



NYS REGENTS EXAM

PART III A – Scaffold Questions

PART III A

- Document Based Question Essay
- Typically 6-8 documents
- **Two** Parts
 - A = Questions
 - B = Full Essay

Historical Context:

Throughout its history, the United States has followed different foreign policies to promote its interests. These policies have included neutrality, imperialism, containment, and internationalism. Specific actions have been taken and specific programs have been established to carry out these policies

Task: Using information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history and government, 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 *two* different United States foreign policies
- Discuss *one* specific action or program the United States has used to carry out *each* foreign policy
- Evaluate the extent to which the action or program used was successful in carrying out *each* foreign policy

PART III A

- Using information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history and government...
- **Text** based evidence
- **Outside** information
- Always use at least **two** sentences to form answers



The first successful efforts to control the flow of water were made in Mesopotamia and Egypt, where the remains of the prehistoric irrigation works still exist. In ancient Egypt, the construction of canals was a major endeavor of the pharaohs and their servants, beginning in Scorpio's time. One of the first duties of provincial governors was the digging and repair of canals, which were used to flood large tracts of land while the Nile was flowing high. The land was checkerboarded with small basins, defined by a system of dikes. Problems regarding the uncertainty of the flow of the Nile were recognized. During very high flows, the dikes were washed away and villages flooded, drowning thousands. During low flows, the land did not receive water, and no crops could grow. In many places where fields were too high to receive water from the canals, water was drawn from the canals or the Nile directly by a swape or a shaduf. These consisted of a bucket on the end of a cord that hung from the long end of a pivoted boom, counterweighted at the short end. The building of canals continued in Egypt throughout the centuries....

Source: Larry W. Mays, "Irrigation Systems, Ancient," *Water Encyclopedia* online (adapted)

- 1 Based on this document, state *two* problems ancient Egyptians faced as a result of the uncertain flow of the Nile.

Score of 2 or 1:

- Award 1 credit (up to a maximum of 2 credits) for each *different* problem ancient Egyptians faced as a result of the uncertain flow of the Nile based on this document
Examples: villages flooded; dikes washed away when there were very high flows; thousands drowned when villages flooded; crops could not grow when there was not enough water/during low flow; no crops could grow; during low flow some land did not receive water

Note: To receive maximum credit, two *different* problems ancient Egyptians faced as a result of the uncertain flow of the Nile must be stated. For example, *crops could not grow when there was not enough water* and *during low flow no crops could grow* is the same problem expressed in different words. In this and similar cases, award only *one* credit for this question.

Score of 0:

- Incorrect response
Examples: fields were too high; a system of dikes was used; they used a swape/shaduf to draw water; canal building continued for centuries
- Vague response
Examples: it was a major endeavor; it was high and low; efforts were successful
- No response

SCORING

Some questions are only worth 1 point

2 Point questions have two points to make in your response

QUICK TIPS

- Analyze the question – brainstorm ideas and options
 - Write notes in the margins to refer to for outline
 - Summarize key points
 - Note relevant outside information
 - Highlight or underline key phrases
- Identify difficult words – try to extract their definition in context
 - Read questions carefully
- Review to see you answered *all* parts of questions