

Answers to the essay questions are to be written in the separate essay booklet.

Part II

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

Theme: Individuals, Groups, Institutions — Writing and Reform

Throughout United States history, individuals have used writing as a way to focus attention on issues facing the American people. To resolve the issues raised in these writings, actions have been taken by the government, groups, or individuals.

Task:

Select **two** pieces of writing that have focused attention on issues facing American society and for **each**

- Describe the historical circumstances surrounding the issue addressed by the author
- Discuss an action taken by the government *or* a group *or* an individual in response to the issue raised by the author

You may use any piece of writing from your study of United States history that focuses attention on an issue facing American society. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine (1776), *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1852), *How the Other Half Lives* by Jacob Riis (1890), *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair (1906), "I, Too, Sing America" by Langston Hughes (1925), *The Other America* by Michael Harrington (1962), *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson (1962), *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan (1963), and "Letter from Birmingham Jail" by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1963).

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

In developing your answer, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) **describe** means "to illustrate something in words or tell about it"
- (b) **discuss** means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail"