

## HiSET® Program Language Arts — Writing Test

### Writing Response Scoring Guide

Score	Explanation
<b>1</b>	<p><b>INADEQUATE COMPETENCE</b></p> <p><i>Essays at this score point demonstrate inadequate competence in writing an argument on a given topic.</i></p> <p>A typical response in this category exhibits ONE OR MORE of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• provides little or no evidence of understanding the topic</li><li>• may present a position on the topic but provides little evidence of the ability to develop or organize a response</li><li>• copies and/or paraphrases all ideas from the provided texts</li><li>• has severe problems in language and sentence structure that persistently interfere with meaning</li><li>• contains pervasive errors in grammar, usage or mechanics that result in incoherence</li></ul>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>LIMITED COMPETENCE</b></p> <p><i>Essays at this score point demonstrate limited competence in writing an argument on a given topic. Their positions may be unclear, and they may develop their positions with little relevant reasoning or support.</i></p> <p>A typical response in this category exhibits ONE OR MORE of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• is unclear or seriously limited in presenting or developing a position on the topic</li><li>• provides few relevant reasons or examples in support of its claims and/or may rely too heavily on the texts without integrating or interpreting the text information</li><li>• is poorly focused and/or poorly organized</li><li>• has serious problems in language and sentence structure that can interfere with meaning</li><li>• contains serious errors in grammar, usage or mechanics that may obscure meaning</li></ul>

Score	Explanation
<b>3</b>	<p><b>SOME COMPETENCE</b></p> <p><i>Essays at this score point demonstrate some competence in writing an argument on a given topic and develop their positions with reasoning that may lack clarity and with support that may lack development or that is vague.</i></p> <p>A typical response in this category exhibits ONE OR MORE of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• has an evident position on the topic, but it may be vague</li><li>• presents generalizations without specific support or reasons simplistically when developing a position; may use examples from the provided texts, but fails to integrate or misconstrues the meaning of some of them</li><li>• may lack focus and/or clear organization in places or may lack connections or transitions between ideas</li><li>• has problems in language and sentence structure that result in a lack of clarity</li><li>• contains occasional major errors or frequent minor errors in grammar, usage or mechanics that can interfere with meaning</li></ul>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>COMPETENT</b></p> <p><i>Essays at this score point demonstrate competence in writing an argument on a given topic and develop their positions with generally clear reasoning and relevant support.</i></p> <p>A typical response in this category largely accomplishes all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• presents a generally clear position on the topic</li><li>• develops a position using some relevant reasons or examples from the provided texts and/or personal experience, although some support may be uneven</li><li>• maintains adequate focus and organization, although transitions may be simple</li><li>• demonstrates satisfactory control of language, conveying ideas with acceptable clarity</li><li>• generally demonstrates competent control of the conventions of standard written English but may have some errors</li></ul>

Score	Explanation
<b>5</b>	<p><b>CLEARLY COMPETENT</b></p> <p><i>Essays at this score point demonstrate clear competence in writing an argument on a given topic and develop their positions with valid and reasoned support.</i></p> <p>A typical response in this category largely accomplishes all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• articulates a generally clear and considered position on the topic</li><li>• develops a position well, using generally sound reasoning or examples integrated from the provided texts and/or personal experience</li><li>• presents a focused and generally well-organized position, connecting ideas appropriately</li><li>• conveys ideas clearly, using appropriate vocabulary and sentence variety</li><li>• demonstrates clear competency with the conventions of standard written English but may have minor errors</li></ul>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>HIGHLY COMPETENT</b></p> <p><i>Essays at this score point demonstrate a high degree of competence in writing an argument on a given topic and develop their positions with effective and well-reasoned support.</i></p> <p>A typical response in this category largely accomplishes all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• articulates a clear and well-considered position on the topic</li><li>• develops a position effectively and sufficiently, using generally persuasive reasoning or examples integrated from the provided texts and/or personal experience</li><li>• presents a coherently organized position, connecting ideas effectively</li><li>• conveys ideas precisely, using effective vocabulary and sentence variety</li><li>• demonstrates a high degree of competence with the conventions of standard written English (i.e., grammar, usage and mechanics) but may have minor errors</li></ul>