

Part II Short Essay Question  
Set 2  
Sample Student Papers

Regents Examination  
in United States History  
and Government(Framework)

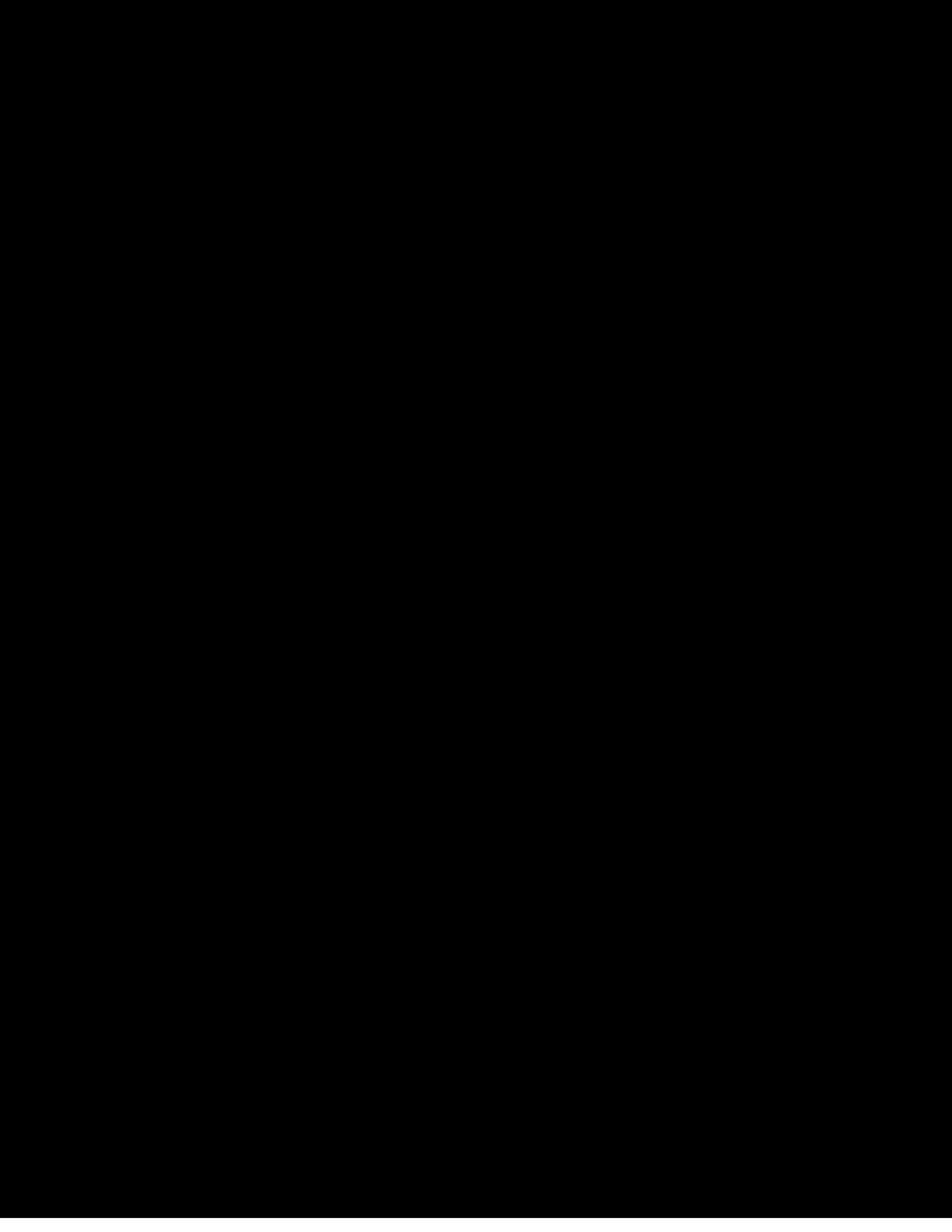
First Administration  
June 2021





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Content-Specific Rubric  
Short Essay Question Set 2

Scoring Notes:

1. This short essay question has components (describing the historical context surrounding these two documents and analyzing and explaining how audience or purpose or bias, or point of view affects the use of Document 2 as a reliable source of evidence).
2. The description of historical context of both documents may focus on immediate or long-term circumstances or on immediate or long-term effects.
3. The discussion of reliability must focus on Document 2 although information from Document 1 may be included in the discussion.
4. The analysis of reliability of Document 2 may be considered from any perspective as long as it is supported by relevant information.

Score of 5:

- ‡ Thoroughly develop both aspects of the task in depth by discussing the historical context surrounding these documents and explaining how audience or purpose or bias, or point of view affects the use of Document 2 as a reliable source of evidence
- ‡ Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes and/or evaluates information). Historical Context:

Score of 4:

- ‡ Develops both aspects of the task in depth but may do so somewhat unevenly by thoroughly developing one aspect of the task in depth while developing the other aspect of the task in less depth
  - ‡ Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, and/or evaluates information) historically
- Context: describes how Abraham Lincoln ran for president in 1860 on a platform to stop the spread of slavery and won without any Southern support, causing South Carolina to secede from the Union;
- Purpose: / L Q F R O Q ¶ V V S H H F K Z D V D Q D W W H P S W W R U H D V V X U H 6 would not be the aggressor and his pledge is reliable because the Civil War began when South Carolina fired on federal troops
- Point of View: / L Q F R O Q ¶ V D G G U H V V S U R P L V H V W be the aggressor against the South but that as president he would preserve, protect, and defend the



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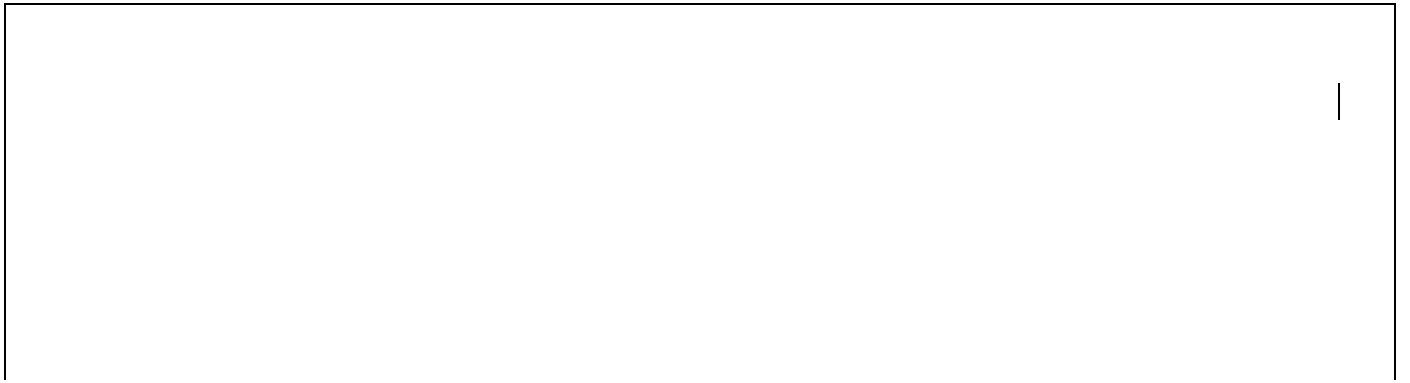

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For much of the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, slavery was the main issue of debate in the United States. It was crucial to the southern economy, so most southern states wanted to keep the system in place. Many in the more industrial north, however, saw it as cruel and inhumane and wanted to get rid of it. As America expanded westward under Manifest Destiny, new states were added to the union and the issue of which, if any, of these states should adopt slavery grew larger and larger. Compromises were made and failed, and tensions between the north and south were higher than ever before at the time of the 1860 Presidential election. The winner of that election, Abraham Lincoln of the Republican party, was believed by many in the south to have an agenda to wipe out slavery entirely. Fearing the collapse of their people of South Carolina... have solemnly declared that the Union heretofore existing between this State and the other States of North Carolina... Other southern states soon followed suit, and, faced with the collapse of his nation, Abraham Lincoln of Abraham Lincoln, Volume 4).

author, Abraham Lincoln, does not want the southern states to secede from the union. Therefore, he seeks to make it clear that any conflict between the states and the federal government will be resolved peacefully. Lincoln has no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to defend the union against anarchy. The document accurately reflects the personal views of Lincoln, thus making this a reliable source.



By the 1860s, tensions between Northern states and Southern states had reached their peak. Documents 1 and 2 are evidence of the severity of the situation, for they illustrate some of the causes of the Civil War that would break out in that decade.

Document 1 is the South Carolina Ordinance of Secession, which is a declaration of separation from the Union of the United States. South Carolina and many other southern states seceded following the election of Abraham Lincoln upon realization that their interests, particularly the preservation of slavery and the right to extend it to new states, was at risk. Tensions over the issue of the extension of slavery had been intensified by a number of events that occurred in the 1850s. The Compromise of 1850, in which California was admitted as a free state and new territories were agreed upon to utilize popular sovereignty to decide if they would allow slavery, was supposed to provide a solution, but in practice it failed. In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed, which allowed settlers in the territories to decide for themselves whether they would allow slavery. This led to the practice of "squads" of pro-slavery and anti-slavery advocates engaged in violence with each other over slavery in the territory of Kansas. Clearly, the issue would not be resolved through peaceful means.

Document 2 is the Inaugural Address of President Lincoln, in which he condemns the actions of the seceding southern states. He states that the secession of the southern states is a crime against the Union and that he will use all the powers of the government to preserve the Union. This address was the tipping point for the secession of the southern states and the start of the civil war. Lincoln was a Republican, so he was against the extension of slavery. Of course, he was a well-known politician, but being a Republican meant that his interests were in direct opposition to those of the southern states.



### Anchor Level 3

The response:

- x Develops both aspects of the task in some depth
- x Is more descriptive than analytical  
Historical Context: South Carolina and many other Southern

The historical context surrounding the two documents is the election of Abraham Lincoln as president. Document 1 is the secession of South Carolina and, although there were many events and WHQVLRQ OHDGLQJ XS WR WKH VHFHVLRQ RI WKH 6RXWK OL )HUU\ 7KH HOHFWLRQ RI /LQFROQ ZDV WKH ILQDO VWUDZ IRU name on their ballots. For document 2, the context is obviously his election because it is a part of his inaugural address, which the newly elected presidents give out when they take office.

7KH SRLQW RI YLHZ LQ WKH GRFXPHQW is that it is a speech. It is JLYLQJ IURP D IRUWKHUHU V VWDQG SRLQW WR WKH VRXWK PDNLQJ LW ELDVHG DJDLQV VHFHVLRQ 6LQFH WKH GRFXPH hard to see this speech as a reliable source due to the fact that it is opinionated.

Anchor Level 2

The response:

- x Minimally develops both aspects of the task
- x Is primarily descriptive (Historical Context: there were many events and tension leading up to the secession of the South; the election of Lincoln was the final straw; Point of View: the speech is given from Lincoln's perspective, making it biased against secession)
- x , (even have his name on their ballots)
- x Includes a few relevant facts and/or examples from the documents (election of Lincoln, secession of South Carolina; against secession)

Conclusion: The response fits the criteria for Level 2 because it is descriptive and fails to address the issues of slavery or States rights. The essay does a better job addressing the historical context than Document 1 does, but it does not address the reliability of Document 2. For the response to earn a score of 3 it would have needed a better explanation why Document 2 is or is not a reliable source of evidence. The student would have needed to include more document information to support this position.



Anchor Level 1

The response:

- x Minimally addresses the task
- x Is descriptive (Historical Context: North and South were fighting over the issue of slavery; Lincoln also states that he has to protect, preserve, and defend the United States of America)
- x Includes minimal relevant outside information (Civil War; North America; when they are divided they are weak)
- x Includes a few relevant facts and/or examples from the documents (issue of slavery; Republican; South Carolina was seceding; Lincoln; protect, preserve, and defend)

Conclusion: The response meets the criteria for Level 1 because the historical context is only minimally DGGUHVHGDQG /LQFROQT V SXUSRVH LV QRW LGHQWLILHG R aspect of the task, incorporated some additional outside information, and included more information from the documents, it could have earned at least a score of 2.

## PracticePaperA

Both documents 1 and 2 are during the time period of the Civil War. In this period, there were extremely high tensions between the North and the South because of States rights specifically regarding slavery. As a result the government created a band ~~aid~~ where they made a worthless and

The outbreak of the

During the Antebellum period slavery had been a highly debated issue in the United States. As exemplified by the Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850, and the Wilmot Proviso, many approaches were taken to reach a middle ground between the free states and the slave states as the country expanded westward. The failure of these efforts coupled with the election of Lincoln led to secession.

Abraham Lincoln ran on a free soil platform that opposed the expansion of slavery. Despite not winning the majority of the popular vote Lincoln won the electoral college and became president. Lincoln was viewed so poorly in the South that his name did not appear on many southern ballots. As a result of his victory, several southern states seeking to maintain slavery seceded from the Union led by South



In Document 1 it talks about the things that are or should be taken out of the Governments regulations. South Carolina declares itself as its own seperate state and no northern government involved.

,Q 'RFXPHQW LW WDONV DERX You and just be a use the Government tax do  
RI SRZHU RYHU \RX GRHVQ ¶W PHDQ \RX FDQ ¶W KDYH \RXU RZC

From the early to late 1800s, as cities began to flourish in the North and Southern farmers were dependant on their plantations, the controversy of slavery began to arise. Many northerners wanted to abolish slavery while farmers in the South were reliant on the cheap labor for cash crops and exports. While the federal government attempted to keep the states to

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Practice Paper B<sup>2</sup> Score Level 5

The response:

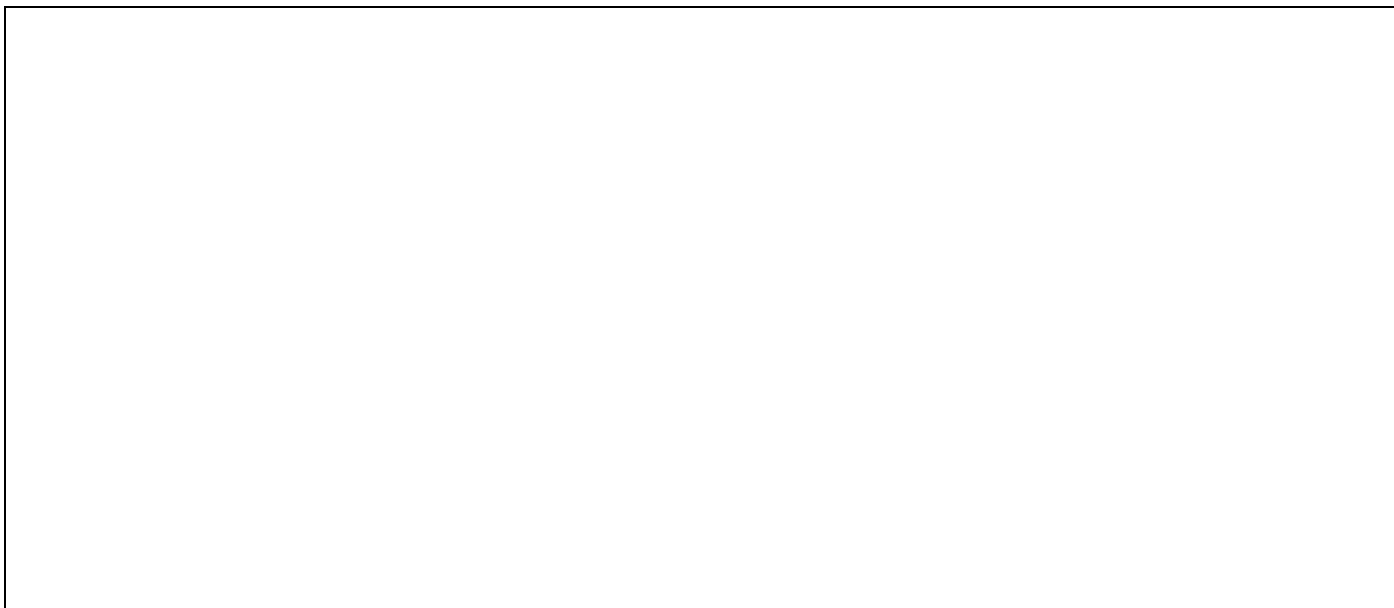
x Thoroughly develops both aspects of the task in depth by discussing the historical context surrounding these documents and explaining how both point of view and audience affect the use of Document 2 as a reliable source of evidence

x Is more analytical than descriptive (Historical Context: the outbreak of the Civil War with South Carolina seceding because the federal government had become its enemy; Point of View: while he was willing to let slavery continue in the South he could not both preserve the Union and allow South Carolina to secede; Audience: further, Lincoln was targeting a specific audience)

x Integrates relevant outside information (sectionalism; industrial prosperity; plantation system; Missouri & trading partner England)

x Supports the theme with many relevant facts and/or examples from the documents (South Carolina)

Conclusion: The response fits the criteria for Level 5 because it includes several well-chosen analytical statements and thoroughly develops both aspects of the task. The essay contains considerable relevant outside information about events prior to secession and integrates key examples from the documents.



Practice Paper D 2 Score Level 1

The response:

- x Minimally addresses the task
- x Is descriptive (Historical Context: South Carolina declares itself a separate state and no Northern government involved; Point of View: L Q / L Q F R O Q ¶ V D G G U H V V K H V D L G W R W H destroy the government or defend it)
- x Includes no relevant outside information
- x Includes a few relevant facts and/or examples from the documents (South Carolina declares itself as L W V R Z Q V H S D U D W H V W D W H L Q / L Q F R O Q ¶ V D G G U H V V K H V D the government or to defend it)

Conclusion: The response fits the criteria for Level 1 because it very minimally addresses the task; it is descriptive but lacks a focus on the task and only talks about the documents. In order to earn a score of 2 the response would have needed to address both aspects of the task, apply a better understanding of the documents, and integrate some outside information.

Practice Paper E 2 Score Level 2

The response:

- x Minimally develops both aspects of the task
- x Is primarily descriptive (Historical Context: many Northerners wanted to abolish slavery while farmers in the South were reliant on the cheap labor for cash crops and exports; Audience: )