

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

**Part III**

**DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION**

**This question is based on the accompanying documents (1–7). The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.**

**Historical Context:**

The United States Constitution divides the power to govern among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the national government. The Constitution provides for a system of checks and balances to prevent one branch from dominating the other two.

**Task:** Using information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay, in which you will be asked to:

- Describe how the system of checks and balances functions
- Show how this system has been applied in specific circumstances in United States history

## Part A

### Short-Answer Questions

*Directions:* Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document in the space provided.

#### Document 1

The House of Representatives . . . shall have the sole power of impeachment. . . . The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments.

— United States Constitution, Article 1

1 Which branch of the United States government is responsible for the impeachment process? [2]

Score

#### Document 2

He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of the senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States. . . .

— United States Constitution, Article 2, Section 2, Clause 2

2a To whom does “He” refer? [1]

Score

b Under Article 2, Section 2, Clause 2, what role does the Senate play in the appointment of ambassadors or the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court? [2]

Score

Document 3

Presidential Vetoes, 1901–1990

President	Regular Vetoes	Pocket Vetoes	Total Vetoes	Vetoes Overridden
T. Roosevelt	42	40	82	1
Taft	30	9	39	1
Wilson	33	11	44	6
Harding	5	1	6	—
Coolidge	20	30	50	4
Hoover	21	16	37	3
F. Roosevelt	372	263	635	9
Truman	180	70	250	12
Eisenhower	73	108	181	2
Kennedy	12	9	21	—
L. Johnson	16	14	30	—
Nixon	24	18	42	6
Ford	53	19	72	12
Carter	13	18	31	2
Reagan	39	39	78	9
G. Bush	14	6	20	0

3a What does this chart indicate about how the president can check the power of Congress? [1]

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Score

b What does this chart indicate about how Congress can check the power of the president? [1]

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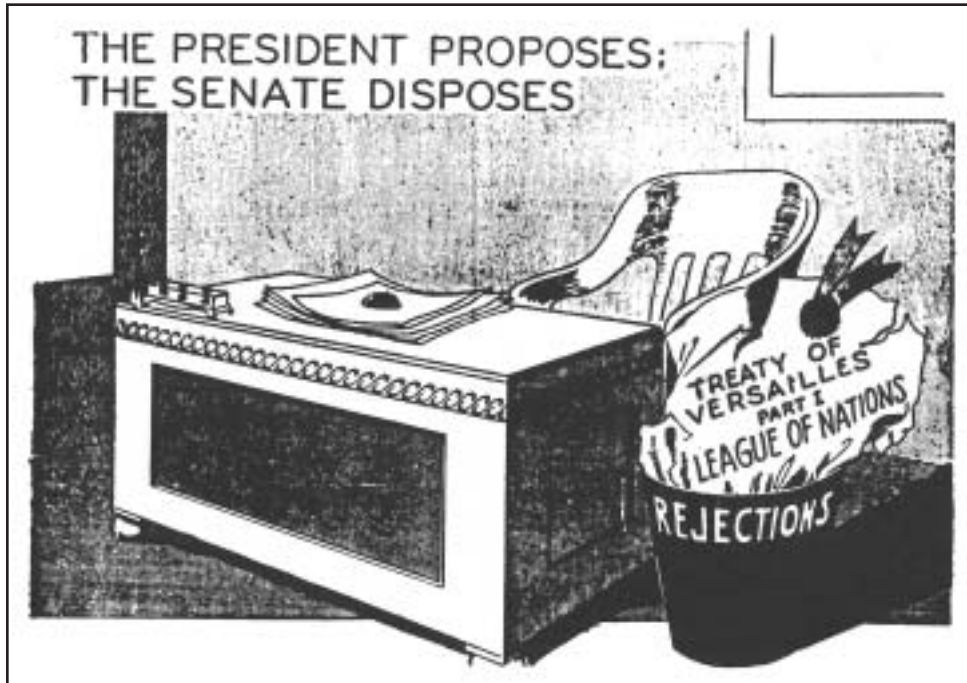
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Score

Document 4



4 In this cartoon, why is the Treaty of Versailles in the wastebasket? [2]

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Score

Document 5



(adapted)

5 In this cartoon, which branch of the government is President Franklin D. Roosevelt trying to change? [1]

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Score

**Document 6**

So if a law be in opposition to the Constitution, if both the law and the Constitution apply to a particular case, so that the Court must either decide that case conformably to the law, disregarding the Constitution or conformably to the Constitution, disregarding the law, the Court must determine which of these conflicting rules governs the case. This is of the very essence of judicial duty. . . .

— Chief Justice John Marshall

6 According to this quotation by Chief Justice John Marshall, what “power” does the Supreme Court have? [2]

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Score

**Document 7**

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the empire of Japan. . . . I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

— President Franklin D. Roosevelt, to Congress

The Congress shall have the power . . . to declare war.

— United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11

7 Why was it necessary for President Franklin D. Roosevelt to ask Congress for a declaration of war against Japan in December 1941? [2]

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Score

## Part B

### Essay

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from at least **four** documents in the body of the essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

#### Historical Context:

The United States Constitution divides the power to govern among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the national government. The Constitution provides for a system of checks and balances to prevent one branch from dominating the other two.

**Task:** Using information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, write an essay in which you:

- Describe how the system of checks and balances functions
- Show how this system has been applied in specific circumstances in United States history

#### Guidelines:

**In your essay, be sure to:**

- Address all aspects of the *Task* by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least **four** documents
- Incorporate information from the documents in the body of the essay
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization
- Introduce the theme by establishing a framework that is beyond a simple restatement of the *Task* or *Historical Context* and conclude with a summation of the theme