

**Answers to the essay questions are to be written in the separate essay booklet.**

## **PART II**

### **THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION**

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

#### **Theme: Presidential Actions**

United States presidents have taken actions that have had a significant effect on United States foreign or domestic policies.

#### **Task:**

Identify **two** presidential actions that have had significant effects on United States history and for **each**

- Describe the historical circumstances surrounding the action
- Discuss the impact of the presidential action on United States foreign policy or on American society

You may use any presidential action that has had a significant effect on United States history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include George Washington issuing the Proclamation of Neutrality, Abraham Lincoln issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, William McKinley calling for war against Spain, Theodore Roosevelt supporting the Meat Inspection Act, Woodrow Wilson proposing the Fourteen Points, Franklin D. Roosevelt proposing the New Deal, Harry Truman making the decision to drop the atomic bomb, and Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do *not* use Thomas Jefferson purchasing the Louisiana Territory as your example of a presidential action.**

#### **Guidelines:**

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

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**In developing your answer to Part II, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:**

- (a) **describe** means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it”
- (b) **discuss** means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”