

Part III

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document. Keep in mind that the language used in a document may reflect the historical context of the time in which it was written.

Historical Context:

Throughout history, humans have created waste and pollution. Urbanization and industrialization have contributed to the pollution of the land, water, and air. As urbanization and industrialization have increased, humans have attempted to address the problems of waste and pollution through different means with varying degrees of success.

Task: Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history and geography, 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

- Describe problems that humans face because of pollution caused by urbanization and industrialization
- Discuss attempts to address problems related to pollution *and* whether or not these attempts have been successful

In developing your answers to Part III, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) **describe** means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it”
- (b) **discuss** means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”

Part A
Short-Answer Questions

Directions: Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document in the space provided.

Document 1

. . .It was the threat of disease, finally, that made garbage removal at least partially a public responsibility in Europe and the United States. One obstacle these days to a calm and measured approach to garbage problems is a collective memory restricted to the human lifespan of about seventy-five years. It is difficult for anyone alive now to appreciate how appalling, as recently as a century ago, were the conditions of daily life in all of the cities of the Western world, even in the wealthier parts of town. “For thousands of years,” Lewis Mumford wrote in *The City in History*, “city dwellers put up with defective, often quite vile, sanitary arrangements, wallowing in rubbish and filth they certainly had the power to remove.” The stupefying level of wrack [rubbish] and rejectamenta [refuse] in one’s immediate vicinity that was accepted as normal from prehistory through the Enlightenment was raised horribly by the Industrial Revolution, which drew millions of people into already congested cities and at the same time increased the volume of consumer goods—future throwaways—by many orders of magnitude. . . .

Source: Rathje and Murphy, *Rubbish! The Archaeology of Garbage*, HarperCollins Publishers, 1992

1a According to Rathje and Murphy, which problem influenced cities to take responsibility for waste removal? [1]

Score

b According to Rathje and Murphy, what is **one** factor that has accelerated the production of garbage in cities? [1]

Score

Document 2

Description of Ancient Athens

. . . **The Streets and House Fronts of Athens.** — Progress is slower near the Market Place because of the extreme narrowness of the streets. They are only fifteen feet wide or even less, — intolerable alleys a later age would call them, — and dirty to boot. Sometimes they are muddy, more often extremely dusty. Worse still, they are contaminated by great accumulations of filth; for the city is without an efficient sewer system or regular scavengers. Even as the crowd elbows along, a house door will frequently open, an ill-favored slave boy show his head, and with the yell, “Out of the way!” slap a bucket of dirty water into the street. There are many things to offend the nose as well as the eyes of men of a later race. It is fortunate indeed that the Athenians are otherwise a healthy folk, or they would seem liable to perpetual pestilence [disease]; even so, great plagues have in past years harried [attacked] the city. . . .

Source: William Stearns Davis, *A Day in Old Athens*, Allyn and Bacon (adapted)

- 2 As a result of poor sanitation, what was **one** problem faced by the city of ancient Athens according to William Stearns Davis? [1]

Score

Document 3

As more and more people left the countryside and moved into towns and cities, waste disposal and public hygiene in the increasingly congested areas became major concerns. Sewage and animal cadavers were thrown into the rivers; butchers let the blood of slaughtered animals flow into the gutters, as did dyers the contaminated water from their vats. From fishmongers' shops. . . , unsold fish were tossed into the street at the end of the day.

For the most part municipal hygiene laws did little to prevent these practices, and those citizens who, like the man [shown] wearing clogs to stay above the muck, tried to sweep up the accumulated refuse often had to compete with the free-roaming pigs that rooted in the garbage. Some towns tried to restrict the activities of porcine [pig] scavengers, imposing a fine on owners who let their pigs run free on a Sunday—and an even higher fine if the offending animal was a sow [female pig].



Source: *What Life Was Like in the Age of Chivalry: Medieval Europe AD 800–1500*, Time-Life Books (adapted)

3a According to this excerpt from *What Life Was Like in the Age of Chivalry*, what was **one** cause of unsanitary conditions in European medieval cities? [1]

Score

b According to this excerpt from *What Life Was Like in the Age of Chivalry*, what was **one** attempt made to address the issue of municipal waste? [1]

Score

Poem About the Thames River in London

THE WATER THAT JOHN DRINKS.



THIS is the water that JOHN drinks.



This is the Thames with its cento* of stink,
That supplies the water that JOHN drinks.



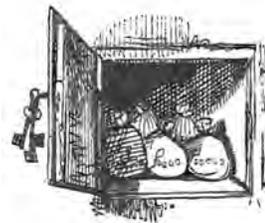
These are the fish that float in the ink-
-y stream of the Thames with its cento of stink,
That supplies the water that JOHN drinks.



This is the sewer, from cesspool and sink,
That feeds the fish that float in the ink-
-y stream of the Thames with its cento of stink,
That supplies the water that JOHN drinks.



These are vested int'rests,** that fill to the brink,
The network of sewers from cesspool and sink,
That feed the fish that float in the ink-
-y stream of the Thames, with its cento of stink,
That supplies the water that JOHN drinks.



This is the price that we pay to wink
At the vested int'rests that fill to the brink,
The network of sewers from cesspool and sink,
That feed the fish that float in the ink-
-y stream of the Thames with its cento of stink,
That supplies the water that JOHN drinks.

Source: *Punch*, Volume 17, 1849 (adapted)

*cento: a mixture

**vested int'rests: a person or group having a personal stake or financial involvement

4a According to this 1849 illustrated poem, what was **one** reason London's drinking water was polluted? [1]

Score

Document 4b

. . . When cholera* returned to Europe in 1865, it found some cities less hospitable than in previous visits. London, in particular, had moved forward. England's largest city had worked at improving sewer systems, cleaning up drinking water supplies, and collecting and disposing of refuse.

The efforts paid off. When cholera reached the city's shores, a few months after striking western Europe, it no longer leaked from the Thames into wells and other water supplies. The Thames itself was looking and smelling cleaner than it had for generations. Although the epidemic still killed several thousand people during its stay in London, its spread was limited once sources of contamination were discovered. . . .

Source: Stephanie True Peters, *Epidemic! Cholera: Curse of the Nineteenth Century*, Benchmark Books

*cholera: a disease spread through contaminated water

4b According to Stephanie True Peters, what was **one** action taken in London to reduce the number of people being affected by cholera? [1]

Score

Document 5

Winding 1,560 miles across northern India, from the Himalaya Mountains to the Indian Ocean, the Ganges River is not a sacred place: it is a sacred entity [thing]. Known as *Ganga Ma*—Mother Ganges—the river is revered as a goddess whose purity cleanses the sins of the faithful and aids the dead on their path toward heaven. But while her spiritual purity has remained unchallenged for millennia, her physical purity has deteriorated as India’s booming population imposes an ever-growing burden upon her. The river is now sick [2004] with the pollution of human and industrial waste, and water-borne illness is a terrible factor of Indian life. But the threat posed by this pollution isn’t just a matter of health—it’s a matter of faith. Veer Bhadra Mishra, a Hindu priest and civil engineer who has worked for decades to combat pollution in the Ganges, describes the importance of protecting this sacred river: “There is a saying that the Ganges grants us salvation. This culture will end if the people stop going to the river, and if the culture dies the tradition dies, and the faith dies.” . . .

In 1985, the government of India launched the Ganga Action Plan, which was devised to clean up the river in selected areas by installing sewage treatment plants and threatening fines and litigation [legal action] against industries that pollute. Almost 20 years later, the plan has been largely unsuccessful. The Western-style treatment plants simply did not meet the needs of the region. Such treatment facilities are designed for use in countries where the supply of electricity is stable, there’s no season of overwhelming monsoon rains, and the population doesn’t drink directly from the water source. Many Indians blame the plan’s failure on mismanagement, corruption and technological mistakes. A key criticism is that local communities, those most invested in the health of the river, were not included in the planning process. . . .

Source: Amberly Polidor, “Ganges River,” Sacred Land Film Project online, February 1, 2004

5a According to Amberly Polidor, what is **one** problem pollution has created in the Ganges River region? [1]

Score

b According to Amberly Polidor, what is **one** reason attempts made by the government of India to address the problems of pollution in the Ganges River region have been unsuccessful? [1]

Score

Document 6

. . .Venezuela’s oil industry has crisscrossed Lake Maracaibo with about 15,000 miles of pipelines. “We say that the lake’s practically a plate of spaghetti with the quantity of pipes there,” says local historian Pedro Estrada. Unfortunately, many of the pipes are old, rusty, and leaking. In 2010, the leaky pipes released oil that washed up on Lake Maracaibo’s shores, harming fish and birds.

Other sources of pollution are damaging the lake as well. About 500 companies dump waste into the lake’s tributaries, and the area’s inhabitants produce tons of sewage. Chemical runoff from farms also flows into the lake. Only about 20 percent of this waste, runoff, and sewage is treated before it enters the lake. . . .

Source: Andrew J. Milson, “Rescuing Lake Maracaibo,” *Water Resources*, National Geographic Learning, 2014

6 According to Andrew J. Milson, what is **one** indication that treatment of pollution in Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela is lacking or is not effective? [1]

Score

Document 7

. . . Mexico City residents once viewed the forest of smokestacks and their congested highways with pride. They saw these developments as symbols of modernization and proof of a growing economy. In recent years, however, air pollution has begun to have a serious impact on their lives. Several times during 1992, for instance, Mexico City's ozone level climbed well over the "very dangerous" point on the official index and remained there for days. Each time the government declared an emergency. Car use was restricted, and industries were required to cut back operations. One result of such events is that more and more people are beginning to equate the city's factories and cars with environmental destruction. . . .



Source: Geography Theme Activities, *Global Insights: People and Cultures*, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill

7a Based on this document, what is a major cause of pollution in Mexico City? [1]

Score

b Based on this document, what is **one** action taken by the government in an attempt to address the issue of pollution in Mexico City? [1]

Score

Document 8

. . . As in most countries, coal, another nonrenewable energy source, is the chief source of China's domestic energy production. Coal has traditionally been China's main source of energy, and even in 2006, it accounted for about 70 percent of China's energy. China is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal. It is abundant in China and is cheap compared with other sources of energy. Unfortunately, coal is also the "dirtiest" energy source, as it produces carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and methane—gases that contribute to global warming, air pollution, and acid rain. Indeed, China's abundance of coal has contributed to its notorious air pollution: 16 of the world's 20 most polluted cities are in China. Coal mines are also dangerous places for workers, especially in China, where more coal miners die each year than anywhere else in the world.

The Chinese government has recognized the need to shift to renewable energy sources to sustain its energy growth and to minimize the environmental and health problems caused by relying on nonrenewable energy sources. Its Renewable Energy Law, which took effect on 1 January 2006, aims to ensure that 15 percent of China's energy comes from renewable sources by 2020. Renewable energy comes from dams that harness water flow, windmills that channel energy, and solar panels that store energy from the sun. Unfortunately, wind power and solar power are still in the initial stages of development. They cost a lot to install, and they supply only a small fraction of China's energy needs. Still, China has one of the world's greatest wind energy potentials, a fact that the government acknowledged as it set an ambitious target of increasing wind power capacity to more than 23 times its 2005 level by the year 2020. . . .

Source: Rylan Sekiguchi, "10,000 Shovels: China's Urbanization and Economic Development,"
Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, 2006 (adapted)

8a According to Rylan Sekiguchi, what is **one** environmental problem China faces as a result of burning coal? [1]

Score

b According to Rylan Sekiguchi, what is **one** challenge China faces as it attempts to shift to renewable sources of energy? [1]

Score

Part B

Essay

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from *at least five* documents in your essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

Historical Context:

Throughout history, humans have created waste and pollution. Urbanization and industrialization have contributed to the pollution of the land, water, and air. As urbanization and industrialization have increased, humans have attempted to address the problems of waste and pollution through different means with varying degrees of success.

Task: Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history and geography, write an essay in which you

- Describe problems that humans face because of pollution caused by urbanization and industrialization
- Discuss attempts to address problems related to pollution *and* whether or not these attempts have been successful

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from *at least five* documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme