

This rubric is developed for a paper assignment that asks students to respond to a video entitled "Life and Debt." The video focuses on the problems of the Jamaican political economy vis-à-vis the processes of development, tourism, and commodification. The paper asks students the following questions:

1. In what ways does "Life and Debt" illustrate forces of globalization taking place in a local context such as Jamaica? Use three examples. (10 points)
2. How and why is Jamaica's economy troubled and in debt? (5 points)
3. Suggest ways in which Jamaica's predicament could be improved: (5 points)

The following represents a rubric to grade the paper assignment. I found it useful to base my draft rubric for this assignment on "The Holistic Critical Thinking Scoring Rubric" as articulated by the California Academic Press (see <http://www.insightassessment.com/HCTSR.html>).

Points: 19-20

Consistently does all or almost all of the following: Accurately interprets from the video - evidence, statements, graphics, questions, etc. Identifies the salient arguments (reasons and claims) pro and con regarding the global forces of tourism, development, commodification. Thoughtfully analyzes and evaluates major alternative points of view, that is, the tensions within Jamaican society (e.g. pressures on politicians versus social needs of Jamaican citizens), as well as Jamaica's commitments to and antagonisms with the wider world. Draws warranted, judicious, and non-fallacious conclusions, that is, details the historical background and geographic context of Jamaica that have in turn contributed to the conditions of political economic instability. Fair-mindedly follows where evidence and reasons lead, that is, focuses on the essential problem of debt vis-à-vis interest rates and the non-competitiveness of the Jamaican economy in a free market system (especially concerning the final question).

16-18

Does most or many of the following: Accurately interprets evidence, statements, graphics, questions, etc. Identifies relevant arguments (reasons and claims) pro and con. Offers analyses and evaluations of obvious alternative points of view. Draws warranted, non-fallacious conclusions. Fair-mindedly follows where evidence and reasons lead.

14-15

Does most or many of the following: Misinterprets evidence, statements, graphics, questions, etc. Fails to identify strong, relevant counter-arguments. Ignores or superficially evaluates obvious alternative points of view. Draws unwarranted or fallacious conclusions. Regardless of the evidence or reasons, maintains or defends views based on self-interest or preconceptions

< 14

Consistently does all or almost all of the following: Offers biased interpretations of evidence, statements, graphics, questions, information, or the points of view of others. Fails to identify or hastily dismisses strong, relevant counter-arguments. Ignores or superficially evaluates obvious alternative points of view. Argues using fallacious or irrelevant reasons, and unwarranted claims. Regardless of the evidence or reasons, maintains or defends views based on self-interest or preconceptions. Exhibits close-mindedness or hostility to reason.