



U.S. History

Short Constructed-Response Scoring Guide

Spring 2025

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 short constructed-response questions from the STAAR U.S. History 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.

U.S. History Short Constructed Response

Prompt

How did the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affect the United States after 1896? Describe **TWO** effects of the decision.

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

Item-Specific Rubric

Score: 2

The student response must include **two** of the following details:

- used to protect the principle of racial segregation
- used to justify Jim Crow laws
- provided legal support for segregation in public facilities such as trains, buses, hotels, theaters, and schools
- used to designate certain groups as second-class citizens
- emboldened hate groups such as the KKK to continue to terrorize minorities
- contributed to continued social, economic, and political inequality

Score: 1

The response contains only half of the correct details.

Score: 0

The response is incorrect or irrelevant.

Sample Student Responses

Score Point 0

Response 1

This case made the united states end segregation.

The student response does not describe two ways that the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affected the United States after 1896. The information ("case made the united states end segregation") is incorrect.

Response 2

It affected segregation and also discrimination

The student response does not describe two ways that the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affected the United States after 1896. The information does not demonstrate a clear understanding of the Court case and is too vague to receive credit. The response must explain *how* it affected segregation to receive credit.

Response 3

Its affects were positive. Gave women rights contribution

The student response does not describe two ways that the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affected the United States after 1896. The information ("Its affects were positive. Gave women rights") is incorrect.

Response 4

Plessy v. Ferguson began the start of the new rights against discrimination. This being said, that included the Civil Rights Act.

The student response does not describe two ways that the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affected the United States after 1896. The information provided ("new rights against discrimination") is incorrect. The Supreme Court case allowed discrimination to continue.

Score Point 1

Response 1

Plessy v. Ferguson still allowed for segregation, as long as it was equal. This had the effects of an increase fight for equal rights, and increased social tensions.

The student response describes one way that the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affected the United States after 1896 ("allowed for segregation"). The additional information ("increase fight for equal rights, and increased social tensions") was not a direct result of the Court case and does not receive credit.

Response 2

It allowed "separate but equal" so people had different areas and services based on their race (discrimination).

It said black people were property even if they were free and therefore could not sue in court.

The student response ("allowed 'separate but equal' so people had different areas and services based on their race") describes one way that the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affected the United States after 1896. It defines the policy of separate but equal. The second way ("black people were property") is irrelevant to the question asked; it is related to the Dred Scott decision.

Response 3

it brought forth the Jim Crow laws and it also brought forth many civil rights activist later on

The student response describes one way that the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affected the United States after 1896 ("brought forth the Jim Crow laws"). The additional information is irrelevant to the question asked.

Response 4

Seperate but equal and every man regardles of skin color was equal but still seggrated.

The student response describes one way ("every man regardles of skin color was equal but still seggrated") that the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affected the United States after 1896. The information defines separate but equal.

Score Point 2

Response 1

it led to seggregation and jim crow laws over the southern and some northern united states by saying that seperate but not equal did not violate the 14th ammendment

The student response describes two ways that the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affected the United States after 1896 ("seggregation and jim crow laws . . . seperate but not equal did not violate the 14th ammendment"). Using different words, the response says that the Court case was used to protect the principle of racial segregation. The response is concise but clear.

Response 2

it affected the united states becuase he said "equal but separated" and that caused segregation. It caused colored people to be treated differently. They had to often give their seats to the white people and they had to sit in the back of the bus.

The student response describes two ways that the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affected the United States after 1896 (" 'equal but seperated' and that caused segregation"; "caused colored people to be treated differently . . . they had to sit in the back of the bus"). The continued practice caused certain groups to be treated as second-class citizens.

Response 3

The court case effectively legalized racial segregation. Most public areas in the south were sperate for white and black people. Jim Crow laws expanded causing even more opression for African Americans.

The student response describes several ways that the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affected the United States after 1896 ("legalized racial segregation. Most public areas in the south were sperate for white and black people. Jim Crow laws expanded").

Response 4

Plessy V. Ferguson affected the United states after 1896 by giving legal protection to the practice of racial segregation and protected segregated education causing African Americans to have less educational oppotunties than whites.

The student response describes two ways that the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affected the United States after 1896 ("giving legal protection to the practice of racial segregation and protected segregated education").

U.S. History Short Constructed Response

Prompt

How did Prohibition under the Eighteenth Amendment affect U.S. society in the 1920s?
Explain **TWO** effects in your answer.

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

Item-Specific Rubric

Score: 2

Score 2 points for correct answers that reference **two** of the following:

- Rise in organized crime activities related to the illegal sale and distribution of alcohol
- Increased smuggling and bootlegging activity by regular citizens
- Increase in arrests related to the illegal sale of alcohol
- Rise in corruption in police forces and/or uneven enforcement of prohibition laws
- Rise of speakeasies and culture around the underground use of alcohol
- Overall reduction in the consumption of alcohol
- Reduction of government tax revenues
- Many entertainment-related businesses such as restaurants and theaters were hurt economically from loss of liquor sales

Score: 1

The response provides only one effect.

Score: 0

The response is incorrect or irrelevant.

Sample Student Responses

Score Point 0

Response 1

It caused more protests and more government problems

The student response does not explain two ways that Prohibition affected U.S. society in the 1920s. The information is irrelevant to the question asked.

Response 2

Prohibition under the Eighteenth Amendment, which was put into place because it was seen how Alcohol would have an effect of making citizens less controllable and more unintelligent, would effect the U.S. society because it put a ban on the manufacturing and sale of alcohol, enraging American Citizens. Due to the effect of Americans being enraged with the 18th amendment, it would lead to another effect, being the passing of the 21st amendment. The 21st amendment would only allow those over the age of 21 to consume alcohol.

The student response does not explain two ways that Prohibition affected U.S. society in the 1920s. The response provides correct information on Prohibition, but it does not address the prompt. The response is irrelevant.

Response 3

it caused the women's rights movement. it caused many protests for women's rights to vote.

The student response does not explain two ways that Prohibition affected U.S. society in the 1920s. The information provided ("caused the women's rights movement") is incorrect.

Response 4

People were being arrested, and people started being abusive and etc do to the effects of liquor

The student response does not explain two ways that Prohibition affected U.S. society in the 1920s. The information provided ("People were being arrested") is too vague to receive credit. The information is correct but does not indicate that more people were being arrested or why they were being arrested. The second attempt ("people started being abusive") is irrelevant to the question asked.

Score Point 1

Response 1

speakeasies were created

The student response explains one way that Prohibition affected U.S. society in the 1920s ("speakeasies were created"). No second effect is provided.

Response 2

The enactment of the Eighteenth Amendment affected the U.S. society by increasing underground gangs illegal selling of alcohol and by letting more conservative laws pass.

The student response explains one way that Prohibition affected U.S. society in the 1920s ("increasing underground gangs illegal selling of alcohol"). The second way ("letting more conservative laws pass") is irrelevant to the question asked.

Response 3

Prohibition under the Eighteenth Amendment negatively affected U.S. society during the 1920s by giving an opportunity to organized crime to grow and thrive. Prohibition during this time also led to an increase in unhealthy and excessive drinking by some parts of U.S. society. These two effects caused by Prohibition during the 1920s are very negative, and did not effect U.S. society in the positive ways some had hoped it would.

The student response explains one way that Prohibition affected U.S. society in the 1920s ("organized crime to grow and thrive"). The second way ("led to an increase in unhealthy and excessive drinking") is incorrect. Prohibition led to an overall reduction in the consumption of alcohol.

Response 4

The prohibition under the eighteenth admendment affected the U.S society by decreasing the revenue alcohol brought to our economy during that time period. Another affect was the need to generate revenue because of our economy during the great depression.

The student response explains one way that Prohibition affected U.S. society in the 1920s ("decreasing the revenue alcohol brought to our economy"). The second way is incorrect.

Score Point 2

Response 1

The prohibition of alcohol took a huge toll on the economy. Because alcohol was illegal that meant the government was not allowed to tax it, nor were they getting money from the alcohol that was being sold illegally. The Eighteenth Amendment also led to an increase of organized crime. People wanted alcohol so bad that organizations such as the mob sold alcohol illegally and made huge profit from it.

The student response explains two ways that Prohibition affected U.S. society in the 1920s ("government was not allowed to tax it, nor were they getting money from the alcohol that was being sold illegally"; "also led to an increase of organized crime").

Response 2

Prohibition affected US society by the increase in illegal making of alcohol (bootlegging) and the increased number of speakeasies. (secret taverns to drink within ordinary buildings etc. coffee shops)

The student response explains two ways that Prohibition affected U.S. society in the 1920s ("increase in illegal making of alcohol [bootlegging] and the increased number of speakeasies").

Response 3

Prohibition, the illegalization of alcohol, led to a rise in organized crime and the business of speakeasies to soar. The organized crime started with bootlegging, obtaining the alcohol itself, while speakeasies were the selling points of the illicit beverages.

The student response explains two ways that Prohibition affected U.S. society in the 1920s ("rise in organized crime and the business of speakeasies to soar"). The additional information ("started with bootlegging . . . while speakeasies were the selling points of the illicit beverages") enriches the response.

Response 4

The eighteenth Amendment brought the prohibition of alcohol to America. During this time it caused a great boom in organized crime, mainly in eastern cities in America. These organized crime businesses would still bring in booze from other places and sell them to people. What this caused was major corruption in police forces and even political parties. This was also the commencement of women protesting and had major results in legislations being passed in our nation.

The student response explains two ways that Prohibition affected U.S. society in the 1920s ("great boom in organized crime," "major corruption in police forces"). The additional information ("commencement of women protesting") is irrelevant to the question asked.