



AP[®] European History 2002 Sample Student Responses

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A civilization can often be judged by examining its cities. In ancient times Babylon was regarded as a symbol for the dominance of its people. Likewise, the Romans littered Europe with their cities. Part of the reason for the longevity of the Roman Empire was their superior planning and city design. As Europe progressed cities became even more important. The Industrial Revolution brought with it increased urbanization and the peasants flooded into the cities. Perhaps no city is more indicative of this transformation and the problems it caused than Manchester, England. Over the course of the 19th century the growth of Manchester raised provocative issues of public health, political unrest, and concerns over the beauty of the city. These issues were met with the reactions of questioning whether progress was worth the sacrifice of human life, an effort to beautify the city and legislative reform.

First, there were varying opinions as to whether or not Manchester was an attractive city and what should be done to remedy it if it was indeed unattractive. Robert Southey, an English Romantic poet, wrote in his Colloquies on the Progress and Prospects of Society in 1829(2) that Manchester was a horrible place. His unforgiving description of the city paints a picture of a dirty, cramped city with no endearing physical qualities. It is necessary, however, to analyze Southey as a source. The key here is that Southey was a Romantic and

Romantics were not known for their love of cities. Southey's contemporaries Coleridge and Wordsworth actually moved out of London because they preferred the lake district. Romantics also saw themselves as champions of the oppressed. Lord Byron dying on the Greek battlefield in 1830 is a perfect example of a Romantic trying to help his fellow man. In this document Southey could very well be trying to "save" the working people of Manchester. Likewise he has an inherent disdain for city life that could affect his point of view. A contrasting viewpoint is presented by Thomas Macaulay, a liberal Member of Parliament and historian in his 1830's essay "Southey's Colloquies" (3). In his work Macaulay challenged Southey's condemnation of Manchester. He went on to say that the ideal agrarian existence with which Southey measures Industrial Manchester is no more than a fairy tale. Macaulay must also be analyzed as a source. As a liberal Member of Parliament one would expect Macaulay to be more in favor of the welfare of man than in monetary gain. This projection calls into question his support of Manchester but is answered by his claim that industrialization helps people improve their standard of living. The fact that he is a historian adds to his credibility. Historians are supposed to interpret history without bias. As such Macaulay's testimony carries more weight. In 1835 Alexis de Tocqueville, a French ~~visitor~~ visitor to England wrote

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Section II Part A
OBG

T-3

in her Journeys to England and Ireland (5) that Manchester was a testament to industrialization and evidence to the degradation of human kind. She acknowledged the financial and industrial success of Manchester but added that it came at a terrible price to civilized man. Tocqueville must be analyzed as a source. Immediately the fact that she is French makes her point of view clear. The English and French were long rivals and in 1835 memories of Napoleon's defeat at the hands of the British ~~was~~ ^{was} likely still fresh in the minds of the French. Therefore ~~the~~ Tocqueville's natural animosity towards the English could have influenced her testimony. Perhaps the most one-sided opinion on the beauty of Manchester comes in 1852 with Wheelan and Co.'s preface to a business directory (9.) Wheelan and Co. gives a glowing report of Manchester that makes the city sound like heaven on earth. This glowing report must be analyzed. Wheelan and Co was making a pitch to be granted a royal charter as a city. It is no small wonder then that these businessmen would speak so highly of the city in which they make their money. They would not describe the plight of the working class as it would lower the ~~value~~ value of the city in the eyes of the business directory. Lastly William Alexander Abram, historian and journalist, described in 1868 (10) the improvements Manchester has made as a city. It is primarily in this document that the reader finds the reactions of the

City to remedy its "ugliness" problem. Abram describes public baths, parks, free libraries and new buildings. Clearly the Manchester Abram saw was much different the Manchester that Southey visited. In conclusion, there were varying opinions about the ~~state~~ looks of Manchester but it improved itself with urban renovation.

The second main issue in Manchester was that of public health. Edwin Chadwick, public health reformer, in his Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Laboring Population of Great Britain in 1842 (6) described a Manchester with deplorable health conditions. He said the factories were horrible and the air was littered with disease. The fact that he is a public health reformer gives his testimony more weight. The fact that he favors reforms is clearly evidenced by his description of Manchester. Flora Tristan, a French socialist and women's rights advocate said in 1842 (7) that the workers of Manchester suffer physically and morally. She talked about the insufficient nutrition that is common among the working class as well as the lack of will to live. The reaction of the city to this state of affairs came from William Abram (8) he said that conditions had improved due to new reform legislation and that the city no longer had to sacrifice the health of its people for the health of its economy. The health of Manchester was a very important issue in the 19th century.

As people struggled with whether this industrialization was justified.

Lastly, Manchester dealt with the issue of political unrest. Frances Kemble described in her account of the inaugural journey of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway in 1830 the political discontent of the Manchester working class and their disdain for the government. This issue met with reaction by the aforementioned reforms ~~of~~ by legislation described by Abram in document 10. He said that due to new legislation and city improvement the people of Manchester became more docile. Likewise the Chartist movement of the 1840's that finally came into effect in the 1860's under Disraeli and Gladstone would have greatly affected the discontent of the working class. In conclusion the issue of political unrest was met with reform and city improvements.

The issues of beauty, health, and unrest were met with the reactions of improvements to Manchester through public works and legislation. Overall Manchester appeared to have become a more desirable place to live as the 19th century progressed. Manchester's evolution as a city is indicative of England's revolution through the Industrial Revolution. It only goes to show how a civilization can be measured by its great cities.

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Part A 1

Q-1

~~Q-1~~ ~~Q-1~~ ~~Q-1~~ ~~Q-1~~ ~~Q-1~~

→ In Manchester, England a great growth has evolved. It has not only grown in size, but also in population. With the increase in people and land issues are bound to arise. Three main topics of concern are over population, Sanitary conditions, and the economy itself.

The growth of Manchester is evident. Its population has increased from 18,000 in 1750 to over 300,000 in 1851. When one compares maps of both time periods the change and development of the land is clear (Q-1). But bigger is not always better. According to a French visitor it looked abstract and somber (Q-1). Manchester grew so large that it ~~became~~ lost its beauty. Some people disagree with this notion. Thomas B. Macaulay states that it is because of the countries

Part A I

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National wealth that it has grown in size. He also leads one to believe that Due to this increase in capital & People are living longer, and being taken care of better (Doc 3).

Thomas B. Macaulay is a liberal Member of Parliament. This explains his optimistic view on the matter. Being part of the government leads Mr. Macaulay to have a bias opinion on ~~the~~ over-population. Statistics show that people are in fact dying at a younger age in Manchester (Doc 8) ^{comparison} to other cities. Over population must be addressed before famine sets in.

Over population leads to unsanitary conditions in general. Due to the size it is difficult to maintain. Edwin Chadwick, public health reformer, knows how big of an issue this has become in Manchester.

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Part A DBQ Q-3

Dwellings are over crowded leading to filth and atmospheric impurities. (Doc 6) The stench is so bad people begin to live like animals. The sanitary conditions hence affect Manchester economy. Tourist no longer wish to go to Manchester to visit. Because of the large industrial industry buildings are black and have lost their antiquity (Doc 2). The buildings within Manchester ~~are~~ resemble convents without their beauty. The mood is dim. This affects the spirit the people & if the place in which they work is not pleasant their work will not be up to par their spirits will be broken. ~~The~~ To work at a factory within the image portrayed in "The Graphic" would be utterly depressing. If something is not done about the sanitary

Part A I

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Q-4

Conditions the city's economy will be at risk.

The economy is one of the main factors in the growth of Manchester. Manchester is known to be a leading textile manufacturer. This is the reason for all of the smog-producing factories. Wheelon and Co. depict Manchester as being a beautiful city and very distinguish. (Doc 9) Be mindful that this is a company speaking. This company is more than likely located within Manchester. Using pretty words to describe Manchester does not take away from the fact that the workers are not content. As a matter of fact there is a dangerous spirit of discontent at the time of Manchester's growing period. (Doc 9). Manchester's economy relies so heavily on factories that if do not

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Part A I →

Q-5

Begin to make changes things will not be pretty.

The people of Manchester are the ones who make the city what it is. Therefore, the people are the ones who must be maintained happy. If sanitary conditions, and over population aren't controlled then the economy of Manchester is at a great risk to have a record breaking down fall.