Question 4

Analyze the roles that women played in Progressive Era reforms from the 1880s through 1920. Focus your essay on TWO of the following.

Politics
Social conditions
Labor and working conditions

The 8–9 Essay
- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that analyzes the roles that women played in Progressive Era reforms from the 1880s through 1920 with a focus on two topics.
- Develops the thesis with substantial and specific relevant historical information.
- Provides effective analysis of TWO topics; treatment of topics may be somewhat uneven.
- May contain minor errors that do not detract from the overall quality of the essay.
- Is well organized and well written.

The 5–7 Essay
- Contains a partially developed thesis that analyzes the roles that women played in Progressive Era reforms from the 1880s through 1920 with a focus on two topics.
- Supports the thesis with some relevant and specific historical information.
- Provides some analysis of TWO topics; treatment of topics may be substantially uneven.
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.
- Has acceptable organization and writing.

The 2–4 Essay
- Contains an undeveloped or unfocused thesis, or simply paraphrases the question.
- Provides minimal relevant information, or lists facts with little or no application to the question.
- Analyzes only one topic, OR describes two topics in a general way.
- May contain major errors.
- May be poorly organized and/or written.

The 0–1 Essay
- Lacks a thesis or simply restates the question.
- Demonstrates an incompetent or inappropriate response.
- Has little or no understanding of the question.
- Contains substantial errors.
- Is poorly organized and/or written.

The — Essay
- Is blank or completely off topic.
Politics

- 1880–1920: men dominated federal, state, local electoral politics, but women were often active in pressuring politicians for a range of reforms.
- Women in Populist Party: Mary Elizabeth Lease, Anne Diggs, prominent in Kansas and Nebraska Populist activity.
- Settlement house activist women pressured federal, state and local politicians for better working and living conditions in urban areas.
- Some elitism, nativism and racism in women’s views of their roles in politics: Some saw the extension of suffrage to native-born white women as a way to counter African American and immigrant male votes and the “slum vote.”
- Muckrakers were mostly men, but there were a few women:
  - Frances Kellor, *Out of Work*, 1904 (exploitation of immigrants, blacks, other recent arrivals to the city by employment agencies).
- Women’s suffrage:
  - Attracted few African American, immigrant, working-class women.
  - Women could increasingly vote in local elections:
    - Wyoming Territory gave unrestricted suffrage to women in 1869 and achieved statehood in 1890, keeping women’s suffrage.
    - Utah Territory was created in 1870; Congress disenfranchised women in Utah in 1887, but women got the vote back when Utah achieved statehood in 1896.
    - Colorado women got suffrage through popular vote in 1893.
    - Idaho approved women’s suffrage in 1896.
    - Washington State extended the vote to women in 1910; California in 1911; Arizona, Kansas and Oregon in 1912; Illinois in 1913; Montana and Nevada in 1914; New York in 1917; Michigan in 1918.
  - By 1919, 39 states had extended suffrage to women for some elections, and 15 allowed full voting rights.
  - The Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) endorsed women’s suffrage in 1882.
  - Some women were antisuffrage: They saw it as a threat to the “natural order” of separate spheres and associated suffrage with increased divorce, neglect of children, loose morality, promiscuity.
  - National American Woman Suffrage Association was formed in 1890 (merger of the National Woman Suffrage Association, formed in 1869, and the American Woman Suffrage Association, formed in 1869):
    - Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony (jailed for trying to vote for president in 1872), Anna Howard Shaw, Carrie Chapman Catt, Elizabeth Stone Blackwell.
    - Linked ballot to traditional role of women and extension of women’s influence to improve public life.
    - Increased membership from 13,000 in 1893 to over two million in 1917.
    - 1910s: mass movement of women seeking suffrage; all ages and different socioeconomic backgrounds.
    - During World War II, lobbied Congress, asked for state referendums.
  - Links to International Suffrage Association, organized in New Zealand, 1893; in Australia, 1902; Finland, 1906; Norway, 1913; Iceland, 1915; Canada and Great Britain for some local elections, 1918.
  - Some women supported suffrage in order to engage in “municipal housekeeping” to protect their families.
Question 4 — Fact Sheet (continued)

- Alice Paul formed Congressional Union, 1914: wanted women’s suffrage through constitutional amendment; allied with National Women’s Party in 1917.
- Harriot Stanton Blatch worked for women’s vote; founded Equality League of Self Supporting Women in 1907 to recruit working women into suffrage movement.
- 19th Amendment ratified, 1920.
- Jeanette Rankin (Montana) was the first female elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (1916).
- African American women were generally excluded from suffrage and other white women’s organizations.
- National Woman’s Party, 1916:
  - Alice Paul, Harriot Stanton Blatch.
  - Advocated more confrontational tactics.
  - Argued that the 19th Amendment wasn’t enough and favored a constitutional amendment prohibiting all discrimination on the basis of sex.
  - Congressional Union allied with the National Women’s Party in 1917.

- Women and peace activism:
  - After the U.S. entered World War I, women peace activists split: Catt advocated women’s suffrage as a war measure; Jane Addams and Charlotte Perkins Gilman wouldn’t support the war.
  - Some women argued that their roles as keepers of morality and maternalism meant that they had to be pacifists.
  - Parallels and connections to peace activists in Great Britain at this time.

- Prohibition: 18th Amendment ratified, 1919.

Social Conditions

- Temperance and Prohibition:
  - Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), 1874: slogan was “Do Everything”:
    - Frances E. Willard, Carrie Nation (smashed saloon bars and bottles).
    - Advocated abstinence from alcohol, prison reform, ending prostitution, elimination of wage system, right to vote for women.
    - By 1911, the WCTU had 250,000 members and was the largest women’s organization in American history up to that time.
  - Women were active in the Anti-Saloon League.
  - Prohibition: 18th Amendment ratified, 1919.

- Social gospel movement often guided by women:
  - Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) founded in 1866.
  - Girls’ Friendly Societies (Episcopal Church).
  - Roman Catholic laywomen and nuns.

- African American women sponsored programs, particularly in the Baptist Church (Chicago, Phyllis Wheatley Home, 1908).
- Women missionaries abroad (by 1902, 783 Methodist women missionaries were in China).
• Settlement houses and social work:
  o Women worked for a range of social, economic, educational, health, sanitation, labor causes.
  o Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr, Hull House, Chicago, 1889; Lillian Wald, Henry Street, New York City, 1893.
  o By 1910, there were 400 settlement houses in the U.S. with three-quarters of settlement workers women, mostly college educated.
  o Led to profession of social work (Columbia University, 1902), where women dominated the field.
  o Settlement houses usually did not include African Americans.
  o African American women founded their own settlement houses: Neighborhood Union, Atlanta, 1908, Lugenia Burns Hope; Phyllis Wheatley Settlement House, Minneapolis, 1924.
• Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Women and Economics*, 1898: supported women’s involvement in the economy; advocated decentralized nurseries and cooperative kitchens to assist women in the work force.
• General Federation of Women’s Clubs, 1892:
  o Club women advocated educational “uplift,” civic reform, child labor laws, mothers’ pensions, protective laws.
  o In 1892, there were over one hundred thousand members in almost five hundred clubs; in 1917, there were over one million members.
• African American women joined the National Association of Colored Women (founded 1896):
  o Mary Church Terrell, first president.
  o Anti-lynching, anti-segregation, worked to improve local communities.
• Birth control and contraception:
  o National Birth Control League formed by women in 1915.
• Civil rights for African Americans:
  o Women (Wells-Barnett, Terrell, Addams) helped to found and worked with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), 1909.
  o Anti-lynching campaigns:
    ▪ Wells-Barnett became a journalist in 1880s and later wrote *Southern Horrors*, 1892, and *A Red Record*, 1895; worked for women’s suffrage and helped found NAACP.
• Frances Kellor: active on behalf of black women workers, black prisoners and immigrants; brought the plight of the urban poor to Theodore Roosevelt’s attention
• Antiprostitution (the “social evil”):
  o Many women worked against prostitution through state and federal laws; fought to get age of consent raised.
  o Occidental Branch of Women’s Foreign Missionary Society, San Francisco, sponsored rescue home for Chinese prostitutes.
  o Mann Act, 1910.
  o Wassermann test for syphilis in 20 states.
Tenement reform:
  - National Housing Association, 1910.
  - Charlotte Perkins Gilman suggested apartment buildings with common dining rooms to relieve women of the task of preparing meals.

Campfire Girls (1910) and Girl Scouts (Juliette Low, 1912) prepared girls to be future homemakers; founders thought that delinquency and crime would be reduced.

Native American assimilation:

Women’s National Indian Association, founded in 1879, advocated Christianizing Indians, ending reservation system, universal education, “civilized home life” on reservations in the West; supported the Dawes Act, 1887.

**Labor and Working Conditions**

Women in Knights of Labor:
  - Pushed for equal pay for equal work by men and women.
  - First women joined the Knights (all-female local in shoe trade in Philadelphia).
  - 1885: 10 percent of members were women.
  - Mary Harris (“Mother”) Jones.
  - 1886: A special department was created within the Knights to investigate female and child labor, women’s pay.
  - Ran day-care centers for children of wage-earning mothers; sometimes created cooperative kitchens.

Many American Federation of Labor (AFL) trade unions barred women, although the AFL had some female organizers in industries employing mostly women; union leadership believed that women should not be factory workers (presence of women would lower wages), but two locals (Cigar Makers’ Union, Typographers’ Union) allowed women.

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) welcomed women: Elizabeth Gurley Flynn.

Settlement house movement worked for an 8-hour workday for women, an end to child labor, better working conditions for women, protective legislation.

New York Consumers League, 1890, Josephine Shaw Lowell: concerned about women’s working conditions in New York City.

National Consumers League, 1898:
  - Worked for better working conditions for women and children.
  - Headed by Florence Kelley, 1899.
  - Tried to get women to see themselves as consumers.
  - Instrumental in the defense of the 10-hour workday for women (*Muller v. Oregon*, 1908).

Florence Kelley established the New York Child Labor Committee; served as first chief factory inspector for the State of Illinois; supported Illinois campaign for 8-hour workday for women.

International Ladies Garment Workers Union, 1900: Clara Lemlich, Pauline Newman, Rose Schneiderman; tried to organize women in the textile industry.

Women’s Trade Union League, 1903:
  - Founded by female upper-class reformers and union members, Mary Kenney.
  - Tried to persuade women to join unions.
  - Raised money to support strikes, walked picket lines, held public meetings on behalf of female workers.
Emphasis on protecting women and children in workplace (*Muller v. Oregon*, 1908):
- Women activists split on protective legislation.
  - Supporters of protective legislation argued that such laws were necessary because of women’s physical frailty and their roles as future mothers.
  - Opponents argued against protective laws because the laws implied women were unequal to men, women were to be treated differently than men due to gender, and women were not suited for certain types of work.

Uprising of 20,000, New York City, 1909: Women garment workers struck for better wages, union recognition, better working conditions; strike didn’t get union recognition.

Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, 1911, prompted reforms in New York State; efforts led by Florence Kelley, Frances Perkins (National Consumers League).

New York State Factory Investigation Committee formed under Frances Perkins.

Women advocated for creation of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Children’s Bureau (1912) and Women’s Bureau (1920) and then worked through both agencies.
- Julia Lathrop, first director of the U.S. Children’s Bureau, 1912; supported passage of Keating–Owen Act (1916) forbidding interstate shipment of goods manufactured by children under the age of 14.
- Federal government created the Women in Industry board during World War I; it became the Women’s Bureau (1920), worked for protection of women’s interests in the workforce.
The Progressive Era was at its height in American history from 1890 until about 1920 when it was believed the democracy was the cure to allills of society. It was a time when the people of America were taking matters of social, political, and labor conditions into their own hands. These people, however, included a large amount of women who began fighting for reform for not only themselves but for immigrants, poor, and children as well. The role of women concerning social, labor, and working conditions during the Progressive Era shaped America and provided a well-needed reform to the nation.

Women worked to improve the social conditions of America by fighting for morality in several areas of society. Jane Adams fought for immigration rights by starting settlement houses where immigrants could live. They would be assisted in finding jobs, given food, etc. In fact, these settlement houses also took in poverty-stricken Americans and helped get them back into the mainstream of America. During a time when immigrants were shunned and discriminated against, Jane Adams gave them a place to call home in order to show them what America was really about. Another social reform was the beginning of the temperance movement. Women from all walks of life from religious to domestic fought for prohibition because they believed that alcohol was plaguing the nation as well as family life. Many groups formed such as the Christian Temperance Union which were led
On bars and began to pray to stop people from drinking. Prohibition, the 18th amendment, not only helped family life by workers coming home to their families instead of going out to the bars, but it also helped the industry. New jobs were kept because men were not getting drunk and missing work and society as a whole was better when it was dry. Finally, the social reform presented at the Seneca Falls convention by Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Fought for women's rights itself. The convention was the first of its kind for women occurring in the late 1800s, and they wrote the Declaration of Sentiments, which while foresight to women's suffrage was also fighting for the social rights of women. As seen through numerous examples: the women in the Progressive Era added important reforms to social conditions.

In the area of labor and working conditions, the Progressive women added numerous reform that kept women and children alike safe. After incidents such as the Triangle Shirtwaist company fire where women were burned to death or jumped out windows during a Factory Fire had been looked in the room, women sought for labor fights for women. The Supreme Court Case Muller v. Oregon gave women certain privileges in the work force to keep them safe. Furthermore, women fought for...
and obtained child labor laws, as well as women labor laws, that worked towards keeping children safe and in schools, rather than in factories. These child labor laws were a reaction to the studies on child labor that showed children as young as 10 years old working in factories. Women were becoming more prominent in the workforce, especially during the mobilization for WWII, and there saw a need for reform. Just as they had gone after social reform, women certainly did not shy away from keeping themselves, their children, and their fellow workers safe in America.

The Progressive Era was full of important figures such as Woodrow Wilson, Teddy Roosevelt, and William Taft. However, just as in past history, there was always a driving force of women behind it. Whether it was republican motherhood in the colonial era or social and laborer reform in the Progressive era, the role of women in society was undeniable. It is true, then, as the old saying goes, that "there is a strong woman behind every successful nation," however in this case, there is a large population of strong and determined women.
Throughout American history many women influenced society, but the period where it did quite a toll on society would be the Progressive era. My personal favorite section of APUSH is {M}arvelous women like Jane Addams, Ida Tirkett, Ida B. Wells, Margaret Sanger affect this great nation through progressive reform, in Social, and labor conditions, which ties together into the bigger significant picture of women's fight for equal rights.

Social Conditions were the key point in the reform created by Ida B. Wells and Margaret Sanger. Ida B. Wells was a woman who called against lynching, as therefore it was unfair, racist, and a malicious treatment toward blacks in the ways that it would be done even with trial. Margaret Sanger spoke for the use of birth control on moral and public safety grounds. As America's population began to spur out of control from immigration and recreations, sex, Margaret Sanger promote the use of contracept and family planning.

Labor and working conditions were reformed by the {T}oring Jane Addams. Jane Addams worked tirelessly to provide homes for the home-less and fear of the Inner-city
Slums. She called it the "Hull House," the Hull house is often associated with Jacob Riis photos and book "How the other half lives," as it depicts kids playing in the rubbish that glitters the alleys of cities like New York.

Politics were reformed by the Interstate Commerce Act on railroads, which was influenced by Ida Tarbell's book "The Octopus." Clearly labeled as the railroads begin to look like a monster spanning across the country with track like a tentacle and the angrily in its Section 2.

In conclusion, women reformed American throughout the Progressive era in a variety of important ways. Women's rights rose yet again but it won't be until 1924 when we see the real change.
During the progressive era, and all of the changes that were going on, women played a big role in striving for better rights with regard to politics and labor/working conditions.

Ever since the Seneca Falls convention in 1848, women have been actively pursuing change in order to receive more rights and social standings. The progressive era was the time of change and the time for women to make the great push towards what they had been fighting for. During the civil war, and both World wars, women had taken over the jobs of men while they were fighting, and had done a great job in proving themselves worthy in working in the workforce.

These ideas prompted women to want to leave the ordinary boring lives of being a house wife, to and go into the work force like the men. There were surprising results when by 1900 1 out of 5 women were working. Unfortunately, they were not exposed to the same jobs as men, and the working conditions in the women's jobs were significantly worse. Conditions were a lot of times very unsanitary and dangerous which prompted women to seek for reforms that
would change these conditions. Luckily, due to the Progressive Era's change towards a better America, these needs were met to create a slightly better working condition for women.

In society and politics, women however were still not considered as equal, even though they had started to work and were benefiting the nation. In return, women sought to gain this equality. They began to become more involved in society by creating beneficial organizations such as the American Red Cross in 1881. Voting rights also for women were also issues that were addressed during the Era. After a numerous amount of attempts to gain permanent voting rights, starting from Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, Congress finally ratified the 19th amendment in 1920 which granted women the right to vote in all elections of any level. Women were not only involved in movements to better themselves, but also in movements to better the United States. They were very involved in the temperance movement as well during the era.

The progressive era was the most opportune time for women to see their wishes in all of the different reforms. They were
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Undoubtedly successful, and played important roles in not only changing their own lives, but also in supporting other reforms that were happening during the Progressive era.
Question 4

Overview

This question asked students to analyze the roles that women played in Progressive Era reforms from the 1880s through 1920 regarding two of three topics: politics, social conditions, and labor and working conditions. The question required students to draw conclusions regarding women’s roles, make an argument, and support the argument with historical evidence drawn from the topics and periods chosen.

Sample: 4A
Score: 8

This is a strong essay containing a clear, well-developed thesis that analyzes the roles women played in Progressive Era reform. The thesis is developed throughout the essay using substantial and specific information with respect to two categories: social conditions and labor/working conditions. Information includes mention of Addams, settlement houses, the Eighteenth Amendment, the Triangle fire, Muller v. Oregon and World War I. Discussion of women’s roles in advocating Prohibition that helped men keep their jobs represents both analysis and a clear link to the thesis. Although the essay is correct on Stanton supporting suffrage, Seneca Falls is out of the period.

Sample: 4B
Score: 5

This well-balanced essay begins with a thesis that partially analyzes the role women played in Progressive Era reforms in two categories: social conditions and labor/working conditions. It supports the thesis with some relevant and specific information (Wells, Sanger, Addams). The error linking Tarbell to The Octopus does not seriously detract from the essay.

Sample: 4C
Score: 3

This essay has a thesis that paraphrases the question. The essay combines discussion of women’s roles in political and labor reform with some relevant facts pertaining to political reform (Stanton, Anthony, Nineteenth Amendment) but a more general description of labor reform. The essay is superficial and the analysis is limited.