

United States History and Government
Content-Specific Rubric
Thematic Essay—June 2007

Theme: Change—Industrialization

During the 19th century, the United States experienced tremendous industrial growth. This industrial growth resulted in many changes in American life.

Task: Identify *two* changes in American life that resulted from industrial growth in the United States and for *each* change

- Explain how industrialization contributed to this change
- Discuss *one* positive *or one* negative effect of this change on American life

You may use any appropriate change in American life that resulted from industrial growth. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include increased immigration, new inventions or technologies, growth of labor unions, growth of monopolies, growth of reform movements, and increased urbanization.

Scoring Notes:

1. This thematic essay has a minimum of *four* components (how industrial growth contributed to *two* changes in American life and discussing *one* positive *or one* negative effect of *each* change on American life).
2. The changes and the effects on American life that resulted from industrial growth in the United States may include changes and effects in the 19th century as well as the 20th and 21st centuries.
3. The changes in American life that resulted from industrial growth in the United States may be discussed simultaneously, i.e., the effect of increased immigration and increasing urbanization as a result of this immigration may be discussed together.
4. The response need not explicitly state whether the effect is positive or negative as long as the intent is clear.
5. As is the case with many historical topics, what constitutes a positive or a negative effect of a change on American life is subject to the student's point of view. The response may discuss an effect from any perspective as long as the position taken is supported by accurate historical facts and examples.

Score of 5:

- Thoroughly develops *all* aspects of the task evenly and in depth by explaining how industrialization contributed to *two* changes in American life and discussing *one* positive *or one* negative effect of *each* change on American life
- Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates information), e.g., *increased immigration*: conditions in Europe were not pleasant and the need for laborers in America was so great that a massive immigration took place; so many immigrants came that the cities tended to become overcrowded with people living in tenements that were often unsanitary; *increased urbanization*: many immigrants came to the United States in search of a better life, and the cheap wages that the factories were willing to pay immigrants were much better than anything they had earned before; urbanization increased greatly during this time period as poor Americans from rural areas frequently moved to cities because factory jobs were abundant due to the great industrial growth of the country
- Richly supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details, e.g., *increased immigration*: “new immigrants” from southern and eastern Europe; Little Italy; melting pot; Ellis Island; United States need for laborers; Sacco and Vanzetti; *increased urbanization*: dumbbell tenements; Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*; Jane Addams; Lincoln Steffens; New York City; Chicago
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

Score of 4:

- Develops **all** aspects of the task by explaining how industrialization contributed to **two** changes in American life and discussing **one** positive *or one* negative effect of **each** change on American life, but may do so somewhat unevenly by completing both aspects of the task for one change more thoroughly than for the other change *or* discussing one aspect of the task for both changes more thoroughly than for the other aspect
- Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates information) e.g., *increased immigration*: due to the increase in factories and new inventions, workers were needed to operate these facilities; these immigrants tended to live in their own neighborhood, creating Little Italy and Chinatown; *increased urbanization*: people settled in the cities to be near the factory jobs; many urban residents were crowded into tenements and lived in unsanitary conditions
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details, e.g., *increased immigration*: people coming from all over Europe and Asia; cultural diversity; tenements; *increased urbanization*: New York City ghettos; meat-packing industry in Chicago; attraction for farmers
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

Score of 3:

- Develops **all** aspects of the task with little depth *or* develops **at least three** aspects of the task in some depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical (applies, may analyze, and/or evaluate information)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some minor inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that may be a restatement of the theme

Note: If **both** aspects of the task for only **one** change have been thoroughly developed evenly and in depth, and the response meets most of the other Level 5 criteria, the response may be a Level 3 paper.

Score of 2:

- Minimally develops **all** aspects of the task *or* develops **at least two** aspects of the task in some depth
- Is primarily descriptive; may include faulty, weak, or isolated application or analysis
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addressed; may lack an introduction and/or a conclusion

Score of 1:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task
- Is descriptive; may lack understanding, application, or analysis
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details; may include inaccuracies
- May demonstrate a weakness in organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addressed; may lack an introduction and/or a conclusion

Score of 0:

Fails to develop the task or may only refer to the theme in a general way; *OR* includes no relevant facts, examples, or details; *OR* includes only the theme, task, or suggestions as copied from the test booklet; *OR* is illegible; *OR* is a blank paper

The 19th century was a time of tremendous change. Industrialization was growing rapidly therefore effecting American life drastically. Not only did this growing industrialization change the individual lives of Americans but it effected the economy as a whole as well as the geographic distribution of the population. Two major changes were the growth of cities as well as increased immigration. These changes have shaped American Life ~~and~~ and formed the basis of America today.

A major change caused by 19th century industrialization was the growth of cities. Industrialization led to the building of large factories where people could earn little money but be considered independent. These factory products may have boosted the economy but they also caused a massive population shift and migration. Young farm girls who chose not to get married and have a hard life working on the farm moved to the cities where they could earn their own living by working in a large factory. Anyone who worked in a factory was required to work extremley long hours and because of that they chose to live in the city. ~~large~~ Small rooms were set up as apartments in buildings known as tenements. With work and life being transfered to the city new industries were formed. Clothing factories and other popular consumer good factories grew because the population

and demand in cities also grew. When tenements were full to the brim of poor factory workers and the living conditions of the now crowded cities were so terrible, some people chose to help. Places such as Hull House, founded by Jane Adams, were set up to help the factory workers who had no home and no life outside of the factory. Although industrialization proved to be beneficial in many ways for America, the negative effects can be clearly seen in the overcrowded streets, steady growth of already crowded cities, and diminishing safety to non-existent safety conditions at factories.

While cities grew so did the need for more cheap and unskilled labor. Conditions in Europe were not pleasant and the need for laborers in America was so great a massive immigration took place. This drastically changed America in many ways. Throughout the 19th century an enormous amount of immigrants came through Ellis Island to work in the factories that have come to symbolize America's industry. The immigrants brought with them their own culture and ethnicity. America became known as the "melting pot" of all cultures. There was an onslaught of prejudice at the beginning but without this 19th

century burst of immigration America would not be what it is today. The creation of Little Italy and Chinatown in New York City come to represent the blend and diffusion of so many diverse cultures and people. A positive effect of industrialization is the blending of many cultures and the formation of an accepting country as well as a more stable economy due to an increase in laborers and therefore consumers.

Great change can occur for many reasons but the industrialization of America in the 19th century is a premier example. The growth of cities and factories led to an increased market. The need for labor led America to become one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world. The industrial growth of the 19th century became the basis of the nation that has grown to be the most economically and politically powerful nation in the world.