

ESSAY EXAM: FOUR-PART EVALUATION SCALE

PERTINENCE of information (material in the essay directly relates to — and covers — the central issues posed in the question) **20%**

A	B	C	D	F	
20-18	17-16	15-14	13-12	11-0	_____

ACCURACY of information (essay statements are correct, verifiable, and precise; *in addition*, essay conforms to the basic rules of sentence and paragraph construction, grammar, and spelling) **20%**

A	B	C	D	F	
20-18	17-16	15-14	13-12	11-0	_____

ORGANIZATION of information (essay exhibits a clear and logical progression in its argument; statements made in a straightforward, understandable, and persuasive manner) **20%**

A	B	C	D	F	
20-18	17-16	15-14	13-12	11-0	_____

EXPLANATION of information (satisfactory and sufficient explanation of the problem under review; essay defines and explores key terms / concepts / issues / ideas related to the question; essay reflects the complexity and depth of the material under review; essay answers the “why” and “because” questions) **40%**

A	B	C	D	F	
40-36	35-32	31-28	27-24	23-0	_____

TOTAL POINTS _____

A	B	C	D	F
100-90	89-80	79-70	69-60	59-0

- Remember that your paper will lose points for problems such as:
- | | |
|--|---|
| -factual or chronological errors | -incorrect statements |
| -omission of key information | -omission of key explanations |
| -vagueness in answers | -wandering away from the question |
| -poor organization | -writing an outline rather than an essay |
| -confusing or contradictory arguments | -grammatical/spelling errors that prevent a reader from making sense of your statements |
| -creating an essay that <i>raises</i> more questions than it answers | -mentioning (but not explaining) key issues |