

Document Based Essay : Grade 8

“Progressive Period”

Directions:

The following question is based on the accompanying documents (1-6). 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:

During the Progressive Period muckrakers and social reformers brought many of America’s problems to the public’s attention. This resulted in some efforts being made to correct these problems and reform American society.

Question:

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.

- Discuss the problems in urban areas and how they were addressed
- Describe the damage done by monopolies and trusts and explain how the action taken by the government to reform business practice.
- Explain the problems with American products and how we are safer today when we consume foods and medicines.

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

The houses of the ward, for the most part wooden, were originally built for one family and are now occupied by several. Many houses have no water supply save [except] the faucet in the back yard, there are no fire escapes, the garbage and ashes are placed in wooden boxes.... The streets are inexpressibly dirty, the number of schools inadequate, sanitary legislation unenforced, the street lighting bad, the paving miserable and altogether lacking in the alleys and smaller streets, and the stables foul beyond description.

Jane Addams, Twenty Years at Hull House

1 A) What problems of urban living are described in this quote?

Document #2



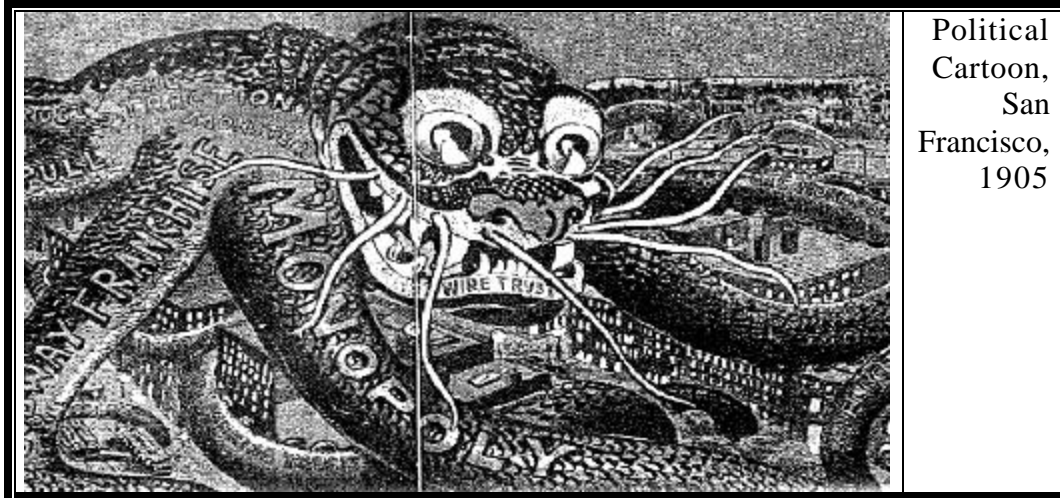
“The doors are opened unwillingly enough It was photographed by flashlight In a room not thirteen feet either way slept twelve men and women. . . . The 'apartment' was one of three in two adjoining buildings we had found . . . similarly crowded. Most of the men were lodgers, who slept there for five cents a spot.”

Jacob Riis, Five Cents A Spot, c.1890

2 A) What were the living conditions in urban neighborhoods?

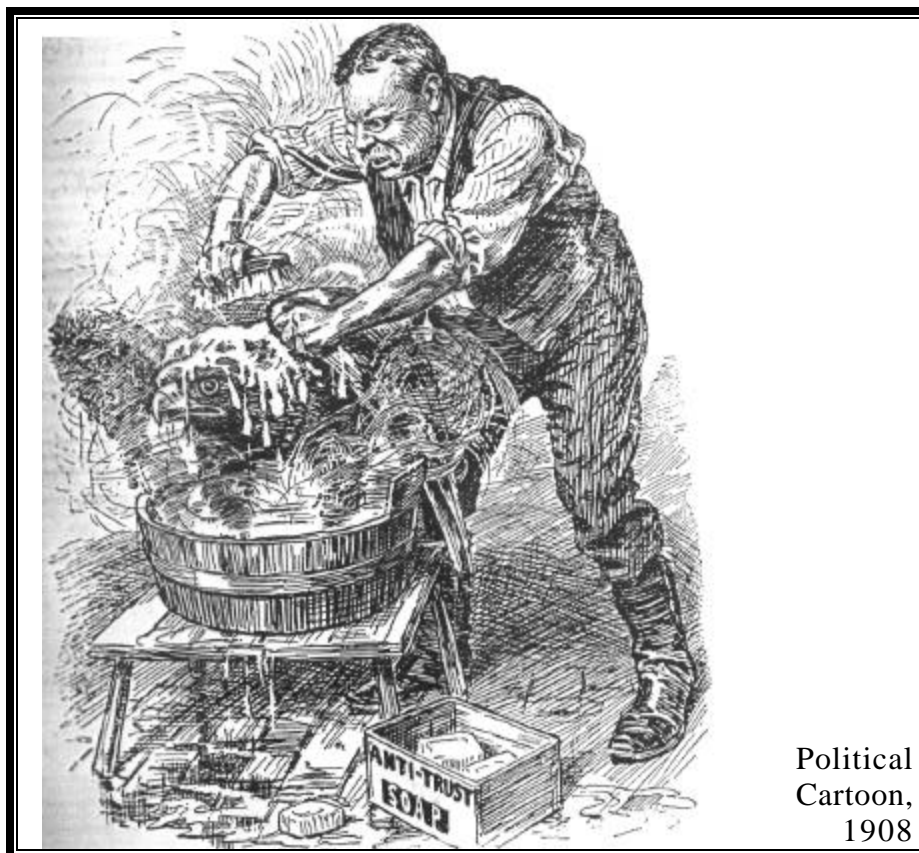
2 B) How did Jacob Riis increase public awareness of the problems in American cities?

Document Set #3



- 3 A) Describe what the cartoon show about monopolies?
- 3 B) What harm was done by monopolies and trusts?

Document #4



- 4 A) What problems did the Government try to fix with Anti-Trust Laws??
- 4 B) Explain what the cartoon is showing about Theodore Roosevelt?

Document #5

[T]he meat would be shoveled into carts, and the man who did the shoveling would not trouble to lift out a rat even when he saw one—there were things that went into the sausage in comparison with which a poisoned rat was a tidbit. There was no place for the men to wash their hands before they ate their dinner, and so they made a practice of washing them in the water that was to be ladled into the sausage. There were the butt-ends of smoked meat, and the scraps of corned beef, and all the odds and ends of the waste of the plants, that would be dumped into old barrels in the cellar and left there. Under the system of rigid economy which the packers enforced, there were some jobs that it only paid to do once in a long time, and among these was the cleaning out of the waste barrels. Every spring they did it; and in the barrels would be dirt and rust and old nails and stale water—and cartload after cartload of it would be taken up and dumped into the hoppers with fresh meat, and sent out to the public's breakfast.

Upton Sinclair, The Jungle

- 5 A) What response would Americans have to the description in this passage?

Document #6

Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906

AN ACT

For preventing the manufacture, sale, or transportation of adulterated or misbranded or poisonous or deleterious foods, drugs, medicines, and liquors, and for regulating traffic therein, and for other purposes. ...

...The term, "misbranded," as used herein, shall apply to all drugs, or articles of food, or articles which enter into the composition of food, the package or label of which shall bear any statement, design, or device regarding such article, or the ingredients or substances contained therein which shall be false or misleading in any particular.

United States Statutes at Large (59th Cong., Sess. I, Chp. 3915, p. 768-772)

- 6 A) What is the intention of this law?
- 6 B) How can you see evidence of this law in products available in today's stores?