

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Social 20-1 Major Writing Assignment Guide**

(Worth 35% on the 30-1 Diploma Exam)

<b>Interpretation of Source, Position and Evidence 5 Marks x 3 = 15</b>	
<b>Quality of Language and Expression 5 Marks</b>	
<b>Total out of 20</b>	

**5 Marks x 3 = 15 Marks**

The response must:

- Identifies the perspective of the source and supports this with evidence
- Takes a position, supports it with general 2 reasons
- Supports the position taken with evidence drawn from the sources and Social Studies

<b>Excellent (E) 5</b>	Interpretation of the source is sophisticated, insightful and precise. Reasons supporting your position are accurately and perceptively identified and explained. Support/evidence is precise and astutely chosen.
<b>Proficient (Pf) 4</b>	Interpretation of the source is sound; specific and clear. Reasons supporting your position are clearly identified and explained. Support/evidence is specific and well chosen, but may contain some minor errors.
<b>Satisfactory (S) 3</b>	Interpretation of the source is straightforward and is acceptable. Reasons supporting your position are generally and adequately identified and explained. Support/evidence is relevant but may contain some errors and/or trivial information.
<b>Limited (L) 2</b>	Interpretation of the source is incomplete and/or vague. Reasons supporting your position may be off topic and/or unclear. Support/ evidence may be simplistic, lacks logic and/or is poorly chosen. One or more major misunderstandings are present.
<b>Poor (P) 1</b>	Interpretation of the source is minimal, inaccurate or simply copied from the source Reasons supporting your position are likely trivial. Support is largely a restatement of the sources, off topic and/or absent.

**Communication (5 marks)**

<b>Excellent (E) 5</b>	The writing is virtually error free and a pleasure to read. Social terms and vocabulary are present and precisely used.
<b>Proficient (Pf) 4</b>	The writing is clear and easy to read Minor errors do not reduce the reader's ability to understand the writer's thoughts and ideas. Social vocabulary is present and appropriate.
<b>Satisfactory (S) 3</b>	The writing is generally clear but most likely contains errors that could easily have been avoided by following the Top 20 Tips Top 20 Tips for Written Responses. Two or more sentences are grammatically incorrect. Four or more spelling or punctuation errors are present. One or more major spelling errors may be present (e.g. "there" instead of "their"). Social vocabulary is adequate.
<b>Limited (L) 2</b>	The writing is difficult and frustrating to read. There are grammatical and/or spelling errors in every paragraph. The essay leads to the conclusion that the student paid little or no attention to the Top 20 Tips for Written Responses. Social vocabulary is inappropriate and simplistic.

## Top 20 Tips & Rules for Writing Diploma Written Responses

1. **PLAN! PLAN! PLAN!** If you believe that you can successfully write without planning, you are living in a Dream World.
  - A. **Read the topic carefully. Make sure that you focus on the topic.** A common error is make reference to one entity such as the “the country” or “the government” when the topic is about **all** nations or governments.

For example:

**WRONG:** It brings stability to the country. (Which of the world’s 200 + countries are you referring to? What is it?)

**RIGHT:** Rule of law creates stability in liberal democracies.

**WRONG:** They help choose people who should run the country.

**RIGHT:** Elections allow voters to choose who will govern in a liberal democracy.

2. **STICK TO THE FACTS AND EVIDENCE.** Opinions and emotions are not facts or evidence.
  - a. For example: It is not fair when governments treat poor people like dirt. Canadians are happy with their government.
3. **PROOF READ** your essay before handing it in. Spelling and grammar checkers are far from perfect.
4. Your essay **must** be double-spaced in 10 or 12 pt. Arial or Verdana type.
5. As a **RULE of THUMB**, **most students** who write a sentence of more than 14-16 words will **most likely** have written a sentence that is grammatically incorrect.

The appearance of three or more the following errors in your essay will **most likely** result in a Quality of Language and Expression score of 3 or less since they can be easily avoided.

6. **BE SPECIFIC. SAY WHAT YOU MEAN.** Diploma Exam markers cannot read your mind and nor can I.
7. **DO NOT USE FIRST OR SECOND PERSON.** Period. End of Story. That means NO "I", "you", "we", "me," "your," "our," or "us" EXCEPT when stating a position. ( e.g. I firmly believe that ...)
8. **DO NOT** abbreviate words.
9. **DO NOT** use contractions.
10. **DO NOT** mix past and present tenses.
11. **Avoid at all costs** beginning sentences with vague words such as “It” or “They”. **Avoid** the use of "also" to begin a sentence.
12. **DO** refer to a nation or government (singular) as “it” but **NOT** “they” which is plural.
13. **DO NOT** use slang or common expressions to express an idea.
  - For example: **The people were treated like dirt.**
  - **DO USE** formal language. (The people had few if any rights.)
14. **DO NOT** use useless or obvious phrases such as "This paragraph is about...," OR "These case studies show that..." OR "I am going to prove such-and-such and use evidence."
15. **NEVER** state, “I have proven that...” or “This proves that...” **DO** state, “These facts are evidence that/of...”
16. **DO NOT MIX PLURAL and SINGULAR:** "Citizens thought they (plural) were a good leader." **DO WRITE:** "Citizens thought he or she was a good leader."
17. **Avoid the use of the word show** **Do use** words or phrases such as demonstrate, are evidence that/of, and illustrate. (“These facts demonstrate that...”)
18. **DO NOT** use or refer to Dictionary definitions. Use your social studies knowledge and definitions.
19. **Get it right** when using "its" and "it's." You will **NEVER USE "it's"** in an essay if you follow these rules because **it is** a contraction.
20. **Get it right** when using "their" and "there".