An excellent theme is characterized by... 

Content: has substance; development in depth; generalizations supported by specifics; logical reasoning; accurate information; originality and imagination. 
Style: clear, succinct, interesting, forceful; appropriate to audience and purpose. 
Organization: tight, coherent. 
Paragraphs: well developed; well organized; clear, smooth transition between paragraphs and within the paragraph. 
Diction: generally precise word choice. 
Sentence structure: varied; smooth; ideas appropriately subordinated and coordinated. 
Grammar: (near-) perfect. 
Mechanics: (near-) perfect. 
Spelling: (near-) perfect. 

A passable theme is characterized by... 

Content: not fully developed; generalizations supported by some specifics; mostly logical reasoning; generally accurate information. 
Style: generally clear; reasonably succinct. 
Organization: loose, but still coherent; has at least some unity. 
Paragraphs: adequately developed; adequately organized; some transition between and within paragraphs. 
Diction: generally adequate word choice. 
Sentence structure: a little choppy, stringy, monotonous, or awkward; occasional faulty syntax. 
Grammar: no pattern of serious errors. 
Mechanics: no run-on sentences; no pattern of serious errors, e.g., common splices or unnecessary fragments. 
Spelling: occasional misspelling. 

An unpassable theme is characterized by one or more flaws... 

Content: obvious or trite ideas; undeveloped ideas; generalizations not supported by specifics; illogical reasoning; inaccurate information; plagiarism. 
Organization: disorganized; lacks unity. 
Paragraphs: undeveloped; lacking transition between paragraphs and/or within paragraphs. 
Diction: imprecise, vague, or wrong words; reliance on cliches; noticeably unidiomatic phrasing. 
Sentence structure: invariably choppy or stingy sentences; pattern of faulty syntax. 
Grammar: pattern of serious errors. 
Mechanics: pattern of serious errors, e.g., run-on sentences, comma splices, unnecessary fragments. 
Spelling: pattern of misspelled words.