

FRQ 1: Concept application (3 points)

- ✓ **Identify** means simply to list; **describe** means to list and write something else that is true and relevant
- ✓ **Explain** means to give the how and the why
- ✓ Know the vocabulary: without knowing what terms and concepts mean, it is very difficult to answer the questions
- ✓ If the question says to “refer to the scenario,” include something about the prompt’s scenario in your response. Otherwise you will not earn any points, even if your answer is correct
- ✓ If asked to compare A and B, write about both A and B

FRQ 3: SCOTUS comparison (4 points)

- ✓ Know the constitutional clauses, facts, rulings, and reasons for the rulings of every required Supreme Court case
- ✓ Name the specific provision: the **Establishment Clause** or the **Free Exercise Clause**, not just “freedom of religion”
- ✓ If the question asks for the constitutional clause, you must write one clause that applies in the case
- ✓ Get the required case’s facts right. Writing that the prayer in *Engel v. Vitale* was mandatory for students could lose the facts point in part B, because students could, in fact, choose not to participate
- ✓ To earn the second point in part B, explain the difference between the holdings of the required case and the case in the prompt
- ✓ To earn credit for part C, know terms and concepts and be able to apply them to what the question asks

FRQ 2: Quantitative analysis (4 points)

- ✓ To **identify a trend**, look at a time period and write about whether what the prompt asks about is increasing, decreasing, or staying the same over it
- ✓ To **identify a pattern**, write about something that is repeated
- ✓ To **draw a conclusion**, write about a reason for what the graph shows and the prompt asks about
- ✓ Be familiar with the words used in the different parts of the prompt: identify, describe, and explain (defined under FRQ 1), and draw a conclusion

FRQ 4: Argument essay (6 points)

- ✓ Put a **thesis** at the beginning of the response. It must include a claim and a line of reasoning, written together in one sentence; writing “because” right after the claim makes the line of reasoning follow
- ✓ You do not need to know the documents’ authors, but know what each is about (e.g., Federalist 51 is about checks and balances) and which arguments it supports (e.g., Federalist 10 supports a strong central government; Brutus 1 supports state power)
- ✓ You do not need to know the documents’ dates, but knowing the order of events helps (e.g., the Letter from Birmingham Jail came many years after the 13th Amendment)
- ✓ Each piece of evidence you describe must be relevant to the topic of the prompt (if the prompt is about voting, link the document to voting)
- ✓ To earn the **reasoning** point, explain how the information in one piece of evidence supports an argument relevant to the prompt
- ✓ The **alternative perspective** point takes two things: describing an opposing or alternate perspective, and rebutting or refuting it (a concession alone does not earn it)