
United States History

Short Constructed Response Scoring Guide

Sample

General Information

Beginning with the 2022–2023 school year, social studies assessments will include a short-constructed response at every assessed grade level. Students will be asked to provide a short response to a question. Responses will be scored using a prompt-specific two-point rubric.

This State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) constructed response scoring guide provides student exemplars at all score points for a short-constructed response question from the STAAR United States History stand-alone field test. The question is presented as it appeared on the field test, and responses were scored based on the two-point rubric that was developed with the input of Texas educators. A response earns a specific score point based on the completeness of the response provided as measured against the rubric.

The responses in this guide are actual student responses submitted online during the testing window. To protect the privacy of individual students, all names and other references of a personal nature have been altered or removed. Otherwise, the responses appear as the students wrote them and have not been modified.

United States History Prompt

Prompt: What was President Theodore Roosevelt's Big Stick policy **AND** what was an example of this policy?

Item-Specific Rubric

Score: 2

Response includes specific details in reference to a description and one example:

Description:

- The Big Stick policy used military readiness and diplomacy to protect the Western Hemisphere from foreign intervention.

Examples:

- Roosevelt used this diplomacy to restrain European countries from threatening Latin American countries.
- Roosevelt issued this policy to enforce the Monroe Doctrine and become the international police power of the Americas.
- The United States increasingly used force to justify intervention in several countries, including securing the Panama Canal Zone, Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.

Score: 1

Response provides only half of the correct details.

Score: 0

Does not provide a response, or the response is incorrect or irrelevant.

President Theodore Roosevelt's Big Stick policy was to take down harmful monopolies to help the common American. An example of this policy was to put in place anti-trust laws.

Score Point 0

The student response: "take down harmful monopolies" does not correctly explain President Theodore Roosevelt's Big Stick policy. The student provides an example, "put in place anti-trust laws," which is also incorrect.

His policy was created in order to help the citizens of the United States.

Score Point 0

The student response: "to help the citizens of the United States" is irrelevant and does not receive credit. The response does not offer an example of President Theodore Roosevelt's Big Stick policy.

The Big Stick policy was used to maintain or gain territory by using force. For example, Roosevelt used force to protect the Mediterranean Sea.

Score Point 0

The explanation of the policy being presented by the student: "used to maintain or gain territory using force" is incorrect. The principle behind the Big Stick policy was to avoid using force, when possible, by peacefully displaying military or diplomatic strength. The student provides an example: "Roosevelt used force to protect the Mediterranean Sea" but it is also incorrect.

His policy was that if we showed our militaristic force and showed our power countries would be less likely to attack us or disobey things we said.

Score Point 1

The student adequately explains President Roosevelt's Big Stick policy: "if we showed our militaristic force . . . countries would be less likely to attack us or disobey things we said." The response does not provide an example of the Big Stick policy.

Roosevelt's Big Stick policy is based on his saying that you speak quietly but always carry a big stick meaning that you should always be ready to attack. An example of this is the foreign policies where we are helping the other smaller countries but are gaining something in return.

United States History

Score Point 2