Gwinnett High School Gateway Assessment

Social Studies

Performance Levels and Sample Papers

This document includes the performance level descriptions for Does Not Meet, Meets, and Exceeds, a sample social studies topic, and three sample papers to illustrate each of the performance levels. Each response is followed by annotations for Development (DEV), Knowledge (KNOW), Organization (ORG), and Conventions (CONV).
Gwinnett High School Gateway Assessment

Communication of Social Studies Knowledge

Performance Level Descriptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exceeds the AKS Standard (passing)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The writer demonstrates a complete understanding of the social studies concepts, relationships, facts, and events implicit in the essay task. All parts of the assigned task are developed with correct prior knowledge and relevant examples. Provided documents are used effectively. Social studies ideas are grouped and linked appropriately within paragraphs and across parts of the response. The writer demonstrates consistent control of sentence formation, usage, diction, and mechanics. Overall the writer demonstrates a depth of understanding and application of the AKS.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meets the AKS Standard (passing)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The writer demonstrates a sufficient understanding of the social studies concepts, relationships, facts, and events implicit in the essay task. Most parts of the assigned task are explained with correct prior knowledge and relevant examples, but some parts may be only partially developed. Provided documents are generally used appropriately. Social studies ideas are generally grouped together within paragraphs. The writer demonstrates sufficient control of sentence formation, usage, diction, and mechanics. Overall the writer demonstrates an adequate understanding and application of the AKS.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does Not Meet the AKS Standard (failing)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The writer does not demonstrate a sufficient understanding of the social studies concepts, relationships, facts, and events implicit in the essay task. The assigned task is not addressed or attempts to address it are unclear or incorrect. Sufficient correct prior knowledge is not demonstrated. Provided documents are not used or are used inappropriately. Attempts at organization are lacking or ineffective. There are frequent and severe errors in sentence formation, usage, diction, and/or mechanics that interfere with meaning. Overall the writer does not demonstrate a sufficient understanding and/or application of the AKS.</td>
</tr>
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Sample Gateway Test Form

Form 416
Cultural Contributions of the Renaissance

Historical Background
Throughout history, the search for meaning and beauty has led people to create great works of art and to think in new and different ways. The European Renaissance is particularly noteworthy for cultural contributions.

Writing Task
Write an essay in which you discuss the cultural contributions of the Renaissance.

In your essay, be sure to do the following.

- Discuss the artistic contributions of the Renaissance.
- Discuss the literary contributions of the Renaissance.
- Discuss the scientific contributions of the Renaissance.

(Document A through C are related to this writing task.)

Each Gateway Test form is constructed with the following features:

- an Historical Background
- an overview of the Writing Task
- two to three specific bullets that must be addressed in each response
- historical documents, photographs, and quotations for analysis and interpretation
Mona Lisa

Pietà
Writers of the Renaissance

Petrarch
Miguel de Cervantes
Giovanni Boccaccio
William Shakespeare

Leonardo da Vinci’s Flying Machine

Galileo used this telescope to observe the moon.
The renaissance is great for cultural contributions. In history, the meanings and the beauty of the renaissance led people to create great work in arts and to think of new and different ways like the artistic literacy and scientific contributions of the renaissance.

The artistic contributions are beautiful and have creative drawings of the renaissance like the Mona Lisa and Pietà. These are not just ordinary drawings; these drawings are special and it means a lot to them. The Mona Lisa is a picture of a renaissance woman with brown long hair and the beautiful land behind her. The Pietà was a carved art work of a renaissance woman holding a renaissance man (documents A and B). They carve and paint things. The renaissance has creative minds and love doing art work.

The literacy contributions are things the renaissance would do to find out things. There was the great writers of the renaissance. Retarch, Miguel de Cervantes, Giovanni Boccaccio and William Shakespeare (Document B). They would make laws and have them sign them so that the law was passed. They needed
a certain amount of people to sign it. The renaissance also made laws so that they could have more freedom.

The scientific contribution was when they made things out of metal, iron, copper and a lot of other scientific stuff. Leonardo da Vinci made a flying machine. It was the first machine ever that went up in the sky. You would lay on your stomach and it had wings (document C). The next machine was made by Galileo. It was a telescope that was used to observe the moon and many things far away. It looked like a lamp with 2 poles going thru it (document C). The renaissance has great contributions like the drawings of Mona Lisa and Pietà. And the laws the renaissance made. Also Leonardo da Vinci's flying machine and Galileo telescope. Also the great writers of the renaissance. The renaissance has great work and are creative people.
Annotations for Paper A

**Does Not Meet the AKS Standard (failing)**

The writer does not demonstrate a sufficient understanding of the social studies concepts, relationships, facts, and events implicit in the essay task. The assigned task is not addressed or attempts to address it are unclear or incorrect. Sufficient correct prior knowledge is not demonstrated. Provided documents are not used or are used inappropriately. Attempts at organization are lacking or ineffective. There are frequent and severe errors in sentence formation, usage, diction, and/or mechanics that interfere with meaning. Overall the writer does not demonstrate a sufficient understanding and/or application of the AKS.

**Development, Analysis and Interpretation Score: 1**

The information in the response is incorrect or copied from the documents. The writer describes, but does not interpret or analyze, the photographs in the documents (“Mona Lisa is a picture of a Renaissance woman with brown long hair”). The writer assumes that the writers of the Renaissance wrote laws instead of books and poetry. The writer states that Leonardo de Vinci flew his flying machine when it was never actually constructed. The writer does not demonstrate an understanding of the impact of the Renaissance on the present era (“The Renaissance has great work and are creative people.”). The writer does maintain a focus on the assigned task.

**Expression of Social Studies Knowledge Score: 1**

The writer does not demonstrate prior knowledge of the cultural contributions of the Renaissance. The documents are not used appropriately: the writer attempts to describe the documents, but some of the descriptions are incorrect. There is little attempt to use social studies vocabulary. Word choice is imprecise (“The Mona Lisa is a picture”).

**Organization of Social Studies Concepts Score: 2**

There is evidence of an organizational strategy. Ideas are loosely sequenced in the order of the bullets in the assigned task (art, literature, science). There is an attempt at an introduction and a conclusion. The introduction is muddled (“In history the meanings and the beauty of the renaissance led people to create great works in arts and to think of new and different ways like the artistic literacy and scientific contributions of the renaissance.”). The conclusion restates the contributions mentioned in the body of the response. Some simple transitions are used (they, these, it, the next machine). The writer demonstrates an understanding of the need for organizational structures but only limited control in executing them.
**Conventions Score: 1**
There are frequent sentence fragments, run-ons, and unclear sentences. Errors in usage interfere with meaning (“The Renaissance also made laws…;” “They would make laws and have sign them”). Pronoun referents throughout the response are unclear. In mechanics, some proper nouns are not capitalized, and some common nouns are capitalized. When errors are so severe that they obscure the writer’s meaning, control has not been demonstrated.
The Age of European Renaissance led people to create beautiful works of art and to think new and different ways. Renaissance started in Florence, Italy. It started in Italy because it was urbanized and had classical cultures of Greece and Rome. It is also known well to other countries because of the Crusaders trade. Renaissance was based on art, literature, and science.

The arts in Renaissance was most important from their age. The art works like, Mona Lisa and Pietà are still famous in our century (Document A). Mona Lisa was painted by Da Vinci who was a painter, sculptor, and scientist. The Pietà was built by a Renaissance man named Michelangelo, who was also a painter and sculptor. He also painted The Last Supper and sculpted King David. These two men were both a true Renaissance man who had to be perfect in the Renaissance period.

Writing literature was also part of the Renaissance period. Some famous writers from the Renaissance period were Petrarch, Miguel de Cervantes, Giovanni Bocaccio, and William Shakespeare (Document B). Petrarch is known for how he wrote
wrote his love poem to one woman, Laura. Shakespeare is also well known for love sonnet and stories. Some of his famous works are Romeo and Juliet and Midsummer Night’s Dream. Because Petrarch, Miguel de Cervantes, Giovanni Boccaccio, and William Shakespeare wrote these literature, we are still reading and enjoying them.

Invention scientific inventions in the Renaissance made us figure out the questions we still ask. Some of the scientists are Leonardo da Vinci and Galileo. Davinci had many drawings that are actually used today. For example, the flying machine was drawn from him, which is really similar to airplanes we use to transport today (Document C). One of the scientists name Galileo invented the telescope and used to observe the moon and the space (Document C). Because they made science improve more, we know about the space and we can transport to meet people and go on a trip.

People searching for meaning and beauty led to the age of Renaissance. Arts, literature, and science were basic things people got involved in the age of Renaissance. Italy is still full of classical of Greece and Rome. The age of
European Renaissance led people to create beautiful works of art and to think new and different ways.
Annotations for Paper B

Meets the AKS Standard (passing)

The writer demonstrates a sufficient understanding of the social studies concepts, relationships, facts, and events implicit in the essay task. Most parts of the assigned task are explained with correct prior knowledge and relevant examples, but some parts may be only partially developed. Provided documents are generally used appropriately. Social studies ideas are generally grouped together within paragraphs. The writer demonstrates sufficient control of sentence formation, usage, diction, and mechanics. Overall the writer demonstrates an adequate understanding and application of the AKS.

Development, Analysis and Interpretation Score: 3
Most parts of the assigned task are sufficiently developed with some details (artistic, literary, scientific contributions). In art, the writer describes the works of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. In literature, the writer describes Petrarch’s love poem to Laura, and lists some of Shakespeare’s well known plays. In science, the writer describes Da Vinci’s flying machine. Some of these descriptions include specific details. Analysis is correct but limited and is not always explained. (“Because they made science improve more, we know about the space and we can transport to meet people and go on a trip.” “It is also known well to other countries because of the crusaders trade.”). All of the writer’s ideas are relevant.

Expression of Social Studies Knowledge Score: 3
Prior knowledge is generally relevant and correct (The Renaissance started in Florence; Leonardo da Vinci painted the *Mona Lisa*; Michelangelo sculpted the *Pieta*; Laura was the inspiration for Petrarch; Shakespeare wrote *Romeo and Juliet* and *Midsummer Night’s Dream*). Social studies vocabulary is appropriate and is used in most parts of the response (Florence, Italy, sculptor, sonnet). The provided documents are used appropriately; information is integrated, not merely copied. Most of the information included in the response is correct, but Michelangelo did not paint the *Last Supper*. Overall, the writer demonstrates sufficient control of this domain.

Organization of Social Studies Concepts Score: 3
The organizational strategy is appropriate to the assigned task. Related ideas are grouped together (art, literature, science). Ideas are sequenced in the order of the bullets in the assigned task. The introduction is clear and effective; the writer explains why the Renaissance flourished in Italy. The conclusion is less effective as it repeats statements from the Historical Background of the assigned task. Transitions link ideas within paragraphs (it is also known well; These two men; Some famous writers; One of the scientists).
**Conventions Score: 3**
The majority of the sentences are formed correctly. There is some variation in sentence length, but most of the sentences have the same structure (subject first followed by predicate). The majority of the response contains correct usage and mechanics. There are more errors in usage than in the other two components. Some subjects and verbs do not agree (“The arts was”). Some word forms are incorrect (“Shakespeare wrote these literature”; “the flying machine was drawn from him”). The writer often leaves out articles like “the” before nouns. The plurals of “sonnet” and “scientist” are not formed correctly. Most of these errors do not interfere with meaning. Overall, the writer demonstrates sufficient control.
The Renaissance period or "rebirth" lasted from the 12th century to 17th century, resulting in great cultural achievements. Europe flourished under this time period with the contributions of great artists, writers, and thinkers. The Renaissance brought new light to the old classics which had been hidden during the Middle Ages. The methods of the ancient Greeks and Romans resurfaced as artisans and scholars looked back to the ancient world for inspiration. The Renaissance gave rise to humanism and a secular outlook as artists produced works such as the Sistine Chapel and the Statue of David. The Renaissance was a time period with great cultural achievements and scientific advancements that reshaped European ideology.

The Renaissance began in Florence, a merchant city in Italy that provided a haven for struggling artists. Under the Medici family that ruled Florence, the city became the cultural center of Europe as artisans were able to freely compose works of art and explore new themes such as humanism. Artists such as Michelangelo, Donatello, Raphael, and Leonardo da Vinci produced wonderful masterpieces like da Vinci's Mona Lisa, The Birth of Venus, and the Pietà (Document 14). Such masterpieces allowed for the development of new painting styles such as the use of oil paints and
varied brush strokes. Also, sculptures made during this time period utilized the use of various tools and methods. For example, Donatello developed a certain lever system to continually pour water on the marble to rid of any dust and pieces during construction. By engineering new methods, artists of later periods were able to benefit from the knowledge of the Renaissance.

Despite the creation of various masterpieces, the Renaissance also brought great works of literature. Writers such as Petrarch, Cervantes, Boccaccio, Boccaccio, and Shakespeare (Document B) brought new writing styles and themes to the era. For example, Miguel de Cervantes published the world’s first novel entitled Don Quixote, which described the adventures of a man enthralled in the life of the Middle Ages and living a child’s fantasy. This work of literary excellence provided writers with a new medium to work with. Other works such as the Shakespearean sonnets developed by William Shakespeare provided new structures for creating poetry. The various literary contributions allowed for new styles and themes to surface that can be seen through works such as The Prince, The Divine Comedy, and Dante’s Inferno which utilized various aspects of life during this time period. Many of these great works enabled writers to move towards a romantic approach in writing.
giving rise to the Romantic period, writers produced works with a more humanistic approach and explored a secular outlook.

Although the Renaissance is largely associated with various artistic and literary achievements, there were various scientific advancements that took place. Through the secular outlook, scientists explored the outside world as well as the human soul. Copernicus fashioned the idea that the sun was the center of the solar system, but his theories were readily dismissed. Kepler then proved Copernicus' theories correct as did Galileo, who designed a telescope to observe the stars which provided the evidence needed to support Copernicus' and Kepler using his telescope, he was able to map constellations and planetary alignments. Another known scientist was da Vinci, who embarked on various scientific creations such as the flying machine, and he observed the human anatomy, making detailed notes on various organs such as the heart to which he found was the pumping system in the human body (Document C). Isaac Newton also provided scientific advancements by establishing the laws of gravity, setting the bases for modern physics and calculus. New tools such as the telescope allowed Renaissance scientists to better understand the world around them.
The Renaissance was a time period of great cultural and scientific achievements that utilized the methods of the Ancient Greeks and Romans. Starting in Florence, the Renaissance spread to all parts of Europe with the contributions of various artists, scholars, and scientists. The Reinaissance led the way into the Enlightenment period or the Age of Reason. Through the developments of this time period, the Renaissance made a lasting impact on European history and human history by revolutionizing the ideology of the people and bringing forth a new age of learning and cultural advancements.
Annotations for Paper C

Exceeds the AKS Standard (passing)

The writer demonstrates a complete understanding of the social studies concepts, relationships, facts, and events implicit in the essay task. All parts of the assigned task are developed with correct prior knowledge and relevant examples. Provided documents are used effectively. Social studies ideas are grouped and linked appropriately within paragraphs and across parts of the response. The writer demonstrates consistent control of sentence formation, usage, diction, and mechanics. Overall the writer demonstrates a depth of understanding and application of the AKS.

Development, Analysis and Interpretation Score: 5
All three parts of the assigned task are explained comprehensively (artistic, literary, scientific contributions). In the section on artistic contributions, the writer describes the work and the impact of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. In the section on literary contributions, the writer describes the work and the impact of Miguel Cervantes and Shakespeare. In the section on scientific contributions, the writer describes the work of Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, and Isaac Newton. The writer analyzes the importance and long term impact of the great artists and scientists of the Renaissance (inspiration came from the ancient Greeks and Romans; Florence was the cultural center of Europe due to the Medics; new techniques were developed in painting and sculpture; literary themes and poetry changed; themes moved from religious to a Romantic approach; scientists study the internal and external worlds; new understanding of the solar system developed). The writer supports his/her conclusions with accurate information (the Renaissance gave rise to humanism and a secular outlook; artists began to explore new themes in art and literature, new tools were developed for studying science; the Renaissance led to the Age of Reason). All of the writer’s ideas are relevant to the topic. The writer demonstrates an in-depth understanding of both the “big picture” and more specific social studies facts and concepts.

Expression of Social Studies Knowledge Score: 5
The writer demonstrates extensive correct and relevant prior knowledge (Renaissance was inspired by ancient Greece and Rome; the Renaissance gave rise to humanism and a secular outlook; Florence was the center of the Italian Renaissance; Michelangelo was also an engineer). The writer connects each artist and/or scientist with his art or invention. Extensive social studies vocabulary is used throughout the response (Middle Ages, ancient Greeks and Romans, humanism, secular, Sistine Chapel, ideology, “Florance,” Medici family, Mona Lisa, Pieta, lever system, construction, writing styles, Don Quixote, Shakespearian sonnets. Dante’s Inferno, Romantic Approach, theories, telescope, constellations, planetary alignments, human anatomy, Law of Gravity). The provided documents are integrated and described effectively.
Organization of Social Studies Concepts Score: 5
All parts of the organizational strategy are appropriate to the assigned task. Related ideas are grouped together (art, literature, science). Ideas are sequenced logically across all parts of the response. The introduction establishes the topic and purpose; the writer explains that the Renaissance brought “new light” to Greek and Roman classics and “gave rise to humanism and a secular outlook.” These social studies concepts are central to an understanding of the Renaissance. The conclusion provides closure by explaining how the Renaissance led to the Age of Enlightenment and Reason and had a lasting impact on human history. Effective and varied transitions link all parts of the response. With each new paragraph, the writer provides a link to the ideas in the previous paragraph (“Although the Renaissance is largely associated with the various artistic and literary achievements”). Transitioning extends beyond the use of transitional phrases.

Conventions Score: 5
All types of sentences are crafted and effective throughout the response. There is an extensive variety of sentence lengths and beginnings. All elements of usage are consistently correct. Word choice is accurate, specific, and varied with one exception (“Despite the creation of various masterpieces”). The phrase “in addition to” rather than “despite” would have been more appropriate to the writer’s intention in this sentence. All elements of mechanics are consistently correct. The single spelling error is the spelling of Florence, Italy. None of the errors interfere with meaning. Overall, the writer demonstrates a full command of the components.