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DBQ

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying Documents 1-14. (Some of the documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.) Write your answer on the lined pages of the pink essay booklet.

The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. As you analyze each document, take into account its source and the point of view of the author. Write an essay on the following topic that integrates your analysis of the documents; in no case should documents simply be cited and explained in a “laundry list” fashion. You may refer to historical facts and developments not mentioned in the documents.

The Question: Analyze both the positive and the negative effects of the Industrial Revolution on England and describe the various responses emanating from its government and different groups and thinkers.

Historical Background: Although the Industrial Revolution swept through Europe and the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries, it found its origins and was arguably most successful in England. The Industrial Revolution involved the application of principles of the Scientific Revolution to everyday life, especially the idea of man’s dominance over nature. The revolution completely remodeled Europe’s socioeconomic landscape with the creation of a new industrial proletariat and a wealthy industrial middle-class. Many argue that the Industrial Revolution positively affected England economically and sparked a wave of new technological advancements. Others feel that the Industrial Revolution negatively influenced England through the poor treatment of laborers (exploitation of children for labor, dangerous working conditions, etc....) and because it led to rapid urbanization which resulted in overpopulation, unsanitary living conditions in cities and the spread of disease.

Document 1

The number of Scribbling-Machines extending about seventeen miles south-west of LEEDS, exceed all belief, being no less than *one hundred and seventy!* and as each machine will do as much work in twelve hours, as ten men can in that time do by hand, (speaking within bounds) and they working night-and day, one machine will do as much work in one day as would otherwise employ twenty men.

Leeds Woollen Workers Petition, 1786

Document 2

If then by the Use of Machines, the Manufacture of Cotton, an Article which we import, and are supplied with from other Countries, and which can every where be procured on equal Terms, has met with such amazing Success, may not greater Advantages be reasonably expected from cultivating to the utmost the Manufacture of Wool, the Produce of our own Island, an Article in Demand in all Countries, almost the universal Clothing of Mankind?

A statement by the Cloth Merchants of Leeds (a major center of wool manufacture in Yorkshire) defended the use of machines, 1791.

Document 3

The Steam Looms are chiefly employed in Weaving printing cloth and shirtings, but they also weave thicksetts, fancy cords, dimities, cambrics and quiltings, together with silks, worsteds, and fine woollen or broad cloth. Invention is progressive, every improvement that is made is the foundation of another, and as the attention of hundreds of skilful mechanics and manufacturers is now turned to the improvement of the Steam Loom, it is probable that its application will become as general, and its efficiency as great, in Weaving, as the Jenny, Water Frame and Mule, are in Spinning, and that it will, in this country at least, entirely supersede the hand Loom.

Richard Guest, *Compendious History of the Cotton Manufacture* (Manchester 1823), pp. 44-48

Document 4

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd of September were very hot days. The newspapers told us that men had dropped down dead in the harvest fields and the many horses had fallen dead in the harvest fields and that many horses had fallen dead upon the road. Yet the heat during these days never exceeded eighty-four degrees in the hottest part of the day. What, then, must be the situation of the poor children who are doomed to toil fourteen hours a day, in an average of eighty-two degrees? Can any man, with a heart in his body, and a tongue in his head, refrain from cursing a system that produces such slavery and such cruelty.

William Cobbett reported a visit to a textile factory in the Political Register that he made in September, 1824 (20th November, 1824).

Document 5

460. What has been the treatment which you have observed that these children received at the mills, to keep them attentive for so many hours at such early ages? – They are generally cruelly treated; so cruelly treated, that they dare not hardly for their lives be too late at their work in a morning.... My heart has been ready to bleed for them when I have seen them so fatigued, for they appear in such a state of apathy and insensibility as really not known whether they are doing their work or not....

Mr. Abraham Whitehead, British Child Labor Inquiry, 1831-1832

Document 6

....Nevertheless, these results are readily perceived, for if a new machine simplifies the work so that the price of a pair of stockings or a coat is reduced to five *sous*, no-one can deny that the next winter a greater number of men will be protected from the bite of the cold. One cannot deny any more that those who will buy stockings and coats at this price will not have to work so hard to earn the value of them, and that they can spend the time that they would have spent in earning the bigger sums that they formerly would have needed to clothe themselves on other necessities, or on intellectual pastimes, or else on rest and pleasure, which is also a necessity for a man.

Anselme Petetin, extract from Debate on the problems of society, 1832

Document 7

The political and moral advantages of this country, as a seat of manufactures, are not less remarkable than its physical advantages. The arts are the daughters of peace and liberty. In no country have these blessings been enjoyed in so high degree, or for so long a continuance, as in England. Under the reign of of just laws, personal liberty and property have been secure; mercantile enterprise has been allowed to reap its reward; capital has accumulated in safety; the workman has "gone forth to his work and to his labour until the evening;" and, thus protected and favoured, the manufacturing prosperity of the country has struck its roots deep, and spread forth its branches to the ends of the earth.

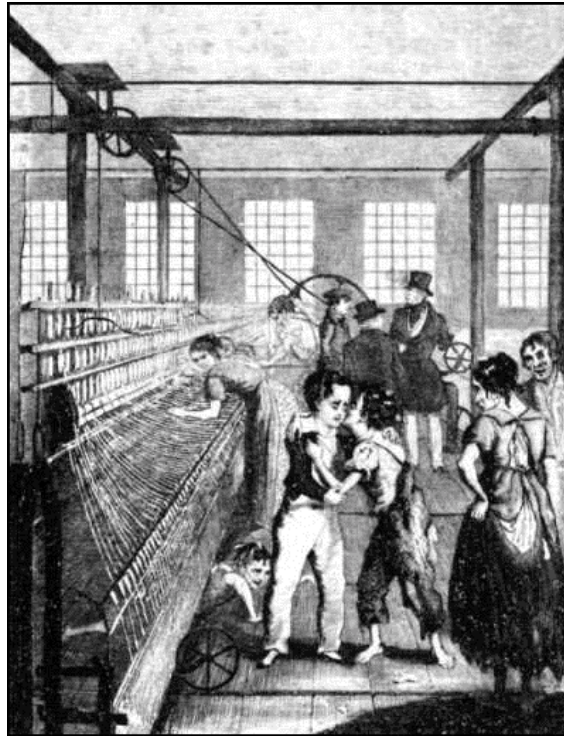
Edward Baines (son of a wealthy newspaper owner), The History of the Cotton Manufacture in Great Britain, 1835

Document 8

Steam-engines furnish the means not only of their support but of their multiplication. They create a vast demand for fuel; and, while they lend their powerful arms to drain the pits and to raise the coals, they call into employment multitudes of miners, engineers, shipbuilders, and sailors, and cause the construction of canals and railways. Thus therefore, in enabling these rich fields of industry to be cultivated to the utmost, they leave thousands of fine arable fields free for the production of food to man, which must have been otherwise allotted to the food of horses. Steam-engines moreover, by the cheapness and steadiness of their action, fabricate cheap goods, and procure in their exchange a liberal supply of the necessaries and comforts of life produced in foreign lands.

Andrew Ure (a professor at the University of Glasgow), The Philosophy of the Manufacturers, 1835

Document 9



<http://www.nettleworth.durham.sch.uk/time/victorian/vindust.html>

Document 10

My legs became distorted. Standing in the easiest position, when the feet are about 14 inches apart, the knees and thighs are then pressing close together, so that the legs form a sort of arch for the support of the body. One evil arising from the bending and curving of the legs is the blood-vessels must go wrong. One serious evil resulting from the imperfect circulation of the blood, is the drying up of the marrow in the bones. The bones then decay.

William Dodd (a factory cripple), A Narrative of William Dodd: Factory Cripple (1841)

Document 11



<http://pdkphs.tripod.com/new/unit3.html>

Document 12

That the various forms of epidemic, endemic, and other disease caused, or aggravated, or propagated chiefly amongst the labouring classes by atmospheric impurities produced by decomposing animal and vegetable substances, by damp and filth, and close and overcrowded dwellings as they have been found to prevail in the lowest districts of the metropolis.

That such disease, wherever its attacks are frequent, is always found in connexion with the physical circumstances above specified, and that where those circumstances are removed by drainage, proper cleansing, better ventilation, and other means of diminishing atmospheric impurity, the frequency and intensity of such disease is abated; and where the removal of the noxious agencies appears to be complete, such disease almost entirely disappears.

Edwin Chadwick, Report...from the Poor Law Commissioners on an Inquiry into the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Population of Great Britain. London, 1842, pp. 369-372

Document 13

About a week after I became a mill boy, I was seized with a strong, heavy sickness, that few escape on first becoming factory workers. The cause of the sickness, which is known by the name of "mill fever", is the contaminated atmosphere produced by so many breathing in a confined space, together with the heat and exhalations of grease and oil and the gas needed to light the establishment.

Frank Forrest, Chapters in the Life of a Dundee Factory Boy (1850)

Document 14

Average Age of Death in English Cities

Place	Professional/Gentry	Tradesmen	Labourers
Bethnal Green	45	26	16
Bolton	34	23	18
Derby	49	38	21
Kendal	45	39	34
Leeds	44	27	19
Liverpool	35	22	15
Manchester	38	20	17
Wiltshire	50	48	33

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/ITleeds.htm>

DBQ PROJECT

STEP 1: Write down the different groupings of the documents – what are the general ways you, as the one who constructed the DBQ, would have the writer group the documents. Put the document numbers and the general topic of the groupings. Remember, you have to have at least three groupings – I provided room below for five.

<i>GENERAL TOPIC OF THE GROUPING</i>	<i>DOCUMENTS USED</i>
Support Industrialization – because of its economic benefits to England	Documents: 6, 7
Support Industrialization – because it sparked a new wave of technological innovation	Documents: 1, 2, 3, 8
Opposed Industrialization – because it led to poor treatment of the industrial working class (child labor, dangerous working conditions, etc....)	Documents: 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 14
Opposed Industrialization – because of the negative effects of the rapid urbanization sparked by the movement (unsanitary living conditions, spread of disease) and its effect on the environment	Documents: 11, 12

STEP 2: Write down the document numbers that you have chosen for analysis of point of view. The analyze the point of view in the space provided

<i>DOCUMENTS USED FOR ANALYSIS OF POINT OF VIEW</i>	<i>WRITE DOWN YOUR ANALYSIS OF POINT OF VIEW FOR THE DOCUMENT</i>
Document 2	One should approach this document with caution because the source of the document is from the Cloth Merchants of Leeds (a major center of wool manufacture in Yorkshire. Because the Merchants have an economic interest in the efficiency of good production they would naturally defend the machines.
Document 7	This document produces a unique point of view because the source, as indicated, is the son of a wealthy newspaper editor. Because he does not suffer from or is adversely affected from the negative aspects of the Industrial Revolution he would naturally defend the Industrial Revolution.
Document 10	The point of view in this document is skewed because the source was crippled by factory machinery. Because, he is crippled he may harbor some resentment against the factory system and therefore his opinion of the system may be more negative.