



Grade 8 Social Studies

Short Constructed Response Scoring Guide

Spring 2023

General Information

Beginning with the 2022–2023 school year, social studies assessments include short constructed-response questions at every assessed grade level. Students are asked to provide a short response to a question. Responses are scored using a prompt-specific, two-point rubric.

This State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) constructed-response scoring guide provides student exemplars at all score points for constructed-response questions from the STAAR grade 8 social studies operational test. The questions are presented as they appeared on the test, and responses were scored based on the two-point rubrics that were developed with the input of Texas educators. A response earns a specific score point based on the completeness of the response provided as measured against the rubric.

The responses in this guide are actual student responses submitted online during the testing window. To protect the privacy of individual students, all names and other references of a personal nature have been altered or removed. Otherwise, the responses appear as the students wrote them and have not been modified.

Grade 8 Short Constructed Response

Prompt

Select **TWO** of the following issues. How was each issue a cause of the American Revolution?

- Proclamation of 1763
- The Stamp Act
- Lack of representation in Parliament
- British economic policies following the French and Indian War

Think about the question carefully. Then enter your answer in the box provided.

Item-Specific Rubric

Score: 2

Score two points for correct answers that include references to any two:

Proclamation of 1763:

- The British restricted/prevented westward expansion and settlement.

Stamp Act:

- All colonists had to pay taxes on documents and paper.
- Taxes had to be paid in silver, which was difficult to acquire.

Unfair taxation/lack of representation in Parliament:

- Colonists had to pay taxes that were created by a government in which they did not have representation.

British economic policies following the French and Indian War:

- The British used taxes from the colonies to pay off debt from the war.

Score: 1

The response provides only half of the correct details.

Score: 0

The response is incorrect or irrelevant.

Sample Student Responses

Score Point 0

Response 1

All of these lead to the anger and dissatisfaction of the american citizens so they decided to fight back.

The response attempts to address the prompt but is not specific enough to earn credit. An issue from the prompt is not named or explained.

Response 2

Proclamation of 1763- It caused wars/fights with Native Americans.

British economic policies- Caused war with Britian

The response does not address how the issues caused the Revolutionary War.

Response 3

The Stamp Act was an issue to cause the American Revolution because many the people did not like the Stamp Acts and what it was doing. The British econimic policies following the French and Indian War were an issue to cause the American Revolution because British was just using the people and wasn't being fair to them.

The response attempts to address the prompt, but the reasoning provided is too vague and undeveloped (“many the people did not like the Stamp Acts and what it was doing. . . . British was just using the people and wasn’t being fair to them”). A more specific explanation is required to earn a score point.

Response 4

British economic policies following the french an indian war and the stamp act lead to the American revolution because britian and America stop trading and the stamp act gave more money to the government so America started the America revolution to produce there own resorces.

The response attempts to address the prompt but provides an incorrect explanation of the first issue (“britian and America stop trading”). The explanation provided for the Stamp Act is too vague to receive credit.

Score Point 1

Response 1

stamp act put texes on paper and other stuff which made the poeple mad

The response addresses only one of the issues from the prompt ("stamp act put texes on paper and other stuff").

Response 2

Americans wanted to be able to have a say in what laws and acts were passed in parliament, such as the Stamp Act, but the British did not allow it leading to Americans to protest.

The response earns credit for the explanation of lack of representation in Parliament ("Americans wanted to be able to have a say in what laws and acts were passed in parliament"). No explanation of the Stamp Act is provided.

Response 3

Lack of representation in Parliament - Let's start with the saying the "No taxation without representation" on how people were paying taxes in order to live in a place where they had no say they basically a riot or sorta protest.

The Stamp Act - An act which the british government I believe proclaimed as a chance to oppress the people into doing as the British government bid.

The response earns credit for adequately explaining unfair taxation/lack of representation in Parliament ("people were paying taxes in order to live in a place where they had no say"). The explanation provided for the Stamp Act is incorrect.

Response 4

The Proclamation of 1763 directly correlated to the Revolution because it was one of the first times that the colonists didn't get what they wanted. Lack of representation in Parliament also contributed because the colonists did not want to be taxed without representation.

The issue of lack of representation in Parliament is sufficient for credit ("because the colonists did not want to be taxed without representation"). The explanation provided for the Proclamation of 1763 is lacking in detail and does not receive credit ("it was one of the first times that the colonists didn't get what they wanted").

Score Point 2

Response 1

The lack of representation in the Parliament was a big factor in the American Revolution because the citizens felt as if they had no say in anything that happened within the Parliament. After the French and Indian War, Great Britain was in a loss of debt so they created several taxes which angered the citizens.

The response provides relevant explanation for two causes of the American Revolution (“the citizens felt as if they had no say in anything that happened within the Parliament. . . . Great Britain was in a loss of debt so they created several taxes which angered the citizens”). There is minimal explanation, but enough reasoning is given to achieve two points.

Response 2

The proclamation of 1763 was a cause because it would not let people settle to the west of the Appalachian mountains even though people fought and died for that land.

The stamp act was a cause because paper, books, and even letters were taxed on the American people.

The response adequately explains the Proclamation of 1763 and its contribution to the cause of the American Revolution (“because it would not let people settle to the west of the Appalachian mountains”). A second issue, the Stamp Act, is also explained (“paper, books, and even letters were taxed on the American people”).

Response 3

the proclamation of 1763 was a cause of the American Revolution because the people were angry that they could not settle their territories.

the stamp act was a cause of the American Revolution because the people were angry that they had to pay to use every day objects like paper.

The response succinctly explains two causes of the American Revolution: the Proclamation of 1763 (“because the people were angry that they could not settle their territories”) and the Stamp Act (“people were angry that they had to pay to use every day objects like paper”). Details are minimal but adequate for credit.

Response 4

The Stamp Act - Taxed all printed material. This angered the colonists and became one of the reasons they wanted to separate from Great Britain.

Lack of representation in Parliament- The British Monarchy did not account for the general population's opinions. They just did whatever they pleased, this frustrated the colonists and created a reason for them to break away.

The response provides an explanation of the Stamp Act ("Taxed all printed material") and also provides a thorough explanation of the effects of the lack of representation in Parliament ("The British Monarchy did not account for the general population's opinions. . . . this frustrated the colonists . . .").

Grade 8 Short Constructed Response

Prompt

This list describes circumstances in New England in 1816.

The Year without a Summer, 1816

- Volcanic eruptions in Asia caused weather changes around the globe.
- New England experienced a summer with very cold temperatures.
- Crops failed across the region.

Based on the list and your knowledge of the U.S. free-enterprise system, what happened to the price of wheat in 1816 **AND** why?

Think about the questions carefully. Then enter your answer to **BOTH** questions in the box provided.

Item-Specific Rubric

Score: 2

Score two points for correct answers that include a reference to both:

Price of wheat:

- The price of wheat went up.
- Wheat was more expensive.

Reason price increased:

- When there was less wheat, more people wanted to buy it, so sellers raised their prices.
- When there was less wheat, it had to be imported from other areas, so the price increased.

Score: 1

The response provides only half of the correct details.

Score: 0

The response is incorrect or irrelevant.

Sample Student Responses

Score Point 0

Response 1

new england experienced a summer with very cold temperature.

The student response is irrelevant to the prompt.

Response 2

the price of wheat went down so people would buy it

The response incorrectly identifies the change in the price of wheat ("the price of wheat went down"). The reason for the price change is also incorrect ("so people would buy it").

Response 3

the price of wheat went down because you were able to send them easier and they became a very easy thing to farm.

This response describes an incorrect change in the price of wheat ("the price of wheat went down"). Two incorrect reasons for the price change are named ("you were able to send them easier and they became a very easy thing to farm").

Response 4

The price of wheat become cheaper because Andrew Jackson wanted the US to be equal so the poor can buy too, he did this to make everything the equal amount of money for this

The response incorrectly identifies the change in the price of wheat ("wheat become cheaper"). The reason provided is also incorrect ("Andrew Jackson wanted the US to be equal so the poor can buy too").

Score Point 1

Response 1

the price of weat went up due to the war

The student response correctly identifies what happened to the price of wheat ("the price of weat went up"). The reason that the price increased is incorrect ("due to the war").

Response 2

the price dropped because they werent making a lot og wheat

The change of price provided is incorrect (“the price dropped”). The reason provided is acceptable for credit (“they werent making a lot og wheat”).

Response 3

The wheat gonna cost more money to buy wheat because they gonna be in cold tempertures and not in a summer year.

The student response provided regarding the price of wheat is correct (“The wheat gonna cost more money . . .”). The reason provided is irrelevant to the prompt (“they gonna be in cold tempertures and not in a summer year”).

Response 4

The price for wheat in 1816 went down because they started to loose there crops from across the region. Volcanic eruptions and cold tempertures drestroyed it all making buisness go down.

The price change is incorrect (“The price for wheat in 1816 went down”). The reason provided is sufficient to imply a scarcity of wheat and thus earns credit (“they started to loose there crops. . . . Volcanic eruptions and cold tempertures drestroyed it all”).

Score Point 2

Response 1

It went up. Becuase there was such limited quantity of it.

The response minimally addresses the demands of the prompt, yet provides answers to both questions (“It went up. Becuase there was such limited quantity of it”).

Response 2

The price of wheat rised. I know this because of supply and demand, when a supply is limited and there is demand, the prices will rise

The student response correctly identifies that the price of wheat increased (“The price of wheat rised”). The reason provided is a correct explanation of the concept presented in the rubric (“when a supply is limited and there is demand, the prices will rise”).

Grade 8 Social Studies
Short Constructed Response Scoring Guide

Response 3

Because New England did not have a proper growing season, their crops were unable to grow and eventually died. Thus, since there is less wheat, supply and demand says that the price must go up to coincide with the harder manual labor and low amount of resources.

The student response correctly identifies that the price of wheat increased (“the price must go up . . .”). The response also includes a relevant explanation (“supply and demand says that the price must go up to coincide with . . . low amount of resources”).

Response 4

Since crops failed, wheat would probably raise in price. Since the cold weather made it hard to grow wheat, wheat would be more expensive because it grew less. They could sell their wheat like that because of the U.S system.

The response correctly identifies the price change and a relevant explanation (“Since the cold weather made it hard to grow wheat, wheat would be more expensive because it grew less”).