

Rubrics for Grading Papers¹

<p>The “A” Paper</p>	<p>The “A” paper:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> adequately states and defends an argument answers all counterarguments and counterexamples suggested by lectures, reading assignments, and common sense mentions specific authors and arguments by name
<p>The “B” Paper</p>	<p>The “B” paper contains:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> an argument relevant sub-theses specific evidence counterarguments and counterexamples that are identified but not adequately answered factual evidence that is incorrect, missing, or not specific linking sub-theses that are either unclear or missing counter-arguments and counter-examples that are not clearly stated; employs a “straw man” argument
<p>“C” Range Papers</p>	<p>The low “B” or high “C” paper contains:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> an argument on the appropriate topic clearly supported relevant sub-theses and specific factual evidence counter-arguments and counterexamples that are not mentioned or answered <p>A solid “C” paper states an argument or thesis, but supporting sub-theses and factual evidence are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> missing incorrect or anachronistic irrelevant not sufficiently specific all or partly obscured by errors in language or usage
<p>“D” Range Papers</p>	<p>The “C-” or “D+” paper states an argument or thesis, but the argument or thesis does not address the question set.</p> <p>The “D” paper correctly lists, narrates, or describes historical data but makes little or no attempt to frame an argument or thesis.</p> <p>The “D-” paper simply lists, narrates or describes historical data and includes several factual errors.</p>
<p>“F” Range Papers</p>	<p>The “F” paper:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> contains serious factual errors is incomprehensible ignores the question set is dishonest

¹ From Walvoord and Anderson. *Effective Grading*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1998. (75).