Social Studies Short Answer Handout

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| **Restate the Question as a topic sentence.**  Ex*: Question: What events led to the decline of the Roman Empire?*  Topic Sentence: *Several events led to the decline of the Roman Empire.* | 1 point |
| **Answer the Question**.  Ex: *First, Rome was ruled by a series of bad emperors who cared more about themselves than the people of Rome. Second, taxes rose, forcing many citizens into poverty. Also, a series of barbarian invasions weakened the Roman army.*   * Provide specific details. | 2 points |
| **Text Evidence**.  Ex: *According to page 325 in the textbook, the barbarian invaders had well organized armies and strong, capable leaders.* | 1 point |
| **Explain/Commentary.**  Ex:*Because the barbarian invaders were well organized and had strong, capable leaders, they were able to defeat the Roman Empire whose leaders constantly fought amongst themselves.* | 1 point |
| **Correct grammar and punctuation**.   * Capitalize the first letter in each sentence. * Write in complete sentences and use punctuation. | 1 point |

**Total: 6 points**

**Question:** *What events led to the decline of the Roman Empire?*

**Answer:** Several events led to the decline of the Roman Empire. First, Rome was ruled by a series of bad emperors who care more about themselves than the people of Rome. Second, taxes rose forcing many citizens into poverty. Also, a series of barbarian invasions weakened the Roman army. According to page 325 in the textbook, the barbarian invaders had well organized armies and strong, capable leaders. Because the barbarian invaders were well organized and had strong, capable leaders, they were able to defeat the Roman Empire whose leaders constantly fought amongst themselves.