**WRITTEN-RESPONSE, EVIDENCE AND ESSAY SCORING CRITERIA   
(REVISED SEPTEMBER 2006)**

A response may or may not conform to each and every descriptor within a particular scale point. The marker should classify the response into a category based on general impression rather than by checking off each descriptor.

6

* A relevant topic sentence/thesis, as directed by the command term, is clearly developed throughout
* Superior recall of factual content; organized in a thoughtful and effective manner
* Precise selection of supporting details; where evaluation is required, judgement is exemplary
* Expression is clear and fluent; errors do not impede meaning

5

* A relevant topic sentence/thesis, as directed by the command term, provides direction throughout
* Superior recall of factual content; organized in a thoughtful and effective manner
* Precise selection of supporting details; where evaluation is required, judgement is sound
* Expression is fluent; errors do not impede meaning

4

* A relevant topic sentence/thesis, as directed by the command term, is evident
* Competent recall of factual content; generally organized in a clear manner
* Appropriate selection of supporting details; where evaluation is required, judgement is satisfactory
* Expression is generally fluent; errors may impede meaning

3

* A relevant topic sentence/thesis, as directed by the command term, is attempted
* Adequate recall of factual content; organization is attempted
* Simplistic selection of supporting details; where evaluation is required, judgement is weak
* Expression is simplistic; errors impede meaning

2

* A relevant topic sentence/thesis is absent or inaccurate
* Limited recall of factual content; organization is flawed
* Inappropriate selection of supporting details; evaluation and judgement are absent
* Expression is awkward; errors impede meaning

1

* A topic sentence/thesis is absent
* Deficient recall of factual content; lacks organization
* Absence of supporting detail
* Expression is unclear and makes understanding difficult

0\*  
\* While writing is evident, no attempt has been made to address the topic given or the writing is illegible  
\* Any zero paper must be cleared by the section leader  
  
**No Response**\* A blank paper with no response given