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| Skills |  |
| Constructed Response – Strategy #1 | Civics & Economics |

**What is a Constructed Response question?**

* A Constructed Response question is a type of question that requires the respondent to compose an answer rather than select from a list of choices.
* It is an open-ended, short answer question that measures application-level cognitive skills as well as content knowledge.
* It is NOT an opinion question.
* A Constructed Response question *may* use a variety of primary and secondary “stimuli” and authentic “real world” examples including time lines, maps, graphs, cartoons, charts, and short readings.
* A Constructed Responses are graded against a scoring rubric.

**Strategies for Answering Constructed Response Questions**

***Strategy #1: Most Importantly – Know what the question is asking for!***

* Analyze the question and look for all the elements included in the question; this is what the rubric for the question is based upon. When doing this, circle and NUMBER each item that will be evaluated.

EXAMPLE QUESTION:

*Explain the reason for having government. Then, pick two different forms of government and give an example of how the two forms of government are different from each other.*

In this example, 4 points are possible:

1 point for explaining the reason for having government.

1 point each for picking two different forms of government.

1 point for giving an example of how the two forms you chose are different from each other.

**Practice Strategy 1**

Identify how many points are possible in each of the following examples by circling and numbering each element asked.

1) Explain how tensions between British governmental authority and the American colonists contributed to the American Revolution. Include a specific example in your response.

2) *No government can exist without taxation. This money must necessarily be levied on the people; and the grand art consists of levying so as not to oppress.*

- Frederick the Great, eighteenth-century Prussian king

*The power of taxing people and their property is essential to the very existence of government.*

- James Madison, U.S. President

Take a position that argues for or against the point of view of these statesmen. Explain your position by providing one specific example that supports your argument.

3) Choose a North Carolina industry and explain its importance in the national economy. Include two examples of that industry’s global importance.

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| Skills |  |
| Constructed Response – Strategy #2 | Civics & Economics |

**Strategies for Answering Constructed Response Questions**

***Strategy #2: Answer Style***

* Good news! You are no longer restricted to having to write a paragraph! While you are welcome to write in paragraph style, you may also choose numbering/bulleted list style or a graphic organizer.

Remember our original example question?

*Explain the reason for having government. Then, pick two different forms of government and give an example of how the two forms of government are different from each other.*

You are now free to answer in a variety of ways:

**Paragraph Style:**

The reason for having a government is \_\_\_\_\_\_. Two forms of government are \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_. These two forms of government are different because in \_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Graphic Organizer Style:**

Reason for Government

Government Form A

Government Form B

How Form A Is different from Form B

**Numbering / Bulleted List Style:**

1. Reason for Government
2. Forms of Government
   1. Form A
   2. Form B
3. How Form A Is Different from Form B