SCORING GUIDE from the SAT II writing examination

General Directions: Scores given to papers range from 6 to 1. This score reflects a judgment of the essay's quality as a whole

6 A paper in this category demonstrates clear and consistent competence though it may have

occasional errors. Such a paper:

effectively and insightfully addresses the writing task

is well organized and fully developed, using clearly appropriate examples to support ideas

displays consistent facility (ease or aptitude) in the use of language, demonstrating variety in

sentence structure and range of vocabulary.

5 A paper in this category demonstrates reasonably consistent competence though it will

have occasional errors or lapses in quality. Such a paper:

effectively addresses the writing task

is generally well organized and adequately developed, using appropriate examples to support

ideas

displays facility in the use of language, demonstrating some syntactic variety and range of

vocabulary.

4 A paper in this category demonstrates adequate competence with occasional errors and

lapses in quality. Such a paper:

addresses the writing task

is organized and somewhat developed, using examples to support ideas

displays adequate but inconsistent facility in the use of language, presenting some errors in

grammar or diction.

3 A paper in this category demonstrates developing competence. Such a paper may contain

one or more of the following weaknesses:

inadequate organization or development

inappropriate or insufficient details to support ideas

an accumulation of errors in grammar, diction, or sentence structure.

2 A paper in this category demonstrates some incompetence. Such a paper is flawed by

one or more of the following weaknesses:

poor organization

thin development

little or inappropriate detail to support ideas

frequent errors in grammar, diction, and sentence structure.

1 A paper in this category demonstrates incompetence. Such a paper is seriously flawed by

one or more of the following weaknesses:

very poor organization

very thin development

usage and syntactical errors so severe that meaning is somewhat obscured.