Question 1 — Document-Based Question

Analyze the international and domestic challenges the United States faced between 1968 and 1974, and evaluate how President Richard Nixon’s administration responded to them.

The 8–9 Essay

• Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that:
  ◦ Analyzes the international and domestic challenges the United States faced between 1968 and 1974.
  ◦ Evaluates the Nixon administration’s responses to those challenges.
• Presents an effective analysis of the:
  ◦ Nixon administration’s responses to those challenges.
    ▪ Treatment of international and domestic components may be somewhat uneven.
    ▪ Treatment of some aspects of international and domestic components may be intermingled.
• Effectively uses a substantial number of documents.
• Develops the thesis with substantial and relevant outside information.
• May contain minor errors that do not detract from the overall quality of the essay.
• Is well organized and well written.

The 5–7 Essay

• Contains a thesis that:
  ◦ Addresses the international and domestic challenges the United States faced between 1968 and 1974.
  ◦ Provides limited evaluation of the Nixon administration’s responses to those challenges.
  ◦ May be only partially developed.
• Provides some analysis of the:
  ◦ Nixon administration’s responses to those challenges.
    ▪ Treatment of international and domestic components may be somewhat uneven.
    ▪ Treatment of some aspects of international and domestic components may be intermingled.
• Effectively uses some documents.
• Supports the thesis with some relevant outside information.
• May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the overall quality of the essay.
• Has acceptable organization and writing.

The 2–4 Essay

• Contains an unfocused or limited thesis, or simply paraphrases the question.
• Deals with the question in a general manner; simplistic, superficial treatment of the subject.
• Merely paraphrases, quotes, or briefly cites documents.
• Contains little outside information, or lists facts with little or no application to the question.
• May have major errors.
• May be poorly organized and/or written.
The 0–1 Essay
• Contains no thesis or a thesis that does not address the question.
• Exhibits inadequate or incorrect understanding of the question.
• Has little or no understanding of the documents, or ignores them completely.
• Has numerous errors.
• Is organized and/or written so poorly that it inhibits understanding.

The — Essay
• Is completely off topic or blank.
Potential Domestic Topics for Examination

**American Indian Movement**
- occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alcatraz, and Wounded Knee; Indian Self-Determination Act

**Antiwar movement**
- Moratorium Day, SDS, Weatherman, Kent State University

**Civil rights movement/white backlash**
- court-ordered busing, increased militancy, Black Panthers, Voting Rights Act extension, affirmative action

**Energy crisis**
- Arab oil embargo, OPEC, stagflation

**Environmental concerns**
- Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act

**Gay liberation**
- Stonewall riot

**Hispanic-American protest**
- Chavez, grape boycott, agreement with grape producers

**Inflation/stagflation**
- wage and price controls, revenue sharing, impoundment, stagflation

**Judicial activism**
- rights-of-the-accused cases, law-and-order campaign, Warren Court, busing

**Presidential power**
- executive privilege/imperial presidency, tapes controversy, impoundment

**Scandals in government**
- Watergate; Pentagon Papers; use of FBI, CIA, IRS, “plumbers”

**Welfare reform**
- guaranteed annual income

**Women’s liberation**
- Equal Rights Amendment, inclusion of women in the administration

**Workplace safety**
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

**Potential Foreign Policy Topics for Examination**

**Chile**
- undermining of Salvador Allende

**China**
- normalization of relations, Nixon’s visit, Sino-Soviet conflict

**India and Pakistan**
- subtle support for Pakistan
Question 1 — Document-Based Question (continued)

**Middle East**
- Yom Kippur War, OPEC, Arab oil embargo, shuttle diplomacy, U.S. support for shah of Iran

**Philippines**
- support for Ferdinand Marcos

**South Africa**
- support for white supremacist government

**Soviet Union**
- détente, SALT I, ABM treaty, Nixon’s visit to Moscow, Sino-Soviet conflict

**War in Vietnam**
- Vietnamization, bombing, Paris Peace Accords, Cambodia

**Time Line of Events, 1968–1974**

**January 1968**
- Tet Offensive

**March 1968**
- My Lai massacre occurs

**November 1968**
- Nixon elected president

**March 1969**
- Nixon orders secret bombings of Cambodia

**May 1969**
- Nixon orders FBI wiretaps to track the sources of leaks revealing secret bombings of Cambodia
- Nixon nominates Warren Burger as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

**June 1969**
- Stonewall riot

**July 1969**
- Apollo 11 lands on the moon
- Nixon Doctrine outlined

**August 1969**
- Family Assistance Plan (FPA) proposes welfare reform (does not pass in Congress)

**October 1969**
- “Moratorium” protests against the war in Vietnam

**November 1969**
- Nixon outlines “Vietnamization” policy
- Native Americans seize Alcatraz Island

**April 1970**
- First Earth Day celebrated
- Invasion of Cambodia

**May 1970**
- Kent State University, Jackson State College

**December 1970**
- Environmental Protection Agency established
- Clean Air Act of 1970
February 1971
  • Nixon begins secretly taping conversations in the Oval Office and in the Cabinet Room
March 1971
  • William Calley convicted of the My Lai massacre
April 1971
  • *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board*, court-ordered busing
June 1971
  • Nixon opens trade with China
  • *New York Times* publishes the “Pentagon Papers”
  • 26th Amendment ratified
August 1971
  • U.S. taken off the gold standard
  • Wage and price controls implemented
February 1972
  • Nixon visits People’s Republic of China
March 1972
  • Congress approves the Equal Rights Amendment
May 1972
  • Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I) signed
June 1972
  • Watergate burglars arrested
  • “Smoking gun” conversation between Nixon and Haldeman
November 1972
  • Nixon is reelected
December 1972
  • Christmas bombings of North Vietnam
January 1973
  • *Roe v. Wade*
  • Paris Peace Accords signed
February 1973
  • American Indian Movement (AIM) seizes the site of the Wounded Knee massacre
July 1973
  • Alexander Butterfield testifies to the existence of the White House taping system
  • Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox requests specific tapes
October 1973
  • Arab–Israeli War (Yom Kippur War)
  • Arab oil embargo begins
  • Saturday night massacre
November 1973
  • War Powers Act passed
  • “I am not a crook” speech
December 1973–May 1974
  • House Judiciary Committee holds televised hearings on impeachment
Question 1 — Document-Based Question (continued)

July 1974
• *U.S. v. Nixon* decided
• House Judiciary Committee approves three articles of impeachment

August 1974
• “Smoking gun” tape made public.
• Nixon announces his resignation (August 8)

September 1974
• Nixon pardoned by Gerald Ford (September 8)
Potential Outside Information

affirmative action
Agent Orange
Agnew, Spiro
Alaskan oil pipeline
Alcatraz occupation, 1969
Allende, Salvador, overthrown in Chile
American Independent Party
American Indian Movement
Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty
Apollo 11
Arab oil embargo, 1973
Armstrong, Neil
Articles of impeachment
Bernstein, Carl
Black Panther Party
block grants
Bork, Robert
Calley, William
Cambodia invasion, 1970
Chavez, Cesar
Christmas bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong, 1972
Clean Air Act, 1970
Clean Water Act, 1972
Columbia University (student takeover, 1968)
Committee to Reelect the President (CREEP)
Comprehensive Employment and Training Act
court-ordered busing
Cox, Archibald
credibility gap
Deep Throat
deindustrialization
Democratic National Convention, 1968
détente
devaluation of the dollar
domino theory
"doves"
draft lottery system
Earth Day, 1970
Eastern liberal establishment
eighteen-and-a-half-minute gap on Nixon tape
    transcript
election of 1968
election of 1972
Ellsberg, Daniel
enemies list
energy czar
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 1970
Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), 1971
Ervin, Sam
executive privilege
"expletive deleted"
Family Assistance Plan (FAP), 1969
Felt, W. Mark
"fire in the streets"
Freedom of Information Act, 1974
gold standard, U.S. removed from, 1971
Gray, L. Patrick
Guam Doctrine
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution repealed, 1970
"hawks"
House Judiciary Committee
Humphrey, Hubert
Hunt, E. Howard
Huston Plan
"I am not a crook" speech (Nixon), 1973
"I am now a Keynesian" speech (Nixon), 1971
imperial presidency
impoundment
Indian Self-Determination Act, 1974
Jackson State College
Jaworski, Leon
Johnson, Lyndon
judicial activism
Kennedy, Robert, assassination of
Kent State University
King, Jr., Martin Luther, assassination of
Kissinger, Henry
law-and-order campaign
Le Duc Tho
Liddy, G. Gordon
"long hot summers"
Marcos, Ferdinand
McCarthy, Eugene
McCord, James
McGovern, George
Moratorium Day, 1969
My Lai massacre, 1968
napalm
National Environmental Protection Act, 1970
National Liberation Front
"nattering nabobs of negativism"
New Federalism
New York Times v. the United States, 1971
Newton, Huey
Nixon Doctrine
Nixonomics
Nixon pardoned by Ford, September 1974
Nixon’s vacation homes (San Clemente, Key Biscayne)
Nixon’s visit to China, 1972
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 1970
October War, 1973
OPEC
Operation Rolling Thunder
Oval Office taping system
paranoia
Paris Peace Accords, 1973
"peace is at hand"
"peace with honor"
Pentagon Papers, published 1971
People’s Park (Berkeley demonstrations, 1969)
People’s Republic of China
“Philadelphia plan” (affirmative action)
“ping-pong diplomacy”
“plumbers”
Realpolitik
Red China
revenue sharing
Richardson, Elliot
Roe v. Wade, 1973
Saturday night massacre
Seale, Bobby
secret plan to end the war
service strategy vs. income strategy
shah of Iran
shuttle diplomacy (Cairo, Tel Aviv, Damascus)
Sino-Soviet conflict
Sirica, John
“smoking gun”
“solid South”
Southern Strategy
space race
special prosecutor
spring mobilization (antiwar protests), 1968
stagflation
State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act, 1972
“stonewalling”
Stonewall Riot (gay liberation, 1969)
Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I), 1972
Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)
Swann v. Charlotte/McKlenberg Board of Education
tape transcripts
“Tears in the snow” speech (Edmund Muskie)
Tet Offensive
“The whole world is watching” (Democratic National Convention, 1968)
Tinker v. Des Moines
triangulation (Chinese-Soviet-U.S. diplomacy)
26th Amendment, ratified 1971
“unpardonable pardon”
U.S. v. Richard Nixon
Viet Cong
Vietnamization
Voting Rights Act of 1965 extension
wage and price controls
Wallace, George
War Powers Act, 1973
Watergate scandal
Weatherman
“white backlash”
White House tapes controversy
Woodstock festival, 1969
Woodward, Bob
Wounded Knee seizure, 1973
Yom Kippur War

(Note: First names not contained in Document G may count minimally as outside information.)

Dean, John
Ehrlichman, John
Haldeman, H. R.
Krogh, Egil “Bud”
Magruder, Jeb Stuart
Mitchell, John
Sources of the Documents

Document A

Document B
President Richard Nixon’s letter to Ho Chi Minh, July 15, 1969.

Document C
Consumer price index for 1968–1975. The consumer price index is a measure of changes in the prices paid by urban consumers for goods and services.

Document D

Document E

Document F

Document G
A cartoon by Herblock [Herbert L. Block], October 24, 1973.

Document H

Document I
Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandatory</th>
<th>Part B — Circle one</th>
<th>Part C — Circle one</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 or 3</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
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When he took office in 1969, returning with vengeance after his defeat at the hands of Kennedy, Richard Nixon took control of a nation struggling under the weight of a foreign war without and conflict within. Nixon campaigned with a promise to travel to Asia to bring about the end of the Vietnam war and this promise followed him hourly for the beginning of his presidency. The Nixon administration was plagued by the costly Vietnam War, a worrisome embargo on oil against the U.S., and a stream of scandals and failed cover-ups that embarrassed the government and disgusted the American people.

The first and possibly the greatest problem that Nixon inherited was a long and costly war in Vietnam, with no clear objective and no plans for an exit strategy, the war threatened to go on endlessly as an embarrassing stalemate. This was a success in itself for the guerrillas, as proving that they could hold off the U.S. and continue to fight was their only objective, but for the U.S. it was a divisive and disheartening war at home. The Nixon administration continued the strategy in Vietnam involved carpet bombing the North Vietnamese to bring them to the negotiating table (Doc B). This strategy brought about controversy at home as Vietnam was the first “living room war” where families could watch the casualties and horrors every night on their...
television sets. The prevalence of black and other minority soldiers working on the frontlines also alienated the African Americans from the Republican camp (Document E). Nixon’s determination to find a way to “win” Vietnam eventually resulted in a weak treaty which allowed the North Vietnamese to keep their troops on Southern soil and the American abandonment of South Vietnam followed by a cheap declaration of “lasting peace” by which was almost immediately violated by the North Vietnamese (Document F). The Nixon administration’s management of the Vietnam war ended in a long and costly failure due to a loss of public support, despite his appeals to the “silent majority” that violently supported him.

The Nixon administration also struggled under the weight of a 1973 embargo by OPEC (the organization of oil-producing countries) against the US, that caused a massive rise in the prices of fuel, food, and troops (Document C). This embargo, brought upon America as a result of its support of the state of Israel, hurt the economy at home despite Nixon’s assurances. The Nixon administration worked to rise to the occasion imposing a national speed limit and gas holidays beginning the as yet unfilled presidential crusade to reduce American dependencies on foreign oil (Document H). The American people’s reaction to this
Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

Mandatory | Part B — Circle one | Part C — Circle one
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1 | 2 or 3 | 4 or 5

As it has always been, was lackluster. Despite the Nixon administration's rather able handling of this crisis, it lost political favor with the American people.

Nixon's presidency was several times, rocked by scandal as sensitive information about its activities came to light. The administrations' attempts to cover its tracks in these scandals often furthered the political machine among the people. Misleading information on the war in Vietnam such as the Pentagon Papers, the Tet offensive, and the secret bombings in Cambodia led to loss in confidence over the honesty of the American government (Document I). These revealed the suspicious beginnings, growing resistance of the Viet-Cong and Viet-Minh forces, and the mis-information used to hide these actions. The scandal that was the final nail in the coffin of Nixon's presidency was the Watergate Scandal. In an attempt to spy on the Democratic headquarters in the Watergate Building, five secret and ex-CIA agents were arrested. Through the investigation, it was first revealed that many Nixon aids had known about this illegal activity and that the CIA had attempted to cover it up. The conspiracy finally worked its way back to Nixon despite his attempted evasions through sacrificing careers.
and eventually giving up taped conversations [Document G], Nixon was forced to resign the presidency and submit to enormous censure from the American people.

Despite its adept handling of the energy crisis in 1973, the Nixon administration was overwhelmed by the fallings of the 1968 Vietnam War and the scandals and cover-ups that came to light. To its peril, the Nixon administration failed to hold the trust of the "silent majority" or satisfactorily resolve the conflict in Vietnam or Cambodia. These failures dinned all of Nixon's successes and hung over history's recollection of him to this day.
The United States faced several internal and external conflicts between the years 1968 and 1974. During this time, President Richard Nixon and his administration attempted to resolve those challenges. However, they appeared to do better with international issues compared to the handling of domestic affairs.

A large international dispute that plagued the United States during the Nixon era was the continuing Vietnam War. At the start of his presidency, the Vietnam War had thousands of American troops in it for several years. As presented in Document B, many citizens of the U.S., including the president, felt that the war had "gone on too long" and should be brought to an end. In order to slowly and effectively hand the war over to the South Vietnamese and get the American soldiers out of the country, President Nixon used "Vietnamization." He cleverly used this plan by training the people of Southern Vietnam how to fight while fewer and more Americans left the warfront. President Nixon handled the Vietnam War well in the sense of how to get his people out of the never-ending conflict.

In addition to the Vietnam War, tension between the Communist countries of China and the Soviet Union with the United States was still an international issue. Nixon and his administration responded to this by using the "détente" strategy of détente. This strategy included the president making appearances in both Communist countries to negotiate and, therefore, create suspicion and doubt between the Soviets and Chinese. The plan worked in the idea that the countries signed disarmament treaties to reduce their arms and the amount of hostility towards the United States; it was an intelligent plan on Nixon’s part.
During the Nixon presidency, there was also an energy crisis that occurred internationally. OPEC created an embargo of oil on the United States. President Nixon responded well to try and keep America's economy up while this crisis occurred. In Document H, it sites that Nixon increased the supply of heating oil, closed gasoline stations on the weekends, and established a speed limit throughout the country in order to save the economy by saving money and energy. In addition to these steps, he also created odd/even days for license plates in order to only have so many people fill up their automobiles at gas stations during this time. Even though the American people were frustrated, he kept the United States out of a depression by implementing these steps.

Unfortunately, President Nixon and his administration did not have as much luck with domestic affairs that went on between 1968 and 1974. For example, when the president ordered the bombing of Cambodia in order to help the Vietnam War, the American people were furious, especially college students. Protests against the war broke out on several universities campuses; a famous one is the student protest that was at Kent State University. In response, the president sent the National Guard to the campus to quiet the riot and the troops didn't just quiet the crowd. An open fire resulted in four students being shot and killed and more were injured from American citizens.

Also domestically, was the Watergate Scandal that happened during Nixon's presidency. Government officials broke into Watergate to tap the lines of the Democratic Party and were caught. The president tried to cover up the whole incident by doing things like paying to have CIA officials put
to investigate certain things. Especially, it was discovered that Nixon recorded
meetings in the white house on tapes. While put on trial for the Watergate
incident, however, he claimed "executive privilege" saying that he didn't have to
show the tapes and they couldn't be used for evidence. The political cartoon
of Document 6, shows Nixon withholding tapes from Congress and leaving
"bees" for them to go after instead. Because of all this, the American people
were determined that they could not trust the government anymore. They
were full of anger and frustration towards the secrets the president kept from
the public. As described in Document 5, the secrets and cover-up paid a "heavy
price" on the minds and feelings of the American people; president Nixon
did not handle the situation well.

President Richard Nixon, although faced with many criticisms during his
presidency and he attempted to respond to them in a way that would benefit
not harm his country. In respect to international disputes, he handled them in
the right way in order to get America out of them. However, domestically his decisions
weren't as good at keeping peace which is why he had to resign from his
position even though his foreign efforts ideas were quite successful.
Between 1968 and 1974, the Vietnam war, difficulty with home policies and commerce, and relations with communist countries plagued the U.S. President Nixon's administration responded to each of these through force or negotiation for peace. Nixon's primary "...desire to work for a just peace." (Doc. B) was portrayed through his actions. As he stated in his first Acceptance Speech on August 8, 1968, "...when the President of the United States cannot travel abroad... without fear of a hostile demonstration - then it's time for new leadership for the United States of America." (Doc. A) Throughout his presidency, Nixon worked to create better relations and improve peace for the country.

The Vietnam War began with the communist North Vietnamese invasion of South Vietnam. With the U.S.'s policies of containment and massive retaliation, troops were dispatched to the area. When Nixon became president, the Vietnam War had stretched on for four years. While Nixon continued the fighting, he made attempts to negotiate with North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh. In a letter to the President, Ho Chi Minh stated, "...the United States must cease the war... and withdraw their troops from South Vietnam." (Doc. B). This, the unwillingness to compromise was shown by the communists. The Vietnam War
also caused problems in the U.S. Riots broke out across the country as people protested the troops being in the war. This spawned Nixon’s new approach as being for the “Silent Majority.” However, even these supporters of Nixon were alarmed with “… the secret bombing of Cambodia…” (Doc. 1). While North Vietnam had been using the country, Nixon had formally announced Cambodia would not be harmed. This action threw the people in confusion and caused distrust towards politicians.

Various policies were instituted during this period, including the Voting Rights Act of 1970 and the National Energy Policy in 1973. The Voting Rights Act caused worry within the Republican Party over too much Democratic Support (Doc. E). Yet, the Act was never weakened and was fully enforced. On the other hand, this did not prevent “… unprecedented racial violence.” (Doc. A.), not only from natives of America but immigrants as well. The National Energy Policy in 1973 reduced “… the amount of gasoline … across the Nation by 15 percent.” (Doc. H.). This was Nixon’s defense against the energy crisis beginning to envelope the United States. In addition to an energy crisis, there was a small crisis in commerce. Prices of goods during these
years sky rocketed and wages didn't increase. Nixon did not politically respond to this problem.

Relations with communist countries were a large issue. The Cold War was ending, and Nixon was trying to create better relations with China and Russia. While the U.S. still advocated containment and massive retaliation, Nixon sent a delegate to Peking, China and himself went to Moscow, Russia. During those negotiations, Nixon was able to bring about a shaky peace with Russia. He passed such acts as SALT, which helped against danger of a nuclear war. As Nixon stated in his second Inaugural Address, "...we were to establish the base for a new and more durable pattern of relationships among the nations of the world." (Doc F).

Though Nixon was faced with the Vietnam War, difficulty in home policies and commerce, and relations with communist countries, he was able to diplomatically keep peace. During the period between 1968 and 1974, the Nixon administration passed various bills and Acts from SALT with Russia to the Voting Rights Act to protect African American suffrage. While not all of his policies were successful, Nixon helped set the base for relations with China and Russia in the future and aided Civil Rights in the U.S.
Question 1

Overview

The document-based question asked students to analyze the international and domestic challenges the United States faced between 1968 and 1974 and to evaluate how Richard Nixon’s administration responded to them. The question measured students’ grasp of international and domestic issues between 1968 and 1974 and the Nixon administration’s reaction to those challenges.

Sample: 1A
Score: 8

This clearly organized and well-written essay uses a range of documents effectively, addressing and analyzing both challenges and responses in Nixon’s foreign and domestic policies. It also accurately incorporates rich outside information (OPEC, Israel, Pentagon Papers). Minor errors do not detract from the overall strength of this essay.

Sample: 1B
Score: 6

This essay is very comprehensive in scope, with a good deal of outside information (détente, Kent State, executive privilege, Vietnamization). However, the presence of several minor errors (Nixon’s “trying to bribe CIA officials,” for example) kept it from the top of its category.

Sample: 1C
Score: 3

This is a superficial essay that uses some of the documents — occasionally incorrectly. Analysis is slight, and the essay contains errors about Cambodia, infers Nixon’s support of the “Voting Rights Act of 1970,” and presents a fundamental misunderstanding of Document E, all of which cumulatively and substantially detract from its attempt at incorporating some partial outside information.