

**Appendix A – CAHSEE Scoring Guides  
Response to Literary/Expository Text**

**N.B. This is how the CAHSEE examiners will grade your essay!**

**4 The response —**

- demonstrates a *thoughtful*, comprehensive grasp of the text.
- accurately and coherently provides *specific* textual details and examples to support the thesis and main ideas.
- demonstrates a *clear* understanding of the ambiguities, nuances, and complexities of the text.
- provides a *variety* of sentence types and uses *precise, descriptive* language.
- contains *few, if any, errors* in the conventions of the English language. (Errors are generally first- draft in nature.)\*

*Response to informational passages:*

- thoughtfully* anticipates and addresses the reader’s potential misunderstandings, biases, and expectations.

*Response to literary passages:*

- clearly demonstrates an awareness of the author’s use of literary and/or stylistic devices.

**3 The response —**

- demonstrates a comprehensive grasp of the text.
- accurately and coherently provides *general* textual details and examples to support the thesis and main ideas.
- demonstrates a *general* understanding of the ambiguities, nuances, and complexities of the text.
- provides a *variety* of sentence types and uses *some descriptive* language.
- may contain *some errors* in the conventions of the English language. (Errors do not interfere with the reader’s understanding of the essay.)\*

*Response to informational passages:*

- anticipates and addresses the reader’s potential misunderstandings, biases, and expectations.

*Response to literary passages:*

- demonstrates an awareness of the author’s use of literary and/or stylistic devices.

**2 The response —**

- demonstrates a *limited* grasp of the text.
- provides *few, if any*, textual details and examples to support the thesis and main ideas.
- demonstrates *limited, or no* understanding of the ambiguities, nuances, and complexities of the text.
- provides *few, if any*, types of sentences and uses *basic, predictable* language.
- may contain *several errors* in the conventions of the English language. (Errors may interfere with the reader’s understanding of the essay.)\*

*Response to informational passages:*

- may* address the reader’s potential misunderstandings, biases, and expectations, but in a limited manner.

*Response to literary passages:*

- may* demonstrate an awareness of the author’s use of literary and/or stylistic devices.

**1 The response —**

- demonstrates *little, if any*, comprehensive grasp of the text.
- may provide **no** textual details and examples to support the thesis and main ideas.
- may demonstrate **no** understanding of the ambiguities, nuances, and complexities of the text.
- may provide **no** sentence variety and uses *limited* vocabulary.
- may contain *serious errors* in the conventions of the English language. (Errors interfere with the reader’s understanding of the essay.)\*

*Response to informational passages:*

- does **not** address the reader’s potential misunderstandings, biases, and expectations.

*Response to literary passages:*

- does **not** demonstrate awareness of the author’s use of literary and/or stylistic devices.

**non-scorable B** = Blank **L** = Written in a language other than English **T** = Off-topic **I** = Illegible/Unintelligible

\* *Conventions of the English language refer to grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and usage.*