



**AP[®] US History
2004 Sample Student Responses
Form B**

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~~The close of the 19th century saw America rapidly accelerate~~

America was founded on ~~an~~ agrarian principles. In colonial America, farming was a profession which commanded wealth and respect. The agrarian cause was furthered by Jefferson, and remained the cornerstone of the Southern economy. However, the close of the 19th century brought with it rapid industrialization and mechanization.

The agrarian society faded and was replaced by the factory. As industry boomed, the city became the focus. Between 1875 and 1925 many flocked to the cities, in search of opportunity and a better life.

American industrialization and growth was temporarily halted during the Civil War. As the Union ~~emerged~~ was pieced back together afterwards, the atrocities of the war remained as vivid memories to many. This soon began to change. As younger generations matured, the war ~~was~~ was no longer prominent in their minds. Instead, this ~~was~~ was replaced by a desire to make money. ~~and to get rich quick~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ This also coincided with a

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new tendency towards globalization and a rejection of the isolationist policies which had dictated American commerce in the earlier part of the century.

Suddenly, America was looking outside of her borders, and as if for the first time, noticing her neighbors.

This new globalization was fueled by industry, namely those of steel, oil, and the railroads. These industries grew exponentially in the last quarter of the 19th century. In 1860, America was a second-tier steel producer, lagging behind Great Britain, France, and Germany. By 1900, America had bounded into first place, outproducing any other industrial power. This huge influx in production required a much larger labor force. Most of America's new industry was labor intensive, and the industry was centered around eastern seaboard cities. Places like Pittsburgh became steel metropolises, and possessed a nearly insatiable appetite for labor. ~~_____~~
The progression is very logical. Industry ~~_____~~ springs up around large cities and labor naturally follows the jobs.

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In this case, with such a concentration around the big cities of New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Baltimore, they naturally witnessed a huge increase in population. The 50 years from 1875 to 1925 ~~or perhaps~~ perhaps witnessed the largest shift in population ever.

This time period also witnessed a massive infusion of immigrants. In a time before immigration quotas, immigrants flooded America's shores. They arrived in large cities, such as New York, and remained there because jobs were plentiful. Industrial jobs were predominantly unskilled, so anyone could do it. The lack of any kind of skill or language requirement meant that anyone could work these new jobs.

The farmer was clearly a dying breed. Competition from new grain powerhouses such as Australia, Russia, and Argentina created a cutthroat commodities market in which American farmers were forced to sell. Farmers were also the victim of unfair taxing. They were forced to pay land taxes, simply because you couldn't

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be a farmer and not own land. In a time before income tax, that meant they were being taxed where others weren't. They were also forced to sell in an unprotected market and one which was notoriously volatile. A good harvest depended on too many uncontrollable variables.

Farmers were also forced to deal with the trusts. Trusts controlled almost every facet of sale, including plows, tractors, tools, and seed. In total, the life of the farmer was hard, and making a profit was unheard of.

Many ~~depleted~~ depleted farmers answered the call of the city. At least there they could earn a living and not have to worry about the seasonal rains, winds, and insects which monopolized a farmer's time.

This population shift was the result of many factors, but most notably the rise of America as an industrial player and the decline of farming as a profitable profession. The effects of immigration also contributed to this phenomenon, as most immigrants tended to stay at their point of entry. The ~~the~~ success of American industry relied on the laborer's willingness

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to move to the job, a move millions readily took. Never before had America seen such a momentous shift, and likely never again will so many people relocate.

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~~From~~ From 1875 to 1925 there was a shift from rural to urban environments. With the end of the civil war, the South was in the midst of reconstruction. The nation was also continuing its industrial revolution. The primary causes of the population shifts were the industrial revolution, increased urbanization and immigration, and WWI.

During the late 19th and early 20th century industrialization was sweeping the nation. Many moved to the cities to be closer to jobs at plants and factories. ~~Many new inventions~~ The railroads made cities hubs of trade and commerce and many flocked to them as they became financial centers. Cities also began to enlarge themselves to form suburbs and inventions such as the car helped people get to their place of work more easily.

Immigration also played a key role. As immigrants arrived they often went where they could locate family and get jobs. As cities grew, they presented this opportunity. Also ports where immigrants came into America ~~if~~ were in big cities where many of them made their homes. The factories and industrialized society gave them an infrastructure with which to start a new life.

WWI also caused an influx of people moving to the city. With many men off at war Blacks from the south moved to

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northern cities to get jobs. This was also true during the Reconstruction period. The increase in African Americans in cities also helped lead to the Harlem Renaissance and invention of jazz. Women also took jobs in the city and added to migration. Although some women were working mothers, after WWI flappers also sought jobs in cities longing to break the stereotypes of previous generations. From all these, WWI helped lead to a large amount of movement from rural to urban settings.

Through the industrial revolution, immigration and the ~~results~~ effects of WWI, urban population grew. As many left their rural homes in search of jobs and commerce cities became a natural choice. Through their ~~the~~ urbanization, railroads and factories emerged which drew the immigrants and those looking to fill the voids left by WWI. In doing so ~~the~~ urbanized centers of commerce and trade were created which many flocked to, leaving their rural homes behind.

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In the late 19th and early 20th centuries there were great migrations from farms and rural areas to the ever growing cities. Technology can be said to be what is mainly responsible for this migration.

In the late 19th century McCormick developed his famous reaper. This device made it possible to cultivate 5-6 acres of land a day. As a result of this agricultural production skyrocketed, and there was suddenly a large surplus of wheat and grains. Bigger farms benefited most from this and they were able to sell their grain cheaper than others. Smaller farmers were pushed out of business. Once they could no longer work on the farms families began to move into cities.

Around the same time Henry Ford developed ~~his~~ his idea of the assembly line. This did two things: firstly it drove down the need for skilled labor greatly increasing the diversity of the people who could work, and it sped up the production of many products.

Once many jobs had been converted into non skilled work almost anybody could work in the factories. This coincided with a massive influx of immigrants to the US. These new immigrants were able to get jobs at factories which were at the hearts of several cities, most notably Chicago. These immigrants would previously had started farms in attempts to be self sustained. However the reaper had driven small farmers out of business so instead they came to cities.

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The speeding up of productions, brought on by the production line, led to a boom in the economy. The boom was able to sustain itself because people used the money they were making to build more factories to produce more items until in 1929 the bubble burst. However, until then this self-sustained boom led to huge increases in jobs which in turn led to more people moving into the cities.

One of the main factors that bolstered this was the ~~development~~ development of the railroads and other means of transportation. Railroads were often centered in big cities and as a result the cities became the hub of the country. With the growth in factories and factory workers came new people to supply the factory workers with commodities. This too helped the economy and supported the big cities.

These technological advances did much to center the American way of life around the cities. They also helped the economy which in turn brought people to where there were jobs. Later in the 1930s this process reversed itself and there was a conscious effort, on the part of the new dealers, to reverse this trend and support rural improvements and migrations. ~~between 1875 and 1925~~ The 50 years between 1875 and 1925 represent a great economy and one of the single largest consolidations of the masses ever to take place.