

The "CAT" Thesis: Examples & Evaluation

I. "CAT" Thesis paragraph components

- a. Provides organizational **C**ategories (Plan of Attack aka "Road Map")
- b. Thesis fully **A**ddresses the issue or question (rather than just re-stating it)
- c. Thesis **T**akes an arguable position (vs. making only a factual declaration)

Free Response Prompt:

The Jacksonian Period (1824-1848) has been celebrated as the era of the "common man." To what extent did the period live up to its characterization ? Consider TWO of the following in your response.

Economic development

Politics

Reform movements

Three Thesis Examples, but Which ONE Scored "HIGH", and Which ONE Scored "LOW" ?

1. The Jacksonian Period from 1824-1848 has been hailed as the era of the "common man." Primarily Jackson's election to the presidency was based on the fact that he himself did not come from a wealthy, aristocratic background, and he openly advocated for the rights of the "common man." The Jacksonian period lived up to its characterization as the era of the "common man" to a great extent, although afterwards the plight of the common man plummeted.
2. The Jacksonian Period (1824-1848) has been celebrated as the era of the "common man." The period clearly lives up to this characterization because of the role of man in government.
3. Jacksonian democracy, appropriately named after its founder, Andrew Jackson, was a movement that sought to endow equality upon the "common man." Representing a shift in the geographic location of power from the Northeast coast to America's central regions, Jacksonian Democracy resulted in the fulfillment of democratic ideals both through a fundamental re-alignment of economic opportunity, and new approaches to solving longstanding social problems.

- - **Turn Over** for Your Evaluation of the Above Examples - - >

Name(s) _____

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HIGH -Scoring ex.	<u>Specific Reasons Why</u>
C ategories est.	
A ddresses Prompt	
T akes a Position	

LOW -Scoring ex.	<u>Specific Reasons Why</u>
C ategories est.	
A ddresses Prompt	
T akes a Position	