

## ***Progress and Poverty in Industrial America***

This question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents and is based on the accompanying documents 1 – 7. Some of the documents have been edited for the purposes of the question. As you analyze each document, take into account both the sources of the document and the point of view that may be presented in the document.

Directions: This document–based question consists of two parts. In Part A, you are to read each document and answer the question or questions that follow it. In part B, you are to write an essay based on the information in the document and your knowledge of United States history.

### Historical Context:

In the United States the period between the Civil War and WW I saw tremendous industrial and commercial expansion. Americans have long had faith in the idea of progress, and many people viewed this economic growth as evidence of the superiority of the American system.

But while increased production did improve the general standard of living, industrialization concentrated wealth and power in the hands of a few captains of industry. For the thousands of Americans who worked in the new factories and mines, however, this economic revolution meant long hours, low wages, and dangerous working conditions as economic growth increasingly touched every aspect of American society. It created both new opportunities and new social problems.

### Task:

Using information from the documents provided and your knowledge of United States history, write a well-organized essay in which you:

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of industrialization to the American Society between 1865 and 1914. Include in your discussion how it affected different groups of people in American society.

**Part A:**

Directions: Analyze the documents and answer the question or questions that follow each document in the space provided. Your answers will help you write the essay

Document 1: Statistics on Industrial Growth

The Industrial Revolution of the late 1800's transformed humanity's age-old struggle with material scarcity by using capital, technology, resources, and management to expand the production of goods and services dramatically.

Year	GNP (per capita)	Employed children under 15 years of age (in millions)	% of US Population		Infant mortality rate (deaths under 1 year of age per 1000)	High school graduates (% of 17-year-olds who have a diploma)	Telephone Usage (number of telephones for every 1000 people)
			Rural	Urban			
1870	\$531	0.7	74%	26%	170	2%	0
1880	\$744	1.1	72%	28%	161	2.5%	1
1890	\$836	1.5	65%	35%	163	3.5%	4
1900	\$1011	1.75	60%	40%	141	6.5%	18
1910	\$1299	1.63	54%	46%	117	9%	82

*1a. According to the table above, name one aspect of American life that improved between 1870 and 1910.*

*1b. According to the table above, name one aspect of American life that worsened between 1870 and 1910.*

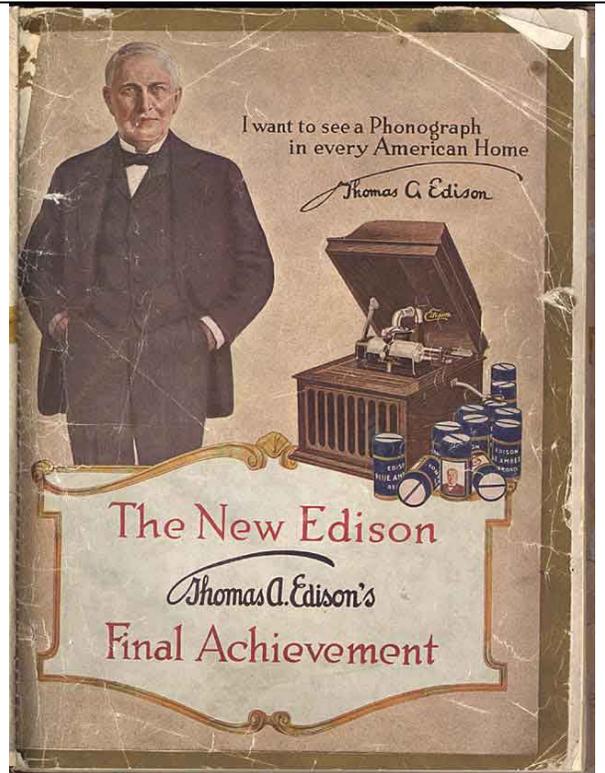
Document 2: Timeline of Selected Inventions by Thomas Alva Edison

Prolific inventor Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931) has had a profound impact on modern life. In his lifetime, the "Wizard of Menlo Park" patented 1,093 inventions, including the phonograph, the kinetograph (a motion picture camera), and the kinetoscope (a motion picture viewer). Edison managed to become not only a renowned inventor, but also a prominent manufacturer and businessman through the merchandising of his inventions.

Invented by Thomas Edison:

- 1868 Vote Recorder
- 1869 Printing Telegraph
- 1869 Stock Ticker
- 1872 Automatic Telegraph
- 1876 Electric Pen
- 1877 Carbon Telephone Transmitter
- 1877 Phonograph
- 1879 Dynamo
- 1879 Incandescent Electric Lamp
- 1881 Electric Motor
- 1886 Talking Doll
- 1897 Projecting Kinetoscope
- 1900 Storage Battery

Caption: "I want a phonograph in every American home..."  
- Thomas A. Edison



2. Describe how one of these inventions changed American life.

Document 3: An excerpt from Henry George, *Progress and Poverty* 1879

Henry George was an economist, land reformer, and writer. George edited the *San Francisco Chronicle* and in 1871 founded the *San Francisco Daily Evening Post*. He detailed his economic theories in the book *Progress and Poverty* (1879). This famous work of social protest was widely read and inspired the creation of many “Henry George Societies” - organizations that promoted George's economic views.

It is true that wealth has been greatly increased and that the average of comfort, leisure, and refinement has been raised; but these gains are not general. In them the lowest classes do not share. ... The new forces [of progress] ... do not act upon the society from underneath ... but strike it at point intermediate between top and bottom. It was as though an immense wedge were being forced, not underneath society but through society. Those who are above the point of separation are elevated, but those who are below are crushed down.

3. *Henry George describes industrialization as a “wedge.” What effect did he believe industrialization was having on society?*

Document 4: An excerpt from Andrew Carnegie's *Gospel of Wealth*, 1889.

A Scottish immigrant, Carnegie once worked as a telegraph boy for \$2.50 per week. Self-educated, he rose through a series of jobs in the railroad and iron foundry business to the presidency of the Carnegie Company, a business he sold for \$250 million in gold bonds when he retired in 1901. During his lifetime Carnegie donated about \$350 million to various charitable causes, and he was largely responsible for the development of free public libraries.

... The law of competition ... It is here; we cannot evade it; no substitutes for it have been found; and while the law may be sometimes hard for the individual, it is best for the race, because it insures the survival of the fittest in every department. We accept and welcome, therefore, as conditions to which we must accommodate ourselves, great inequality of environment, the concentration of business, industrial and commercial, in the hands of a few, and the law of competition between these, as being not only beneficial, but essential for the future progress of the race.

Thus is the problem of Rich and Poor to be solved. The laws of accumulation will be left free; the laws of distribution free. Individualism will continue, but the millionaire will be but a trustee for the poor; intrusted for a season with a great part of the increased wealth of the community, but administering it for the community far better than it could or would have done for itself.

Such, in my opinion, is the true Gospel concerning Wealth, obedience to which is destined some day to solve the problem of the Rich and the Poor, and to bring "Peace on earth, among men Good-Will."

*4a. What was Carnegie's attitude about the accumulation of wealth and power in the hands of the rich?*

*4b. According to Carnegie, how can the problems of poverty best be solved?*

Document 5: Excerpt from *In the Depths of a Coal Mine* by Stephen Crane  
*McClure's Magazine*, August 1894.

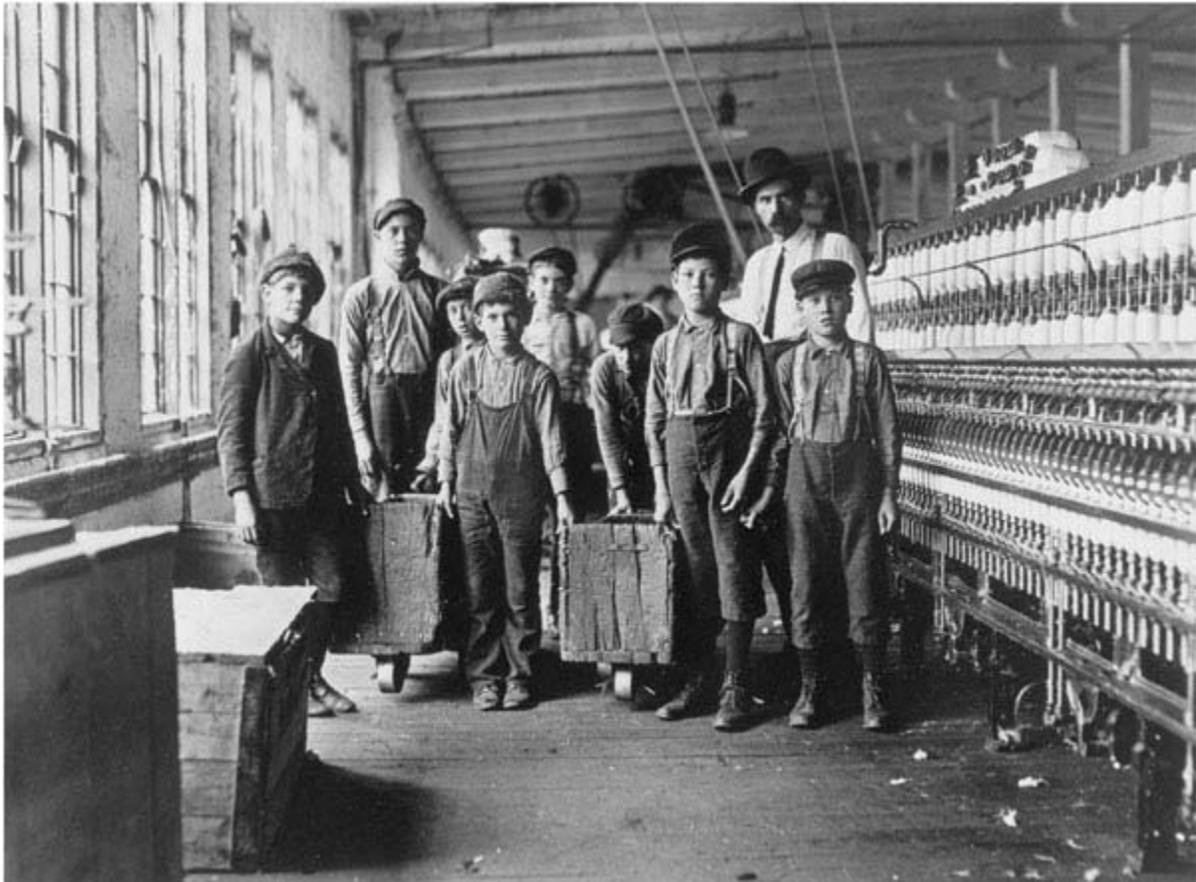
Stephen Crane was the last of 14 children born to a Methodist minister who died when Stephen was nine. He lived the down-and-out life of a penniless artist who became well-known as a poet, journalist, social critic and realist. He began writing for newspapers in 1891 when he settled in New York City. After he wrote *Red Badge of Courage*, which earned Crane international acclaim at age 24, he was hired as a reporter in the American West and Mexico. He later covered the Spanish-American War for Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World*.

We came upon other little low-roofed chambers, each containing two men, a "miner," who makes the blasts, and his "laborer," who loads the coal upon the cars and assists the miner generally. Great and mystically dreadful is the earth from a mine's depth. Man is in the implacable grasp of nature. It has only to tighten slightly, and he is crushed like a bug. His loudest shriek of agony would be as impotent as his final moan to bring help from that fair land that lies, like Heaven, over his head. There is an insidious, silent enemy in the gas. If the huge fanwheel on the top of the earth should stop for a brief period, there is certain death. If a man escape the gas, the floods, the "squeezes" of falling rock, the cars shooting through little tunnels, the precarious elevators, the hundred perils, there usually comes to him an attack of "miner's asthma" that slowly racks and shakes him into the grave. Meanwhile the miner gets three dollars per day, and his laborer one dollar and a quarter.

5. According to Stephen Crane, what working conditions did miner have to endure in the coalmines?

Document 6: Photograph of "Doffer Boys" by Lewis Hine 1908.

Lewis Wickes Hine (1874 -1940), photographer, sociologist and humanist, is best known for his portraits of immigrants at Ellis Island. He traveled across the country documenting living and working conditions. He wrote of this picture – "Some of the doffers and the Superintendent. Ten small boys and girls about this size out of a force of 40 employees. Catawba Cotton Mill. Newton, NC "



Note: When a bobbin is filled, the "doffer boy" comes along, takes it off the spinning frame and puts an empty bobbin in its place.

*6. What was the effect of industrialization on the lives of these children?*

Document 7: Superba Laundry Washing Machine From Sears Catalogue 1908  
(The washing machine was hand operated by swinging back and forth)

FOR COMPLETE INDEX REFER TO PINK PAGES IN MIDDLE OF BOOK. 563

# 38 OUR SUPERBA BALL BEARING WASHING MACHINE

## THE EASY RUNNING WONDER

**IF YOU WANT THE EASIEST RUNNING WASHING MACHINE ON THE MARKET;** if you want the best machine to be found anywhere; if you want a machine that will do more work and do it quicker and with less labor on your part than any other swing washing machine made, you have all your desires fulfilled in our SUPERBA BALL BEARING WASHING MACHINE, fully illustrated and described on this and on the opposite page.

**A THOROUGH CLEANSING WASHER**

**A GREAT CLOTHES and LABOR SAVER. EVEN A CHILD CAN RUN IT.**

**GUARANTEED FOR FIVE YEARS AGAINST DEFECTS. YOU HAVE SIX MONTHS' FREE TRIAL**

to test its qualities, and if it does not do exactly as we claim, you may return it and we will refund both the price and any transportation charges you paid. **SEND US YOUR ORDER TODAY.**



**OUR PRICE REDUCED. BETTER THAN EVER BECAUSE OF IMPROVEMENTS.**

Mother goes right on with her regular work while her little helper finds it so easy to swing the Superba to and fro that she is glad to do it. The washing is all done quickly and easily, and washday is no harder day for the family than any other day of the week.

**DON'T PAY FROM \$12.00 TO \$15.00 FOR A WASHING MACHINE**

See similar in appearance to our Superba. There are a few reciprocating washers which look somewhat like our Superba and which are offered in newspaper and magazine advertisements at prices ranging as high as \$15.00, a price which many manufacturers are obtaining for machines which do not begin to compare in any way whatsoever with our Superba Ball Bearing Machine. These similar appearing machines are wholly unlike in the splendid features which are to be found in the Superba; features which make it run easily, do its work more thoroughly and much quicker than others, patented features which are owned and controlled exclusively by us. For instance, no other reciprocating washing machine has by other makers the double springs to reverse the motion of the tub and the agitator, or the special ball bearings which make the operation of the machine so easy—all these patented improvements owned by us and to be found only in the Superba Ball Bearing Washer.

We also guarantee it for five years against all defects in material and workmanship. We give this long term guarantee to protect you against any hidden defect or flaw which may not appear within the six months' trial period, and which defect or flaw was not discovered by our factory inspectors, and under the terms of this five years' guarantee should any part break because of defect in material or workmanship, we will furnish a new part, to be at the place of the defective part, absolutely free of charge, at any time within this five-year period.

**OUR GUARANTEE ON THE SUPERBA**

**IN ADDITION TO GIVING YOU SIX MONTHS' FREE TRIAL,** a full six months in which to use the Superba Ball Bearing Washer, we guarantee this machine not only to wash more clothes and wash them cleaner and wash them in less time than any other reciprocating washing machine made, but

and much better than you could do it in the old way and that after having used this machine once, you would never be satisfied to do without it.

**No. 32K7510 Superba Washing Machine. Shipping weight, 75 pounds. Price.....\$6.38**

**68 SUPERBA BALL BEARING WASHING MACHINE**

**COMBINATION**

Our Superba Ball Bearing Washer, our Easy Running Wonder combined with basketor tub stand and wringer board is the latest and best. It saves a separate wash bench. Saves taking off and replacing the wringer. It is complete in itself and yet takes up no more room than an ordinary washing machine.

**REDUCE YOUR WASHDAY TO HALF** or three-quarters of an hour once a week by using the Superba Ball Bearing Combination Washer. It is built the same as our regular Superba Washer, with the same powerful motor springs that do the work for you. The same anti-friction ball bearings which make running the washer a pleasure, it is so easy. The same patented features which wash the clothes with such quickness and to more whiteness. All the features which have made our Superba Ball Bearing Washer the best washing machine ever put on the market. In addition to this, our Superba Combination Washer is equipped with a folding hardwood bench braced with steel braces making it perfectly rigid and strong. It furnishes a convenient stand for the clothes basket or pining tub, and a strong and solid support for the wringer. The stand is made of selected materials, it is very substantial in construction, thoroughly braced and handsomely finished. This Combination Washing Machine is shipped from the factory in Southern Michigan.

**No. 32K7515 Superba Combination Washing Machine. Shipping weight, 105 pounds. Price.....\$7.68**

7. Describe how this ad was designed to appeal to consumers.

**Part B Directions:**

Using information from the documents provided and your knowledge of United States history, write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs and a conclusion.

**Historical Context:**

In the United States the period between the Civil War and WW I saw tremendous industrial and commercial expansion. Americans have long had faith in the idea of progress, and many people viewed this economic growth as evidence of the superiority of the American system.

But while increased production did improve the general standard of living, industrialization concentrated wealth and power in the hands of a few captains of industry. For the thousands of Americans who worked in the new factories and mines, however, this economic revolution meant long hours, low wages, and dangerous working conditions as economic growth increasingly touched every aspect of American society. It created both new opportunities and new social problems.

**Task:**

Using information from the documents provided and your knowledge of United States history, write a well-organized essay in which you:

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of industrialization to the American Society between 1865 and 1914. Include in your discussion how it affected different groups of people in American society.

Be sure to:

1. Address all parts of the task by analyzing and interpreting at least 4 documents.
2. Incorporate information from the documents in the body of the essay.
3. Incorporate relevant information throughout the essay.
4. Support the theme with relevant facts and examples.
5. Write a well-developed essay that consistently demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization.
6. Introduce the theme by establishing a framework beyond a simple restatement of the task or historical context, and conclude the essay with a summation of the theme

## Document-Based Question - Essay Scoring Rubric

5

- Thoroughly addresses all aspects of the *Task* by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least four documents Incorporates information from the documents in the body of the essay
- Incorporates relevant outside information
- Richly supports the theme or problem with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Is a well-developed essay, consistently demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization
- Introduces the theme or problem by establishing a framework that is beyond a simple restatement of the *Task* or *Historical Context* and concludes with a summation of the theme or problem

4

- Addresses all aspects of the *Task* by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least four documents
- Incorporates information from the documents in the body of the essay
- Incorporates relevant outside information
- Includes relevant facts, examples, and details, but discussion may be more descriptive than analytical
- Is a well-developed essay, demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization
- Introduces the theme or problem by establishing a framework that is beyond a simple restatement of the *Task* or *Historical Context* and concludes with a summation of the theme or problem

3

- Addresses most aspects of the *Task* or *Historical Context* and concludes by simply repeating the theme or problem or addresses all aspects of the *Task* in a limited way, using some of the documents
- Incorporates some information from the documents in the body of the essay
- Incorporates limited or no relevant outside information
- Includes some facts, examples, and details, but discussion is more descriptive than analytical
- Is a satisfactorily developed essay, demonstrating a general plan of organization
- Introduces the theme or problem by repeating

2

- Attempts to address some aspects of the *Task*, making limited use of the documents
- Presents no relevant outside information
- Includes few facts, examples, and details; discussion restates contents of the documents
- Is a poorly organized essay, lacking focus
- Fails to introduce or summarize the theme or problem

1

- Shows limited understanding of the *Task* with vague, unclear references to the documents
- Presents no relevant outside information
- Includes little or no accurate or relevant facts, details, or examples
- Attempts to complete the *Task*, but demonstrates a major weakness in organization Fails to introduce or summarize the theme or problem

0

- Fails to address the *Task*, is illegible, or is a blank paper