# **California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) Scoring Guide Response to Writing Prompt**

#### 4 The essay:

- **Clearly** addresses all parts of the writing task.
- Provides a **meaningful thesis**, demonstrates a **consistent** tone and focus, and illustrates a **purposeful control of organization**.
- Thoughtfully supports the thesis and main ideas with specific details and examples.
- Provides a variety of sentence types and uses precise, descriptive language.
- Demonstrates a **clear** sense of audience.
- Contains **few, if any, errors** in the conventions of the English language. (Errors are generally first-draft in nature.)\*

#### 3 The essay:

- Addresses all parts of the writing task.
- Provides a **responsive thesis**, demonstrates a **consistent** tone and focus, and illustrates a **control of organization**.
- Supports the thesis and main ideas with **details** and **examples**.
- Provides a variety of sentence types and uses some descriptive language.
- Demonstrates a general sense of audience.
- May contain **some errors** in the conventions of the English language. (Errors do not interfere with the reader's understanding of the essay.)\*

### 2 The essay:

- \_ Addresses only parts of the writing task.
- \_ May provide a **related thesis**, demonstrates an **inconsistent** tone and focus and illustrates **little, if any, control of organization**.
- \_ May support the thesis and main ideas with limited details and/or examples.
- Provides few, if any, types of sentence types, and basic, predictable language.
- \_ Demonstrates little or **no sense of audience**.
- \_ May contain **several errors** in the conventions of the English language.

(Errors may interfere with the reader's understanding of the essay.)\*

### 1 The essay may be too short to evaluate or:

- \_ Addresses only one part of the writing task.
- May provide a weak, if any, thesis; demonstrates little or no consistency of tone and focus; and illustrates little or no control of organization.
- **\_ Fails to support** ideas with details and/or examples.
- \_ May provide no sentence variety and uses limited vocabulary.
- \_ May demonstrate no sense of audience.
- \_ May contain **serious errors** in the conventions of the English language. (Errors interfere with the reader's understanding of the essay.)\*

## **0** No Score

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