



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

Grade 8 Social Studies

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 grade 8 social studies 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.

Grade 8 Social Studies Prompt

This is an excerpt from a letter written by Alexander Hamilton about a protest by farmers in the early 1790s.

It appears, moreover, that on the 25th of July last the Mail of the United States, on the road from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia, was stopped by two armed Men, who cut it open, and took out all the letters, except those contained in one packet: these armed men, from all the circumstances which occurred, were manifestly acting on the part of the Insurgents.

The declared object of the foregoing proceedings, is to obstruct the execution and compel a repeal of the laws . . . on spirits distilled within the United States and upon Stills.

—Alexander Hamilton, *A Letter to George Washington, August 5, 1794*

Prompt: What was the cause of the farmers’ protest described in Hamilton’s letter **AND** how was the protest resolved?

Item-Specific Rubric

Score: 2

Score two points for correct answers that include a reference to **both**:

Cause of the farmers’ protest:

- Tax
- Government tax
- Tax on whiskey
- Undue burden on least affording to pay
- Excessive government interference in farmers ability to make money/living

How was protest resolved:

- Government used force
- Government used the army to put down the protest
- Government arrested protestors and put them in jail
- Government charged and tried the protestors in court

Score: 1

The response provides only half of the correct details.

Score: 0

The response is incorrect or irrelevant.

Sample Student Responses

Score Point 0s

The farmers were acting as a part of the Insurgents. The protest was resolved by obstructing the execution and compelling a repeal on the laws.

Score Point 0

The student response repeats irrelevant portions of the excerpt in the prompt: “. . .farmers were acting as a part of the Insurgents. . . resolved by obstructing the execution and compelling a repeal on the laws.”

I think the protest was because the farmers wanted to change the laws. And I feel like they resolved the conflict and changed the law

Score Point 0

The student offers the reason for the protest as “farmers wanted to change the laws” but is too vague to receive credit. A mention of a tax or financial burden is required to receive credit. The resolution as “they resolved the conflict and changed the law” is incorrect.

The farmers wanted to protest because they thought it isnt fair for someone to just come and take everything from you and not get in trouble. So this made farmers want to do something about it. Then they went and protested, this didnt go to far. They got what they wanted and stoped the protest.

Score Point 0

The student provides a cause of the protest, “they thought it isnt fair for someone to just come and take everything from you and not get in trouble,” but it is too vague to receive credit. The student offers a resolution that is incorrect: “They got what they wanted and stoped the protest.”

Score Point 1s

It was caused by the injustices of the gverment. They were punished in jail.

Score Point 1

The student provides a cause of the protest that is too vague to receive credit: “It was caused by the injustices of the gverment.” A relevant resolution to the protest is presented as “They were punished in jail.”

There was a tax placed on something that farmers didn't like so they protested and it was resolved by taking away the tax.

Score Point 1

The student response identifies a valid cause of the farmers' protest as "There was a tax placed on something that farmers didn't like." The student provides an incorrect resolution to the protest: "it was resolved by taking away the tax." The tax wasn't removed, and the government used force to subdue the protest.

I feel that the protest started because of the taxes that hamilton was putting on the American people and maybe the people wanted to slow down those taxes. The protest was probably resolved because of Jefferson coming into office or the federal government coming into play.

Score Point 1

The student correctly identifies a cause of the protest as "the taxes that Hamilton was putting on the American people." The response gives a resolution to the protest that is insufficient to receive credit: "because of Jefferson coming into office or the federal government coming into play." More information regarding how the government got involved is required to earn credit

Score Point 2s

It was caused by a tax that made the farmers income drastically decrease. Then the U.S army stopped the protest.

Score Point 2

The response sufficiently explains the cause of the protest as "caused by a tax that made the farmers income drastically decrease." A relevant resolution is also identified as "the U.S. army stopped the protest."

The cause of the farmers' protest was from a tax on whiskey (described in Hamilton's letter as distilleries) produced inside the United States. The protest was resolved when George Washington, commander-in-chief, sent the Army to the farmers to show them who is really in charge.

Score Point 2

The student presents a correct cause of the farmers' protest: "a tax on whiskey. . . produced inside the United States." A relevant resolution to the protest is also included: "George Washington. . . sent the Army to the farmers to show them who is really in charge."

The cause of this protest was the fact that the farmers had to pay a whiskey tax to sell their whiskey. The farmers were very upset about this and began to attack tax collectors. Upon hearing this, Washington and a small army began their way to Pennsylvania. The farmers then disbanded in fear of the army and the president and disbanded.

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Score Point 2

The student response provides a relevant cause of the farmers' protest: "farmers had to pay a whiskey tax . . . began to attack tax collectors." A valid resolution is identified as "a small army began their way to Pennsylvania . . . farmers then disbanded in fear of the army."