

California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) Scoring Guide

Response to Writing Prompt

4 *The essay:*

- **Clearly** addresses all parts of the writing task.
- Provides a **meaningful thesis**, demonstrates a **consistent** tone and focus, and illustrates a **purposeful control of organization**.
- **Thoughtfully** supports the thesis and main ideas with specific details and examples.
- Provides a **variety** of sentence types and uses **precise**, descriptive language.
- Demonstrates a **clear** sense of audience.
- Contains **few, if any, errors** in the conventions of the English language.
(Errors are generally first-draft in nature.)*

3 *The essay:*

- **Addresses** all parts of the writing task.
- Provides a **responsive thesis**, demonstrates a **consistent** tone and focus, and illustrates a **control of organization**.
- Supports the thesis and main ideas with **details** and **examples**.
- Provides a **variety** of sentence types and uses **some descriptive language**.
- Demonstrates a **general sense** of audience.
- May contain **some errors** in the conventions of the English language.
(**Errors do not interfere** with the reader's understanding of the essay.)*

2 *The essay:*

- _ Addresses **only parts** of the writing task.
- _ May provide a **related thesis**, demonstrates an **inconsistent** tone and focus and illustrates **little, if any, control of organization**.
- _ May support the thesis and main ideas **with limited details and/or examples**.
- _ Provides few, if any, types of sentence types, **and basic, predictable language**.
- _ Demonstrates little or **no sense of audience**.
- _ May contain **several errors** in the conventions of the English language.
(**Errors may interfere** with the reader's understanding of the essay.)*

1 *The essay may be too short to evaluate or:*

- _ Addresses **only one part** of the writing task.
- _ May provide a **weak, if any, thesis**; demonstrates little or no consistency of tone and focus; and illustrates little or **no control of organization**.
- _ **Fails to support** ideas with details and/or examples.
- _ May provide no sentence variety and uses **limited vocabulary**.
- _ May demonstrate **no sense of audience**.
- _ May contain **serious errors** in the conventions of the English language.
(**Errors interfere** with the reader's understanding of the essay.)*

0 *No Score*

* *Conventions of the English language refer to grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and usage.*