

# Document Based Essay

## Grade 8

### “Immigration”

#### Directions:

The following question is based on the accompanying documents (1-4). This question is designed to test your ability to work with historic documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the sources of the document and the author’s point of view.

#### Historical Context:

From the Civil War to World War I, American culture was challenged and changed by a wave of "new immigration". These Immigrants from Europe and Asia brought a wealth of cultural experiences, but were sometimes mistrusted by “native-born” Americans.

#### Task:

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of social studies, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to.

- ❑ Explain the importance of Push factors to the immigrant experience.
- ❑ Describe the experience of immigrants coming to the United States.
- ❑ Evaluate the nativist response to immigrants and the impact of Immigrants on America.

#### Part A Short Answer:

Examine the documents that follow closely and then answer the questions that follow. Carefully read and analyze each document. Answer each question on the separate answer sheet using evidence from the document and your knowledge of Social Studies.

#### Part B Essay Answer:

Answer the question in a well-organized essay that uses your answers from Part A. Use evidence from the Documents and your knowledge of Social Studies to support the ideas in your essay. You should use definitions, examples, evidence, and other specific examples to fully develop the Topic.

# Document #1

“... As they increase, they divide and subdivide the patch of land they possess; they submit to live on poorer and poorer food; still they cling to the land, and subdivide it with their children till rent no longer exists, the land will not keep them, and all starve together. Their highest ambition is to obtain ... potatoes for themselves and their children. ... The people being left to themselves subdivided land till they could pay no rent, and at length it would not keep them, and they were found a year or two ago by the Poor Law Commissioners lying in their huts, without food or clothes, all starving together in the most frightful state of destitution.”

"the condition of the people of Ireland" by Thomas Campbell Foster,  
The Times of London, September 10, 1845.

- 1 A)        **What event is being described in the above document? What effect did this event have on immigration to America?**
- 1 B)        **What were the causes of agricultural problems in Europe?**

# Document #2

“We had taken shelter in the attic of the house we lived in because a pogrom was raging in our town, and we were hiding from the mob... My father at that time was in the cheese business... and had his long cheese knife. He decided that before he and his family were killed he would kill as many of the attackers as he possibly could. It was up in that attic, surrounded by his terrified family, that my father vowed that he would leave this accursed Russia and make a new life for himself and his family in America.”

Sophie Turnoy Trupin, *Dakota Diaspora*, 1984.

- 2 A)        **What event is being described in the above document? What effect did this event have on immigration to America?**
- 1 & 2 B)    **Explain the PUSH factors behind 19<sup>th</sup> century immigration.**

## Document #3



- 3 A) What sacrifices did immigrants make on the journey to America?

## Document #4

A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
is the imprisoned lightning, and her name Mother of Exiles. From her  
beacon-hand Glows worldwide welcome...  
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she With silent lips.  
"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Emma Lazarus, 1886

- 4 A) Explain Emma Lazarus' poem and the value it puts on immigration.
- 4 B) What Pull Factors are represented in Emma Lazarus' poem?

## Document #5



- 5 A) How is the immigrant depicted in this cartoon?
- 5 B) How does this cartoon reflect the thoughts of many Americans during this period?
- 5 C) What actions did the government eventually take to limit immigration?