

Grading Rubric, Exam Essays, Religion 20

- 3 pts.       **Relevance:** Does the essay address subject mentioned in the question?
- 3 pts. Essay maintains focus on subject throughout
  - 1 pts. Noticeable vagueness of subject in some places, or substantial digression
  - 0 pts. Little or no relevance to question
- 8 pts.       **Focus:** Does essay address aspect of the subject on which the question focuses (incl. thesis), or just tell you everything the author knows about the subject?
- 8 pts. Essay maintains focus on relevant aspect and thesis throughout
  - 6 pts. Some wandering from relevant aspect; aspect still covered sufficiently
  - 4 pts. Essay recognizes and addresses aspect emphasized in question, but addresses it inconsistently or confusedly; unclear which aspect of subject is author's main focus
  - 0 pts. Essay focuses on a different aspect than that adduced in question; relevant aspect may receive casual or glancing attention
- 3 pts.       **Thesis:** Does essay have a thesis? How strong is it?
- 3 pts. Strong Thesis: Thesis takes a clear and plausible position.
  - 1 pts. Weak Thesis: Thesis is a mere restatement of the question.
  - 0 pts. No Thesis
- 5 pts.       **Structure:** Is the essay easy to follow? Do you have to re-read it to understand what it is doing? Does the essay follow the thesis?
- 5 pts. On first reading, structure easy to follow
  - 3 pts. Essay loosely structured, &/or requires rereading; substantial digressions
  - 0 pts. No structure discernable; &/or essay hard to follow after 2 readings
- 16 pts.      **Comprehensiveness:** Does the essay adduce sufficient evidence (content) and provide sufficient argumentation?
- This is the hardest standard to clarify, because the content needing to be adduced will change from question to question. Here is a general framework; the detailed standards needed must be added for each question.
- 16 pts. Content sufficient for question; develops argument with these facts
  - 14 pts. Minor errors, or a key point omitted; argument veers from facts adduced
  - 10 pts. Multiple or significant errors, or multiple key points omitted; little interpretation of facts
  - 6 pts. Some relevant facts, but range of content unsatisfactory; or no interpretation of facts
  - 2 pts. Essay written, little or no relevant content

**Terminology.** Consider the following question: *In what ways did the peace accords following the First World War contribute to the outbreak of the Second World War?*

Subject (re: Relevance): Second World War

Aspect (re: Focus): WW I peace accords as a cause of WW II