HISTORY, GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Alternate Rubric

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

, March 2026

Kansas State Board of Education

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SUCCESS DEFINED

A successful Kansas high school graduate has the

- Academic preparation,
- Cognitive preparation,
- Technical skills,
- Employability skills and
- Civic engagement

to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

OUTCOMES

- Social-emotional growth
- Kindergarten readiness
- Individual Plan of Study
- Civic engagement
- Academically prepared for postsecondary
- High school graduation
- Postsecondary success

MISSION

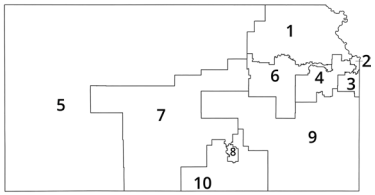
To prepare Kansas students for lifelong success through rigorous, quality academic instruction, career training and character development according to each student's gifts and talents.

VISION

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

MOTTO

Kansans Can



Kansans CAN

Introduction

This "deconstructed" HGSS rubric is the product of a team of KSDE staff who came together to create a simplified, learner-centered, four-point rubric. The included content exemplars have been created to provide possible assessment models.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the HGSS Assessment will be a **required field test** to be conducted by all districts in Kansas. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the HGSS Assessment will be **required to be conducted each year** by all districts in Kansas.

The Alternate Kansas History, Government and Social Studies (HGSS) Assessment has three parts for you to complete:

1. Recognize and evaluate.
2. Analyze and draw conclusions.
3. Investigate and connect.

The rubric will help you as you plan your project around your compelling question.

Making a **Claim/Thesis**

- A **claim/thesis** using facts, information, logic and language that is open to challenge and other ideas.

Supporting the **Claim/Thesis** with **Evidence**

- Important and factual evidence that support the claim/thesis with references in the product or presentation to multiple credible sources.

Explain the **Reasoning** Regarding the **Claim**

- Relevant and accurate **reasoning** that considers the topic from multiple points of view and/or counter arguments.

CRITERIA	**1** BEGINNING	**2** DEVELOPING	**3** PROFICIENT	**4** EXEMPLARY	SCORE
Claim/Thesis/ Assertion: A statement that answers the compelling question.	I show no response.	I respond without assertion.	I can respond with assertion.	I can respond with clear assertion.	**Claim/Thesis/ Assertion score:**
Evidence: The details from the sources that support the claim and prove it to be true.	I show no response.	I cannot clearly identify evidence.	I can identify evidence.	I can identify multiple pieces of evidence.	**Evidence score:**
Reasoning: The explanation of the evidence and how it proves the claim to be true.	I show no response.	My response is unclear.	I can respond with purpose.	I can respond with clear purpose.	**Reasoning score:**

Grade Level Exemplars

The following exemplars have been designed to provide guidance for educators conducting the HGSS Classroom-Based Assessment (CBA). They are not meant to replace or usurp the authority or creativity of educators. Each of the exemplars has been designed using the scope and sequence content from the three scored grade levels.

4th Grade CBA Exemplar

Symbols of Kansas





Question: Is there an animal?

Question: How do you know it is an animal?

Question: What kind of animal is it? How do you know?

7th Grade CBA Exemplar

Kansas History/Government





Question: Is there a building?

Question: How do you know it is a building?

Question: What kind of building is it? How do you know?

High School CBA Exemplar

US History



Question: Is something happening?

Question: What is happening?

Question: How do you know something is happening?

For more questions, feedback or concerns please contact:

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