

## Part I

### General Directions

1. Be sure that you print your correct social security number and today's date in the upper right hand corner of the test booklet.
- you will have fifty minutes to complete this part of the proficiency examination. You should finish the essay in about forty minutes and use the last ten minutes to re-read your work to make corrections and changes. Be sure you have not left out any words. You will be told when you have ten minutes left to work.
- A good essay will be one that
  - A. states a central idea and develops it by means of paragraphs that contain specific details,
  - B. HAS an organization that indicates an overall plan,
  - C. deals with the assigned topic and addresses the specific question asked,
  - D. is free of serious errors in word choice, sentence structure, grammar, and mechanics.
- Before beginning to write, you may want to take some time to plan your response. You may use the space just below the "Question" on the next page for any jottings you may want to do.
- Feel free to make changes or corrections in your essay. As long as changes and corrections are readable, there is no need to copy your essay over before you hand it in. Please write on only one side of the paper and use the paper provided.
- Give your essay a title.
- Be sure to write on the assigned topic. AN ESSAY ON ANOTHER TOPIC IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND WILL BE GIVEN A SCORE OF ZERO.

## Part I

### Question

Watching television can influence you positively, or it can influence you negatively. A positive effect could be that it provides you with useful information about subjects you are studying. A negative effect could be that it keeps you from completing your biology research paper because you just had to watch *The Cosby Show*, *Cheers*, and *Night Court* on Thursday night. In an essay of about two pages, discuss whether watching television has had a beneficial or negative effect on you, a close friend, or a relative. Be as specific as you can in describing and explaining this effect.