Question 4

Analyze the effectiveness of Progressive Era reformers in addressing problems of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In your answer, focus on reform efforts in TWO of the following areas.

- State and federal government
- The workplace
- Living conditions in cities

The 8–9 Essay
• Articulates a clear, well-constructed thesis that analyzes the effectiveness of Progressive Era reform efforts in addressing problems of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in two areas.
• Supports the thesis with substantial and relevant historical information related to the effectiveness of reform efforts in addressing problems during the time period.
• Provides effective analysis of the success of Progressive Era reformers in addressing problems in two areas.
• Is well organized and well written.
• May contain minor errors.

The 5–7 Essay
• Contains a thesis, which may be partially developed, that addresses the effectiveness of Progressive Era reform efforts in addressing the problems of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in two areas.
• Provides ample, relevant historical information related to reform efforts during the time period.
• Analyzes the effectiveness of Progressive Era reformers in the two areas; may present an unbalanced treatment of the two areas.
• Has acceptable organization and writing.
• May contain minor errors that do not seriously detract from the essay.

The 2–4 Essay
• Presents a thesis that may be simplistic, confused or undeveloped in addressing reform efforts of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in two areas, or addresses only one area.
• Provides little relevant information concerning reform efforts related to at least one area during the period.
• Has little analysis concerning reform efforts in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in at least one area.
• May contain major errors.
• May be poorly organized and/or written.

The 0–1 Essay
• Lacks a thesis or simply restates the question.
• Includes no relevant information.
• Contains no analysis.
• Is poorly organized and/or poorly written.
• May contain numerous errors, both major and minor.

The — Essay
• Is completely off topic or blank.
The question requires students to “analyze.” Analysis can be seen in a number of ways, including:

- placing the reform efforts within the two categories in historical context, such as the problems of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, any motivating causes of the reform efforts, and the results of the efforts;
- discussing the results of the reform efforts as being positive or negative; or
- comparing and contrasting reform efforts in different categories.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Interstate Commerce Act passed, creating Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC).</td>
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<td>1889</td>
<td>Jane Addams opens Hull House Social Settlement in Chicago.</td>
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<td>1890</td>
<td>National Woman Suffrage Association and American Woman Suffrage Association merge. Wyoming enters United States; first state to grant women’s suffrage. Yellowstone Park created. Sherman Anti-Trust Act passed, making contracts, combinations in the form of trusts, or conspiracy in restraint of trade or commerce among the several states or with foreign nations illegal.</td>
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<td>1890</td>
<td>Jacob Riis publishes <em>How the Other Half Lives</em>.</td>
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<td>1891</td>
<td>Populist Party formed.</td>
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<td>1892</td>
<td>President Grover Cleveland wins second term.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>William McKinley elected president.</td>
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<td>1896</td>
<td>John Dewey’s laboratory school opens at the University of Chicago.</td>
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<td>1898</td>
<td>U.S. Supreme Court, in <em>Holden v. Hardy</em>, upholds Utah’s limiting of daily working hours of miners to eight.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>President William McKinley wins second term.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>McKinley shot and killed; Theodore Roosevelt becomes president.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>United Mine Workers strike; President Roosevelt summons both sides to White House and creates commission of arbitration to investigate miners’ complaints and make recommendations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Ida Tarbell’s <em>The History of the Standard Oil Company</em> published.</td>
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<td>1902</td>
<td>Wisconsin adopts direct primary elections.</td>
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<td>1903</td>
<td>Oregon passes 10-hour law for women. Elkins Act passed, declaring rebates on published freight rates illegal. National Women’s Trade Union League formed to support efforts of women to organize labor unions and eliminate sweatshop conditions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>U.S. Supreme Court, in <em>Northern Securities Co. v. United States</em>, holds that the company was violating the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. Theodore Roosevelt elected president and promises a Square Deal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>New York City subway begins service.</td>
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<td>1905</td>
<td>U.S. Supreme Court, in <em>Lochner v. New York</em>, strikes down a state law limiting the maximum working hours for bakers. Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) founded.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Niagara Movement begins. Hepburn Act strengthens Interstate Commerce Act and permits regulation of rates charged by railroads.</td>
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<td>1906</td>
<td>Meat Inspection Act and Pure Food and Drug Act passed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>William Howard Taft elected president. U.S. Supreme Court, in <em>Muller v. Oregon</em>, upholds limiting the maximum number of hours a woman can work.</td>
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<td>1908</td>
<td><em>Loewe v. Lawlor</em> (Danbury Hatter’s case) finds a labor boycott to be a conspiracy in restraint of trade.</td>
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<td>1909</td>
<td>Payne–Aldrich Tariff passes; Progressives criticize Taft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<td>1909</td>
<td>National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) founded.</td>
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<td>1909</td>
<td>Uprising of the 30,000 launches the union movement in the women’s garment trades.</td>
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<td>1910</td>
<td>Mann–Elkins Act passed, increasing the power of the ICC and extending ICC jurisdiction to telegraph and telephone companies.</td>
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<td>1910</td>
<td>New York Bureau of Industries and Immigration established.</td>
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<td>1910</td>
<td>Washington State adopts women’s suffrage.</td>
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<td>1910</td>
<td>Mann Act passed, prohibiting transportation of women across state lines for immoral purposes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Senator La Follette helps found the National Progressive Republican League, which advocates initiative, referendum, recall and direct primaries.</td>
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<td>1911</td>
<td>Frederick Winslow Taylor’s <em>The Principles of Scientific Management</em> published.</td>
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<td>1911</td>
<td>Illinois law provides aid for mothers with dependent children.</td>
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<td>1911</td>
<td>New York State Factory Commission established.</td>
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<td>1911</td>
<td>Children’s Bureau established in U.S. Labor Department.</td>
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<td>1912</td>
<td>Massachusetts passes minimum-wage law for women and children.</td>
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<td>1912</td>
<td>Bull Moose Party/Progressive Party formed.</td>
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<td>1912</td>
<td>Woodrow Wilson elected president.</td>
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<td>1913</td>
<td>Sixteenth Amendment, establishing graduated income tax, ratified.</td>
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<td>1913</td>
<td>Seventeenth Amendment, establishing direct election of senators, ratified.</td>
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<td>1913</td>
<td>Underwood Tariff Act passed, lowering tariffs.</td>
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<td>1913</td>
<td>Owens–Glass Federal Reserve Act passed, creating 12 Federal Reserve regional banks and the Federal Reserve Board.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Henry Ford institutes the $5 day for his workers.</td>
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<td>1913</td>
<td>Public Land Commission established to ascertain the location of large amounts of public land whose precise boundaries were unclear, making disposition of the land impossible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Federal Trade Commission Act passed.</td>
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<td>1914</td>
<td>Clayton Anti-Trust Act passed, exempting unions from antitrust laws and making strikes, picketing and boycotting legal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Keating–Owen Act passed, limiting child labor.</td>
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<td>1916</td>
<td>Woodrow Wilson reelected president.</td>
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<td>1916</td>
<td>Margaret Sanger forms the New York Birth Control League.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>U.S. Supreme Court strikes down the Keating–Owen Act.</td>
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<td>1919</td>
<td>Eighteenth Amendment, banning manufacture, sale and distribution of alcohol, ratified.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>Volstead Act (National Prohibition Act) passed, enabling the U.S. government to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Nineteenth Amendment, providing for women’s suffrage, ratified.</td>
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Question 4 — Information List

Problems of Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries
- bad trusts/ruthless monopolistic business practices
- corrupt city governments/machines
- exploitation of child labor
- health hazards/poor sanitation/impure food and water
- industrialization
- low wages
- prostitution
- overindulgence in alcohol
- unsafe working conditions

Efforts to Reform State and Federal Government
- Ballinger–Pinchot controversy
- Bryan, William Jennings — “Cross of Gold” speech
- Bull Moose Campaign
- Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (1906)
- Catt, Carrie Chapman, and National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA)
- Clayton Anti-Trust Act (1914)
- Commons, John, and the Wisconsin Industrial Commission
- disfranchisement of immigrants and of African Americans via literacy tests and poll taxes
- Du Bois, W. E. B., and the Niagara Movement
- electoral reform: direct primary, initiative, referendum, Australian ballot, personal registration laws
- Elkins Act (1903) — rebates on published freight rates illegal
- Federal Industrial Relations Commission (1913)
- Federal Reserve Act (1913)
- Guinn v. United States (1915)
- Hepburn Act (1906) — strengthening of Interstate Commerce Act
- Hughes, Charles Evans — New York governor
- Interstate Commerce Act (1887)
- Jim Crow laws
- Keating–Owen Act — limits on child labor; later struck down by U.S. Supreme Court
- La Follette, Robert, and Wisconsin Progressivism
  - controls on railroads and public utilities
  - higher taxes on railroads and corporations
  - state employment merit system
  - La Follette a founder of the National Progressive Republican League
- Lippmann, Walter — Drift and Mastery (1914)
- Mann–Elkins Act — increased power of ICC to regulate telephone and telegraph
- Muckrakers — Jacob Riis, Upton Sinclair, Lincoln Steffens, Ida M. Tarbell
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- National Forest Service
- National Urban League
- New Freedom
- New Nationalism
- Nineteenth Amendment (1920)
Question 4 — Information List (continued)

• Northern Securities Co. v. United States — Northern Securities violated Sherman Anti-Trust Act
• Paul, Alice, and the National Women’s Party
• Populist Party
• Progressive Party
• Public Lands Commission (1903)
• Roosevelt, Theodore
• Seventeenth Amendment (1913)
• Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1890)
• Sixteenth Amendment (1913)
• Smith, Alfred E.
• Square Deal
• Underwood Tariff Act (1913) and the progressive income tax
• United States v. E. C. Knight Co. — Sherman Anti-Trust Act applies only to monopolies involved in interstate trade
• Wagner, Robert F.
• Wilson, Woodrow
• Wyoming grants women the right to vote (1890); Colorado, Idaho and Utah follow

Efforts to Reform the Workplace
• Adamson Act (1916) guaranteeing railroad workers an eight-hour day
• American Federation of Labor
• assembly line
• Bureau of Labor’s Children’s Bureau
• Ford, Henry
• Holden v. Hardy — upholds limiting daily working hours of miners to eight hours
• Industrial Workers of the World
• Keating–Owen Act — outlaws child labor; later struck down by U.S. Supreme Court
• Kern–McGillicuddy Act — workmen’s compensation for federal workers
• Knights of Labor
• Lochner v. New York — strikes down state law limiting maximum working hours for bakers
• National Education Association (1905)
• Oregon 10-hour law for women; later upheld in Muller v. Oregon
• National Women’s Trade Union League
• Schneidermann, Rose
• Taylor, Frederick Winslow — The Principles of Scientific Management (1911)
• Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire
• United Mine Workers strike

Efforts to Reform Living Conditions in Cities
• Anti-Saloon League
• Ashcan School
• Eighteenth Amendment
• Food and Drug Administration
• Griffith, D. W. — Birth of a Nation
• Meat Inspection Act (1906)
• movie theaters
• Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)
• Riis, Jacob — *How the Other Half Lives*
• Sanger, Margaret
• Settlement Houses; Jane Addams and Hull House
• Sierra Club
• Sinclair, Upton — *The Jungle*
• social justice movement
• Women’s Christian Temperance Union
The dawn of the 20th century saw the meteoric rise of a new group of reformers: the Progressives. Led by the perennial agents of change—the middle class—and supported by three like-minded presidents, the reform movements of the first two decades ushered in sweeping changes across American society. With astounding success, the Progressives triumphed where the Populists had failed, inspiring revolutions in the running of cities, states, and even the federal government.

The burgeoning cities of the early 20th century faced a rancid scramble of pressing issues. Growing industrialization, immigration, and urbanization left city planners with many problems on their plates. Unsurprisingly, the Progressives rose to meet the challenge. Inspired by John Dewey’s philosophy of pragmatism, they sought to apply the findings of science to society and civic improvement. The managerial revolution of Frederick W. Taylor led to more efficient municipal governance. They began to tackle issues such as poor sanitation, improving life expectancy. City governments began to offer public works to the urban poor, such as those depicted
In Jacob Riis' *How the Other Half Lives*, reformers such as Jane Addams also endeavored to improve the livelihood of city dwellers. Through initiatives such as Hull House, Addams provide much-needed services such as childcare and education for the recent wave of immigrants.

Going on step up the ramp, state governments also began to reform in the Progressive spirit. Of prime importance was the expansion of democracy at this time. Led by reform-minded politicians such as "Fighting Bob" LaFollette, state legislatures began to adopt initiative — which allowed ordinary citizens to propose bills — referendum — allowing voters to decide on the issues — and recall — empowering voters with respect to their state leaders. Across the U.S., states adopted the Australian secret ballot, ensuring fairness in election procedures in a direct challenge to the political intimidation of free blacks in the South and the political machines of the late 19th century. Women were also given the right to vote, starting from the Western states, and state legislatures eventually adopted direct elections for their Senators.
The Progressive spirit of change permeated the country and infiltrated even the highest levels of government. Many of the political reforms of the state governments were consolidated by the federal government—the 17th amendment allowed for direct election of senators and the 19th empowered women across the nation. Spurred on by the investigative reports of muckrakers like Ida Tarbell and Upton Sinclair, Progressive presidents set out on a crusade of trust-busting and consumer protection. Under Teddy Roosevelt, the Pure Food and Drug Act and Meat Inspection Act answered directly to concerns raised in *The Jungle*. The powers of the ICC were strengthened, and the failed Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 was replaced by the stronger Clayton Antitrust Acts. The graduated income tax that the Populists had so desperately fought for was enacted with the 16th Amendment under Taft and the Underwood Tariff under Woodrow Wilson. Progressive presidents also championed the cause of conservation—Roosevelt set aside land for national parks and also appointed Gifford Pinchot to
his cabinet, while Taft pursued for legislation regarding mines and other natural resources. As above, so below; in every ring of American society—from cities to state to the federal government, the U.S. felt the shockwaves of the Progressive Era reform movements. Through the expansion of democracy, economic improvements, and municipal reform, the Progressives reclaimed the lost promises of the Populists and set the benchmark for reform for the rest of the 20th century.
The late nineteenth and early twentieth century was the Progressive Era, in which many internal improvements were made. After the Gilded Age, which Mark Twain said to be the seemingly glittering period, actual improvements were made to many areas, but especially on the workplace and the living conditions in cities.

With the presidency of Roosevelt, the main Progressive Era started, and many policies and reform movements made improvements to the workplace. First, there were the muckrakers. Muckrakers were journalists who reported many areas that could be improved. An important novel of a muckraker author Upton Sinclair was "The Jungle." The book described the atrocious working conditions of meat-packing industries. These reports caused President Roosevelt to suggest Meat Inspection Act, which required the meat packing sites to be more sanitary. There was a policy to inspect meats for export before, but Roosevelt's Meat Inspection Act required the sanitation of all meat packing sites. Also, during Wilson's presidency, Clayton's Anti-Trust Act was passed, which excused labor unions from prosecution of the previous Anti-Trust Act. This act allowed labor unions to grow stronger and fight for better working conditions.

Many reform movements appeared to improve the living conditions in the cities as well. The most important policy was the Pure Food and Drug Act. This act guaranteed sanitary foods and drugs to people. By reducing the
Hazards in food and drugs, the living conditions were improved.

Also, there were the muckramps. Muckramps opposed the old spoils system, and called for reforms in the slums and the settlements of immigrants. This caused the living conditions of people in city slums and the new immigrants in cities to improve.

As one can see, there were many reform programs in the Progressive Era. The reform policies of this period addressed the problems of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries very effectively, and improved the workplace conditions and the living conditions in cities greatly.
The Progressive Era brought many reformations to society that helped tremendously. As the United States continually grew economically and socially, the overseeing of particular areas of society became necessary. Reform efforts in the areas of the workplace and living conditions in cities during the Progressive Era were effective in establishing standards that made life easier, healthier, and safer.

There was much speculation over the safety of the workplace during the Progressive Era and much of that speculation was concerning child labor. The idea that children could be put in a factory at a very young age to perform mindless tasks was an immoral one to many. Child labor laws were soon established, restricting the age at which a child was allowed to begin strenuous manual labor. Children were soon replaced with machines as technological advances came into play. Along with the labor laws, the minimum wage was established alongside maximum working hours so that employers could not simply work their employees too much in order to make more money. Labor unions were also established. These unions often set a standard of what was expected from an employer. Women also benefitted through the Equal Rights Act. This stated that no woman could be discriminated against simply because of her sex. This was a big step in women's rights as they were now set equal to men in the workplace.
Living conditions in cities also improved significantly during the Progressive Era. As suburbs developed, many people moved out of cities, making it much less congested. The development of suburbs was largely due to the automobile, particularly the Model T as it was functional and an average family could afford them. Having been a large problem in the past, sanitation was addressed. Consistently functioning water and sewage lines were put in place, decreasing illness significantly. Living conditions also improved with entertainment. The emergence of movies and theatres gave people a cheap and fun way to entertain themselves. Dancing also became very popular and, for the time, sexual. Jazz was also a new musical sound that entertained many people as it had a fresh, new feel. Sports (baseball) also became popular.

Life prior to the Progressive Era could be harsh as there was almost no regulation or reform. But reforms during the Progressive Era helped develop a more suitable life in both the city and the workplace. The reforms were effective and needed and many people benefitted from them.
Question 4

Sample: 4A
Score: 9

This excellent and insightful essay contains a plausible thesis that is well supported by relevant evidence. The essay is particularly strong when discussing state and federal government reforms ("Fighting Bob" La Follette; initiative, referendum and recall; the Australian secret ballot; Theodore Roosevelt; the Clayton Antitrust Act; the Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Nineteenth Amendments; William Howard Taft; the Underwood Tariff; Woodrow Wilson; Gifford Pinchot and setting aside land for national parks). The essay also possesses a sophisticated understanding of where Progressivism came from, who the Progressives were, and the underlying philosophy of the Progressive movement.

Sample: 4B
Score: 5

The thesis of this essay — that reformers of the early twentieth century effectively raised working conditions and living standards in the United States — is stated in the final sentence of the first paragraph. The essay’s investigation of the topic is validated by enough information (Gilded Age, Mark Twain, Theodore Roosevelt, muckrakers, Upton Sinclair, The Jungle, the Meat Inspection Act, the Pure Food and Drug Act, the Clayton Antitrust Act) to demonstrate an understanding of what the question required and to meet those expectations. The error regarding the Mugwumps, while minor, prevented this essay from receiving a higher score.

Sample: 4C
Score: 2

This essay has a functional thesis that combines reform of the workplace and reform of city living conditions. Reform laws are mentioned in general terms, but none is named. There is minimal analysis of the efforts of reformers. The essay wanders away from discussion of the effectiveness of Progressive reform efforts to discuss suburban living, the Model T, entertainment and sports, none of which was a Progressive reform effort. Discussion of an Equal Rights Act is a major error, as is the statement that unions “set a standard of what was expected from an employer.” The major errors and extraneous historical information kept the essay from rising to a higher score level.