



Name: _____ Date: _____ Due Date: _____

Thematic Essay

Name: _____ Date: _____ Due: _____

Theme: Political Systems

Political systems have affected the history and culture of nations and societies.

Task: Choose *two* different political systems and for *each*

- Describe the characteristics of the political system
- Discuss how the political system has affected the history *or* culture of a specific nation or society

You may use any political systems from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include absolute monarchy, constitutional monarchy, parliamentary democracy, direct democracy, theocracy, communism, and fascism.

Do not use the United States as an example of a nation or society.

Scoring Notes:

1. This thematic essay has a minimum of *six* components (*at least two* characteristics of *two* different political systems and how these *two* political systems affected the history or culture of a specific nation or society).
2. Two *different* political systems must be discussed, i.e., the absolute monarchy of Peter the Great of Russia and the absolute monarchy of Louis XIV of France are not acceptable as examples of two different political systems.
3. The same nation or society may be used to discuss two different political systems, e.g., the absolute monarchy of Elizabeth I of England and the limited monarchy of William and Mary.
4. The effect of a political system on the history or the culture of a specific nation or society can be an immediate effect or a long-term effect.
5. A political system's effect on the history or the culture of a specific nation or society may be included in the description of the political system.
6. Characteristics of a political system may be described in terms of theory or practice, i.e., for a characteristic of communism, the theoretical idea of a classless society or the practice of a one-party dictatorship may be used.
7. Characteristics of one political system may also be characteristics of a second political system, e.g., one party rule, censorship, propaganda, ideological indoctrination of the youth are characteristics of both fascism and communism. However, each system should be treated separately.
8. Responses that accurately describe the characteristics and impacts of a political system, but inaccurately identify that system, may receive credit for developing some aspects of the task, e.g., refers to Hitler's government as communist but accurately describes fascist characteristics and discusses the effect of fascism on Germany.