

**AP EUROPEAN HISTORY – MODIFIED DBQ**  
**Revised from the 2002 AP European History exam**

**AP EUROPEAN HISTORY**

**Total Time—45 minutes**

**Question 1 (Document-Based Question)**

**Suggested reading and writing time: 45 minutes**

**It is suggested that you spend 5-10 minutes reading the documents and 35-40 minutes writing your response. Note: You may begin writing your response before the reading period is over.**

**Directions:** Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis or claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
- Describe a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
- Support an argument in response to the prompt using at least 4 documents.
- Use at least 2 additional pieces of specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt.
- For at least 2 documents, explain how or why the document’s point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument.
- Use evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the prompt.

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1. Evaluate whether or not the Industrial Revolution improved the lives of European workers.

**Document 1**

Source: Robert Southey, English Romantic poet, after visiting Manchester in 1807, *Colloquies on the Progress and Prospects of Society*, 1829.

A place more destitute than Manchester is not easy to conceive. In size and population it is the second city of the kingdom. Imagine this multitude crowded together in narrow streets, the houses all built of brick and blackened with smoke: frequent buildings among them as large as convents, without their antiquity, without their beauty, without their holiness, where you hear from within, the everlasting din of machinery; and where, when the bell rings, it is to call the wretches to their work instead of their prayers.

**Document 2**

Source: Thomas B. Macaulay, liberal Member of Parliament and historian, essay, "Southey's Colloquies," 1830's.

People live longer because they are better fed, better lodged, better clothed, and better attended in sickness, and these improvements are owing to the increase in national wealth which the manufacturing system has produced. Mr. [Robert] Southey has found a way, he tells us, in which the effects of manufactures and agriculture may be compared. And what is this way?

To stand on a hill, to look at a cottage and a factory, and to see which is prettier. Does Mr. Southey think that the English peasantry live, or ever lived, in substantial and ornamented cottages, with box-hedges, flower-gardens, beehives, and orchards?

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**Document 3**

Source: Flora Tristan, French socialist and women's rights advocate, her published journal, 1842.

Unless you have visited the manufacturing towns and seen the workers of Manchester, you cannot appreciate the physical suffering and moral degradation of this class of the population. Most workers lack clothing, bed, furniture, fuel, wholesome food—even potatoes! They spend from twelve to fourteen hours each day shut up in low-ceilinged rooms where with every breath of foul air they absorb fibers of cotton, wool or flax, or particles of copper, lead or iron. They live suspended between an insufficiency of food and an excess of strong drink; they are all wizened, sickly and emaciated, their bodies thin and frail, their limbs feeble, their complexions pale, their eyes dead. If you visit a factory, it is easy to see that the comfort and welfare of the workers have never entered the builder's head.

O God! Can progress be bought only at the cost of men's lives?

**Document 4**

Source: William Alexander Abram, journalist and historian, journal article, 1868.

The condition of the factory laborers has been vastly improved within the last quarter of a century. The Hours of Labor in Factories Act, passed in 1844, worked a thorough reform. The excessive hours of labor have been legally reduced to ten hours per day. Wages—thanks mainly to accelerated machinery and improved working conditions—have largely increased. A new cotton mill of the first class is a model of spaciousness and convenience. The lavish provision of public parks, baths, and free libraries promotes the health, happiness and culture of the industrial orders. Far seldomer than before do we hear the murmur of popular discontent. Sickness and mortality have been reduced to an extent that is almost incredible.

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**Document 5**

Source: View from Blackfriars bridge over the River Irwell, *The Graphic*, weekly magazine dealing with social issues, 1870's.



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