# Rubric for Critical Thinking Essay “Trade Goods”

Levels correspond roughly to letter grades

4 = A  
3 = B  
2 = C or high D  
1 = Low D or F

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
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| **4** | • Sophisticated thought process – Excellent evidence of critical thinking skills.  
• Persuasive analysis of the topic, addressing all parts of the topic; analysis demonstrates thorough understanding of all sides of a question.  
• Outstanding grasp of general historical issues raised by topic.  
• Numerous, effective, relevant, and specific examples.  
• Extremely well organized.  
• Well written in appropriate standard English; few grammatical errors or colloquialisms. |
| **3** | • Good thought process – some evidence of critical thinking skills  
• Good analysis of the topic, addressing most parts of the topic; analysis demonstrates understanding of all sides of a question, though may be unevenly developed.  
• Good grasp of general historical issues raised by topic.  
• Several specific examples.  
• Well organized.  
• Clearly written in appropriate standard English; some grammatical errors or colloquialisms. |
| **2** | • Thought process not entirely clear – little evidence of critical thinking skills  
• Analysis of the topic, addressing most parts of the topic; analysis adequate but unevenly developed.  
• Some grasp of general historical issues raised by topic, though some significant issues may be omitted.  
• Some specific examples but some clearly relevant examples omitted.  
• Organization may be somewhat unclear.  
• Understandable, but contains several grammatical errors or colloquialisms. |
| **1** | • No discernible thought process or serious misunderstanding of the topic – no evidence of critical thinking skills.  
• Descriptive rather than analytical; marginally related to the topic; significant logical gaps.  
• Little grasp of general historical issues raised by topic.  
• Few and/or irrelevant specific examples.  
• Poorly organized.  
• Consistent pattern of grammatical errors and/or inappropriate colloquialisms. |