

Answers to the essay questions are to be written in the separate essay booklet.

## Part II

### THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

#### Theme: Foreign Policy (Cold War)

Following World War II, the threat of communist expansion led the United States to take diplomatic, military, and economic actions to limit the global influence of the Soviet Union and China. These Cold War actions met with varying degrees of success.

#### Task:

Select **two** specific actions taken by the United States to limit the expansion of communism during the Cold War and for **each**

- Describe the historical circumstances that led to the action
- Discuss the extent to which the action was successful in limiting the expansion of communism

You may use any action taken by the United States to limit the expansion of communism during the Cold War. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the implementation of the Marshall Plan (1947–1952), the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO] (1949), intervention in Korea (1950–1953), the blockade of Cuba (1962), the escalation of the Vietnam War (1964–1973), the visit of President Richard Nixon to China (1972), and the pursuit of the Strategic Defense Initiative [SDI] (1983–1989).

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

#### Guidelines:

**In your essay, be sure to:**

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**In developing your answer to Part II, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:**

- describe** means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it”
- discuss** means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”