Name: Period:

DBQ Essay Rubric – Why Did Japan attack Pearl Harbor?

40 points

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|  | Exceeds Standard (40-36) | Meets Standard (35-28) | Below Standard (27-0) |
| Introduction/Thesis | Reflects the complexities of questions and/or issues generated from the prompt  Strong, Sophisticated language  Clear & arguable | Easily identified thesis that is on-topic  Strong language  Clear & arguable | Unclear or developing thesis  Simple, weak language—includes “I think..,” “I believe…”  Not clear and/or arguable |
| Topic Sentences | Per claim, specific topic sentences that guide reader to next key concept & reinforce thesis  Strong, Sophisticated language | Per claim, most topic sentences specifically reference a key concept that matches the thesis  Strong language | Missing or too general topic sentences that may not relate to the thesis  Simple, weak language |
| Evidence/Analysis | Abundant, credible, relevant and compelling evidence from documents | Reliable and mostly relevant evidence primarily from docs | Little to no evidence that is questionable or irrelevant |
| Concluding Arguments | Complex, thoughtful analysis of the evidence is used to prove the topic sentence/thesis | argument is connected to the questions and/or issues raised by the prompt | General discussion of topic |