY FORMAT PARAGRAPH OUTLINE **(from 4 - 10 sentences each paragraph)**

FIRST 3 PARAGRAPHS – INTRODUCTION & EXPLORATION OF THE ISSUE

- 1) Thoroughly explain the source statement in your own words. Refer specifically to the source statement. Define important terms. Explain why the issue is important.
- 2) Explain the main opposing opinions/positions that people hold or may hold about the issue, and the main values linked to each position.
- 3) State the position you will defend, and give a brief outline of your reasoning.

FOURTH PARAGRAPH –Your main argument. Explain it, give examples, show how it relates to the question, and write a transitional sentence that connects to the next paragraph. Make sure you use Social Studies terms and concepts relevant to this course.

FIFTH PARAGRAPH –Another argument. Explain it, give examples, show how it relates to the question, and write a transitional sentence that connects to the next paragraph. Make sure you use Social Studies terms and concepts relevant to this course.

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SIXTH PARAGRAPH – At this point, according to the marking rubric, you can either a closing argument with its own example, or (if you have included a sufficient overall number of examples/amount of evidence) you may summarize your position and make a closing statement.

Additional hints;

1) Don't use 'I' statements in your essay. Simply state your position clearly and proceed to back it up with arguments and evidence. Writing 'I think' or 'I believe' is like apologizing ("this is only my opinion, so please don't be offended"), and thus makes the statements within the essay weaker.

2) Be as accurate as possible. It is best to be specific and accurate, but if you cannot be specific with certainty, you should at least be accurate with a general statement.