

UNITED STATES HISTORY

SECTION II

Total Time—1 hour, 30 minutes

Question 1 (Document-Based Question)

Suggested Reading period: 15 minutes

Suggested writing period: 40 minutes

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

Write your responses on the lined pages that follow the question.

In your response you should do the following.

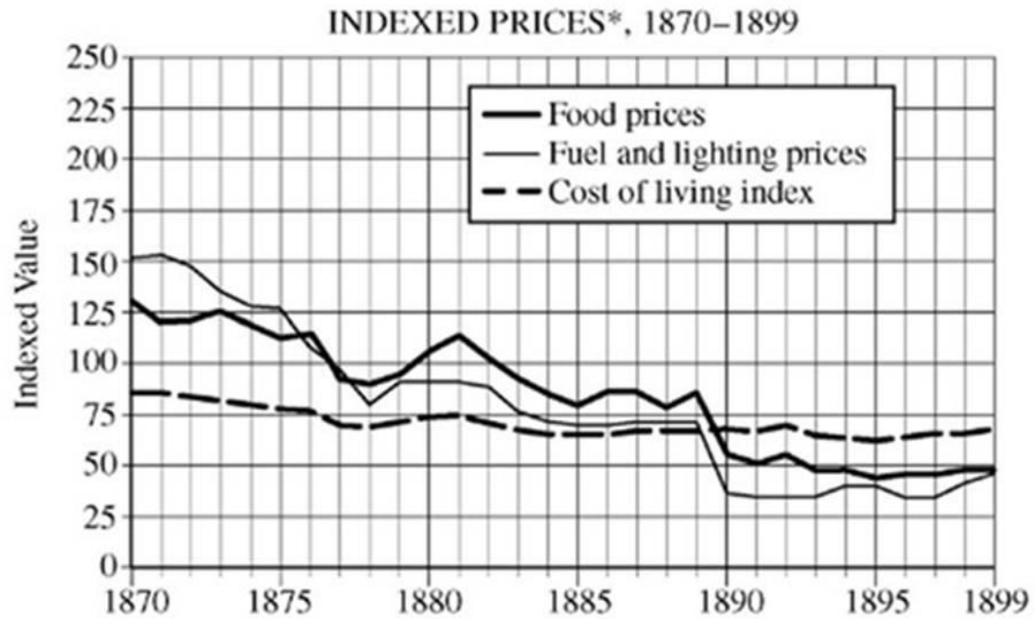
- State a relevant thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question.
- Support the thesis or a relevant argument with evidence six of the documents.
- Incorporate analysis of at least four of the documents into your argument.
- Focus your analysis of each document on at least one of the following: intended audience, purpose, historical context, and/or point of view.
- Provide an example or additional piece of specific evidence beyond those found in the documents to support or qualify your argument.
- Connect historical phenomena relevant to your argument to broader events or processes.
- Synthesize the elements above into a persuasive essay that extends your argument, connects it to a different historical context, or accounts for contradictory evidence on the topic.

1. Analyze the impact of big business on U.S. society in the years 1870 to 1900.

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Document 1

Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*.



*Indexed prices refers to the average prices for goods and services during a given interval of time.

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Document 2

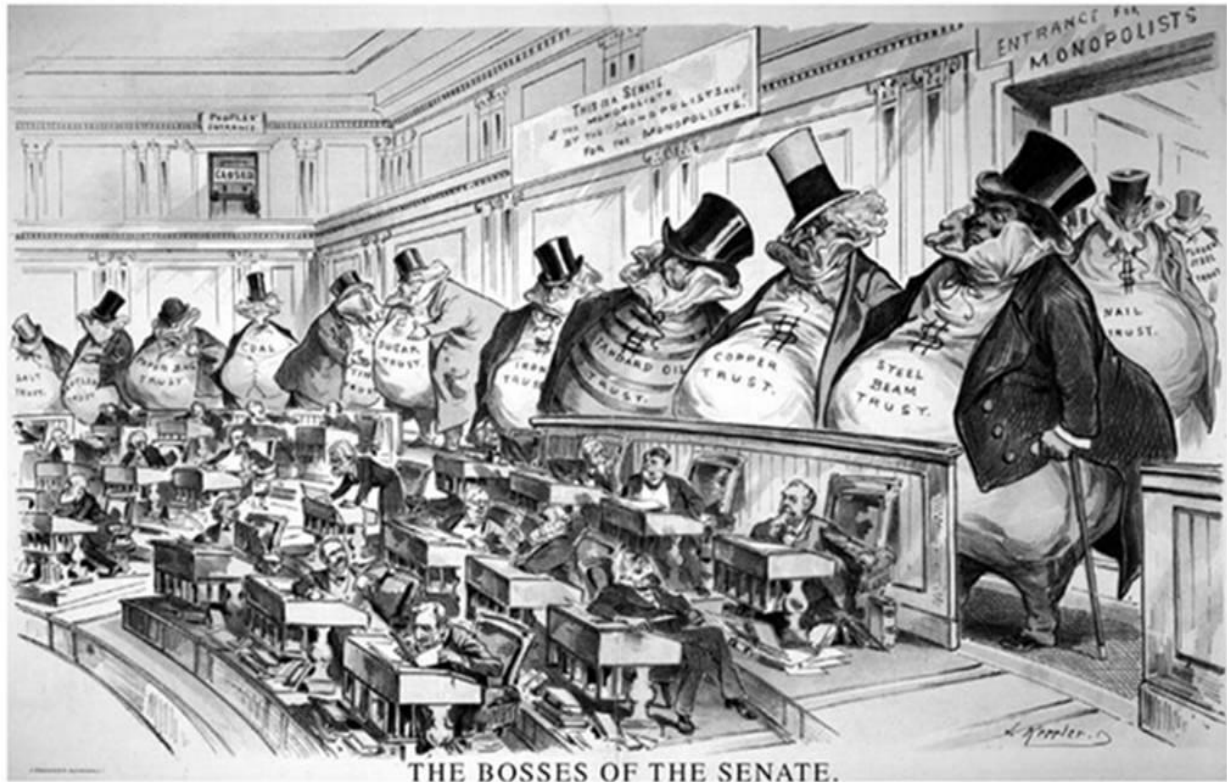
Source: David A. Wells, engineer and economist, *Recent Economic Changes and Their Effect on the Production and Distribution of Wealth and the Well-Being of Society*, 1889.

[T]he modern manufacturing system has been brought into a condition analogous to that of a military organization, in which the individual no longer works as independently as formerly, but as a private in the ranks, obeying orders, keeping step, as it were, to the tap of the drum, and having nothing to say as to the plan of his work, of its final completion, or of its ultimate use and distribution. In short, the people who work in the modern factory are, as a rule, taught to do one thing—to perform one and generally a simple operation; and when there is no more of that kind of work to do, they are in a measure helpless. The result has been that the individualism or independence of the producer in manufacturing has been in a great degree destroyed, and with it has also in a great degree been destroyed the pride which the workman formerly took in his work—that fertility of resource which formerly was a special characteristic of American workmen, and that element of skill that comes from long and varied practice and reflection and responsibility.

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Document 3

Source: Joseph Keppler, "The Bosses of the Senate," *Puck*, January 23, 1889.



U.S. Senate Collection

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Document 4

Source: Andrew Carnegie, "Wealth," *North American Review*, June 1889.

This, then, is held to be the duty of the man of Wealth: First, to set an example of modest, unostentatious living, shunning display or extravagance; to provide moderately for the legitimate wants of those dependent upon him; and after doing so to consider all surplus revenues which come to him simply as trust funds, which he is called upon to administer, and strictly bound as a matter of duty to administer in the manner which, in his judgment, is best calculated to produce the most beneficial results for the community—the man of wealth thus becoming the mere agent and trustee for his poorer brethren, bringing to their service his superior wisdom, experience, and ability to administer, doing for them better than they would or could do for themselves.

Document 5

Source: Samuel Gompers, *What Does Labor Want?*, an address before the International Labor Congress in Chicago, August 28, 1893.

The organized working men and women, the producers of the wealth of the world, declare that men, women and children, with human brains and hearts, should have a better consideration than inanimate and dormant things, usually known under the euphonious title of "Property." . . .

We demand a reduction of the hours of labor, which would give a due share of work and wages to the reserve army of labor and eliminate many of the worst abuses of the industrial system now filling our poor houses and jails. . . .

Labor . . . insists upon the exercise of the right to organize for self and mutual protection. . . . That the lives and limbs of the wage-workers shall be regarded as sacred as those of all others of our fellow human beings; that an injury or destruction of either by reason of negligence or maliciousness of another, shall not leave him without redress simply because he is a wage-worker. . . .

And by no means the least demand of the Trade Unions is for adequate wages.

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Document 6

Source: George Rice, "How I Was Ruined by Rockefeller," *New York World*, October 16, 1898.

"I am but one of many victims of Rockefeller's colossal combination," said Mr. [George] Rice, "and my story is not essentially different from the rest. . . . I established what was known as the Ohio Oil Works. . . . I found to my surprise at first, though I afterward understood it perfectly, that the Standard Oil Company was offering the same quality of oil at much lower prices than I could do—from one to three cents a gallon less than I could possibly sell it for."

"I sought for the reason and found that the railroads were in league with the Standard Oil concern at every point, giving it discriminating rates and privileges of all kinds as against myself and all outside competitors."

Document 7

Source: Female typists, circa 1902.



Courtesy of Library of Congress # LC-D4-42930

END OF DOCUMENTS FOR QUESTION 1

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