

Sample Essay Scoring Notes (According to the NYS Regents)

John Doe

Sample Essay “A”

The response:

- Minimally develops most aspects of the task with little depth by describing changes brought about by the Neolithic Revolution and the Industrial Revolution and mentioning an impact of the Industrial Revolution on people moving from rural areas
- Is primarily descriptive; includes limited application (*Neolithic Revolution*: hunter-gatherers had begun to settle down and plant crops; made way for evolution of more advanced civilizations; *Industrial Revolution*: goods that had been made at home now mass produced in factories; people moved from rural areas to urban areas to work in factories)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Neolithic Revolution*: New Stone Age; nomadic; *Industrial Revolution*: child labor)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that restate the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The brief, general treatment of the Industrial Revolution is weakened by the failure to develop an impact for the Neolithic Revolution. The response lacks depth and specific historical details.

Jane Doe

Sample Essay “B”

The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the Industrial Revolution in England more thoroughly than the Neolithic Revolution
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Neolithic Revolution*: prior to 10,000 B.C., most people were nomadic hunters, following herds of game for all their necessities; learned to farm by planting seeds and harvesting crops; animals were domesticated to aid with farming and to serve as food; social distinctions were eventually implemented; *Industrial Revolution*: spinners and weavers had done work at home but with large machines, they were relocated to long sheds by water sources; mass production replaced the way spinners and weavers would produce goods one at a time; factory conditions were appalling, with the lack of sanitation, safety, and security; acts passed to limit working hours and set minimum wages, while also targeting factories’ neglect for workers’ rights and safety; gap between owners and proletariat widened)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Neolithic Revolution*: hunting and gathering; major impact was that permanent settlements were established; imperative step in path to establish great civilizations; *Industrial Revolution*: man-made goods were replaced by machine-made goods; jump in child labor was shocking; Sadler Report)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that is a restatement of the theme and a conclusion that is beyond a restatement of the theme

Conclusion: Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. While discussion of the impact of the Neolithic Revolution is abbreviated and fails to mention specific societies, the response employs detailed analysis in showing that changes in the modes of production resulted in a significant impact on society. The treatment of the Industrial Revolution in England is particularly strong.