

Formal Assessment Rubric: Executive & Legislative Branches				
Grading Criteria	Exceeds Expectations 5 pts	Meets Expectations 3 pts	Approaching Expectations 1 pt	Beginning 0 pts
Civic Knowledge & Application How well do you show your understanding of the executive and legislative branches and their powers?	Demonstrates deep understanding of both branches; accurately applies concepts to real and simulated events <input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrates clear understanding of both branches; applies most concepts with accuracy <input type="checkbox"/>	Shows basic understanding; some errors or vague connections in application <input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrates limited understanding or confusion; incorrect or unrelated application <input type="checkbox"/>
Use of Evidence Are you backing up your answers with real examples from class, history, or current events?	Uses multiple accurate, relevant examples (from class, history, or current events) to support all responses <input type="checkbox"/>	Uses at least one relevant example per question to support responses <input type="checkbox"/>	Attempts to use evidence, but examples may be unclear, weak, or inconsistently connected <input type="checkbox"/>	Lacks use of relevant evidence; examples are missing or do not support the argument <input type="checkbox"/>
Reasoning & Explanation Do your answers explain your thinking clearly and show why your points make sense?	Responses are well-developed, thoughtful, and logically explained; shows insight <input type="checkbox"/>	Responses are complete and logically explained; reasoning is mostly clear <input type="checkbox"/>	Responses are somewhat underdeveloped or rely on opinion more than logic <input type="checkbox"/>	Responses are minimal or lack clear reasoning; explanations may be disorganized or off-topic <input type="checkbox"/>
Checks & Balances Analysis Can you explain how one branch checks or limits the power of another using a real-life example?	Clearly explains branch dynamics with a strong real-world example; shows deep understanding <input type="checkbox"/>	Describes a check and balance with a clear example; shows good understanding <input type="checkbox"/>	Identifies a check/balance but may not explain fully or clearly <input type="checkbox"/>	Misunderstands or cannot explain checks and balances <input type="checkbox"/>
Civic Engagement & Reflection Are you thinking about how government affects people’s lives and sharing your own view with reasons?	Makes a strong evaluative claim supported with thoughtful, relevant reasoning and civic implications <input type="checkbox"/>	States an opinion and supports it with appropriate reasoning and at least one example <input type="checkbox"/>	States an opinion but lacks support or uses vague reasoning <input type="checkbox"/>	Opinion is unsupported or unrelated to content; lacks civic relevance <input type="checkbox"/>
Clarity & Communication Is your writing organized, easy to follow, and mostly free of errors?	Writing is clear, well-organized, and mostly free of errors; ideas flow logically <input type="checkbox"/>	Writing is mostly clear and organized with few errors <input type="checkbox"/>	Writing is sometimes unclear or disorganized; noticeable grammar or structure issues <input type="checkbox"/>	Writing is difficult to understand due to grammar, structure, or clarity issues <input type="checkbox"/>
Total points: 30/30				

IEP/504 Accommodation Notes

During this assessment, students with an IEP or 504 Plan may receive the following pre-approved supports:

- Extended time to complete the free-response assessment
- Chunked directions or questions read aloud upon request
- Sentence starters or graphic organizers (offered before test day or via accommodation sheet)
- Alternative response method (typed answers, speech-to-text tools, or scribing as outlined in plan)
- Quiet testing environment for focus and reduced anxiety

All supports are in accordance with each student’s individual accommodation plan and align with fair, rigorous expectations for demonstrating content understanding.