

Question 2: Argumentative Essay

5 points

General Scoring Note

When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence.

1 Poor	2 Weak	3 Fair	4 Good	5 Strong
• Almost no treatment of topic within the context of the task • Demonstrates poor comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; includes frequent and significant inaccuracies • Mostly repeats statements from sources or may not refer to any sources • Minimally suggests the student's own position on the topic; argument is undeveloped or incoherent • Little or no organization; absence of transitional elements and cohesive devices • Barely understandable, with frequent or significant errors that impede comprehensibility • Very few vocabulary resources • Little or no control of grammar, syntax, and usage • Very simple sentences or fragments	• Unsuitable treatment of topic within the context of the task • Demonstrates a low degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; information may be limited or inaccurate • Summarizes content from one or two sources; may not support an argument • Presents, or at least suggests, the student's own position on the topic; develops an argument somewhat incoherently • Limited organization; ineffective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices • Partially understandable, with errors that force interpretation and cause confusion for the reader • Limited vocabulary and idiomatic language • Limited control of grammar, syntax, and usage • Uses strings of simple sentences and phrases	• Suitable treatment of topic within the context of the task • Demonstrates a moderate degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; includes some inaccuracies • Summarizes content from at least two sources in support of an argument • Presents and defends the student's own position on the topic; develops an argument with some coherence • Some organization; limited use of transitional elements or cohesive devices • Generally understandable, with errors that may impede comprehensibility • Appropriate but basic vocabulary and idiomatic language • Some control of grammar, syntax, and usage • Uses strings of mostly simple sentences, with a few compound sentences	• Generally effective treatment of topic within the context of the task • Demonstrates comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; may include a few inaccuracies • Summarizes, with limited integration, content from all three sources in support of an argument • Presents and defends the student's own position on the topic with clarity; develops an argument with coherence • Organized essay; some effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices • Fully understandable, with some errors that do not impede comprehensibility • Varied and generally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language • General control of grammar, syntax, and usage • Develops mostly paragraph-length discourse with simple, compound, and a few complex sentences	• Effective treatment of topic within the context of the task • Demonstrates a high degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints, with very few minor inaccuracies • Integrates content from all three sources in support of an argument • Presents and defends the student's own position on the topic with a high degree of clarity; develops an argument with coherence and detail • Organized essay; effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices • Fully understandable, with ease and clarity of expression; occasional errors do not impede comprehensibility • Varied and appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language • Accuracy and variety in grammar, syntax, and usage, with few errors • Develops paragraph-length discourse with a variety of simple and compound sentences, and some complex sentences

Score of 0: UNACCEPTABLE

- Mere restatement of language from the prompt
- Clearly does not respond to the prompt; completely irrelevant to the topic
- “I don’t know,” “I don’t understand,” or equivalent in any language
- Not in the language of the exam

NR (No Response): BLANK (no response)

Clarification Note:

There is no single expected format or style for referring to and identifying sources appropriately. For example, test takers may opt to: directly cite content in quotation marks; paraphrase content and indicate that it is “according to Source 1” or “according to the audio file”; refer to the content and indicate the source in parentheses “(Source 2)”; refer to the content and indicate the source using the author’s name “(Smith)”; etc.
