

DBQ #1 – Scoring Guide

Question: Although New England and the Chesapeake region were both settled largely by people of English origin, by 1700 the region had evolved into two distinct societies. Why did this difference in development?

This is your first DBQ and DBQs are difficult to write. The following grading rubric is the same one used by the AP Readers on the exam. The purpose of this exercise is to learn to write a DBQ; therefore the letter grading is more lenient. The letter grading will get more difficult with each DBQ. Scoring in the 13-15 range on the actual exam is extremely difficult.

13-15 (97-100 -A) Strong thesis clearly developed; well organized, well written, and focused on the question. Detailed and subtle explanation of the difference in development of both sections, balance required. Sophisticated use of substantial number of documents. Substantial relevant outside information. May have insignificant errors.

10-12 (93-96 –A) Consistent, developed thesis; clearly organized and written. Clear explanation of the difference in development of both sections, some imbalance acceptable. Effective use of several documents. Considerable relevant outside information. May have minor errors.

7-9 (84-92 –B) Partially developed thesis, acceptable organization and writing. Explanation of the difference in development of both sections, imbalance acceptable; or an essay which describes both sections. Uses some documents. Some relevant outside information. May contain errors, usually not major.

4-6 (80-83 -B) Confused and/or poorly developed thesis; weak organization and writing. A descriptive essay which may cover only one section. Ineffective use of documents, may only briefly cite or quote documents. Little outside information or information which is inaccurate or irrelevant. May contain major errors.

1-3 (74-79 –C) No thesis; disorganized, poorly written. Little understanding of the question. Poor, confused, or no use of documents. Inappropriate or no outside information. Numerous errors, both major and minor.

0 (0- F) Did not respond or did not honestly attempt to write the paper.