

Essay Rubric

Category	Unsatisfactory (1 point)	Satisfactory (3 points)	Proficient (5 points)
Thesis	Contains a limited or undeveloped thesis, or a thesis is not present.	Contains a thesis that positions the 1920s as a decade of modernism or conservatism, primarily in terms of social and cultural values. Thesis may not be fully developed, but it still makes an effective argument.	Contains a well-developed thesis that positions the 1920s as a decade of modernism or conservatism, primarily in terms of social and cultural values.
Supporting Details	Lacks analysis and supporting information. Deals with the topic in a superficial manner.	Supports the thesis with some analysis of the tensions between modernism and conservatism in the 1920s and with persuasive evidence as to which prevailed.	Supports the thesis with strong analysis of the tensions between modernism and conservatism in the 1920s and with persuasive evidence as to which prevailed.
Use of Documents	Shows little understanding of the documents or ignores them completely.	Displays effective uses of some of the documents.	Displays effective uses of the majority of the documents.
Grammar & Organization	Poorly organized and written. Contains substantial grammatical and spelling errors that interfere with comprehension.	Shows acceptable organization and writing. Contains some grammatical and spelling errors, but they do not interfere with the comprehension of the essay.	Is clearly organized and well-written. Contains only minor grammatical and spelling errors.