

### **Short Answer Example**

I've taken an example exam question and short answer from my Texas Government class. This is how your short answers should look. If it's much shorter, that might be problematic. For some questions, your responses may need to be longer to completely answer the prompt. Remember, the more information in your answer the better.

**Question:** John Adams was a believer in microcosm theory. What is this perspective, and how well does the Texas Legislature live up to its ideals?

**Answer:** Microcosm theory is the belief that a legislature should look like the larger society that it is elected to represent. This is most often measured demographically, where the racial, gender, religious, and socioeconomic qualities of the elected representatives on a whole should be a microcosm (a smaller version of reality) of Texas. Using this assessment, Texas falls far short of Adams's ideal. The Texas Legislature has a higher number of white males among its ranks, thus women and racial minorities, such as African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans, are mathematically underrepresented. Likewise, the legislature has a higher number of Protestants than Texas as a whole, and our elected legislators are more well-to-do than the state's population, so the poor get scant representation according to microcosm theory.