AP® World History: Modern
Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary
Set 1

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Question 4: Short Answer No Stimuli 3 points

General Scoring Notes
• Each point is earned independently.
• Accuracy: These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
• Clarity: Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
• Describe: Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
• Explain: Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

(A) Identify ONE way that environmental conditions contributed to the beginning of industrialization in the 18th century and early 19th centuries. 1 point

Examples that earn this point include the following:
• The location of coal and other resources helped some countries industrialize.
• Access to rivers or other waterways made it easier for manufacturers to harness water as a source of energy and export products.
• Geographic regions that had easy access to natural resources, navigable waterways, and possessed capital were able to industrialize in the eighteenth century.

(B) Explain ONE way societies or governments reacted to industrialization in the 18th and 19th centuries. 1 point

Examples that earn this point include the following:
• Some governments responded to industrialization by adopting various social and urban reforms.
• Some workers responded to the challenges of living in an industrial society by forming labor unions to defend their rights.
• Some societies, such as Meiji Japan, responded to European industrialization by attempting to modernize their economy and military in order to match European power.

(C) Explain ONE way human activity led to environmental changes in the 20th century. 1 point

Examples that earn this point include the following:
• Increased use of fossil fuels led to higher levels of pollution.
• The Green Revolution is an example of humans changing their environment by creating new varieties of crops to support a growing population.
• Environmental disasters such as the BP oil spill or the nuclear explosion at Chernobyl have had significant long-term effects on soil, animal populations, and water.

Total for question 4 3 points
a. One way that environmental conditions contributed to the beginning of industrialization in the 18th and early 19th centuries was that Great Britain, the first nation to industrialize, had abundant access to coal and running water. Running water allowed water wheels to power spinning jennys for mass production of textiles, and coal allowed the powering of steam engines, used in things such as the steamboat. Because Britain had coal and running water in abundance, they were able to become the first nation to industrialize.

b. One way societies reacted to industrialization in the 18th and 19th centuries was that those who had previously lived in rural areas working under the cottage system migrated to urban areas for work in factories. Because the cottage system was no longer the most optimal way to produce goods, those who lived in rural areas moved to cities looking for work. This is important because it shows one way that society reacted to industrialization.

c. One way human activity led to environmental changes in the 20th century was that the burning of fossil fuels has resulted in a major increase in greenhouse gas emissions. For example the widespread use of automobiles has resulted in a skyrocketing of CO2 emissions. This is important because the use of fossil fuels resulted in an environmental change, a problem that will needed to be fixed in the coming generations.
a. Environmental conditions contributed to the beginning of industrialization in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries through the topography of a nation. The topography of a nation was important to the types of goods they could make or receive, or the natural resources they could import or gain. In Britain, they had a lot of waterways, which allowed for ease in transportation of goods into and out of the country.

b. Societies or governments reacted to industrialization in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with the changing of family and home dynamics. Before industrialization, many people lived in rural areas and worked on a farm, allowing them all to interact with one another throughout the day and be close. After industrialization many families moved to crowded urban areas in hopes of higher wages, but all members of the family worked long, strenuous, and often different hours, which undid the close knit family dynamic that had been more common before.

c. Human activity led to environmental changes in the twentieth century through the increase in the trade of natural resources and goods. With the developments in industry and technology, humans were able to create more efficient methods of transportation, such as the steamship or the airplane. This allowed people to greatly cut down on the time needed to import and export goods.
a. With changes of empires, political leaders, and economics, came hand-in-hand changes of environment. Migration was a prominent idea in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Not only was this due to working conditions and a lack of money, but it was also due to environmental issues, for example, places being too hot or too cold. This marked the beginning of industrialization, as forms of transportation were formed. This included trains, cars, and soon enough planes as well. This sparked more ideas in people's heads. Sometimes it would be environmentally impossible to travel, so they created new forms of communication, including the telephone and more. More so, now that they had created coal powers, this also created heat for the cold and provided individuals with less of a reason to travel in emergencies, but instead for leisure.

b. As soon as this industrial revolution began, societies and governments took this as a chance to earn money. People who had more money (such as people who belonged to governments) would make more products to earn more money. On the other hand, though, some people who belonged to societies and governments did not think the industrial revolution to be the best solution for the world. Though industrialization grew certain employment, it also shrunk the need for jobs like farming by creating the green revolution (which essentially harmed the earth by producing smoke, gas, and more forms of pollution). This made certain people unhappy, diving governments and societies into a split opinion on industrialization.

c. On the contrary of positive outcomes from environmental changes, human activity, in terms of creating these transportations and fuels, caused environmental issues. Fossil fuels that powered ships, planes, cars, trains, and more put out plenty of pollution into the earth, and though the fossil fuels were effective in allowing ease for migration, this pollution began to grow and become a bigger problem then most people would think. In addition, more people started travelling for things that weren't emergencies; like vacations and business trips. The spread of pollution was rapid, and is still a consequence of these transports today. In fact, pollution is one of the many reasons our world is unhealthy and is doomed to an unhappy end.
Short Answer Question 4

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

The intent of this question was for students to address questions related to industrialization and the environment between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries. Part A asked students to identify one way that environmental conditions contributed to the beginning of industrialization in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Part B asked students to explain one way that societies or governments reacted to industrialization in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Part C asked students to explain one way that human activity led to environmental changes in the twentieth century.

The question was primarily focused on the reasoning process of causation.

The question tested content primarily from Topics 5.3, 5.5, 5.8, and 9.3 of the course framework.

Sample: 4A
Score: 3

a) The response earned 1 point for identifying access to water and coal as environmental conditions contributing to Britain's industrialization.

b) The response earned 1 point for explaining that urbanization was one way in which society reacted to industrialization.

c) The response earned 1 point for explaining that the human activity of the “widespread use of automobiles” brought about a substantial increase in CO₂ emissions.

Sample: 4B
Score: 2

a) The response earned 1 point for identifying the abundance of waterways that “allowed for ease in transportation of goods.”

b) The response earned 1 point for explaining that after industrialization, “many families moved to crowded urban areas in hopes of higher wages.”

c) The response did not earn the point because it focuses on the speed at which goods were transported but does not explain a change in the environment brought about by human activity.
Short Answer Question 4 (continued)

Sample: 4C  
Score: 1

a) The response did not earn the point because the weather was not a contributing factor to the start of the Industrial Revolution, nor were forms of transportation or communication.

b) The response did not earn the point because the statements that “[p]eople who had more money (such as people who belonged to governments) would make more products to earn more money,” and “industrialization grew certain employment, it also shrank the need for jobs,” focus on the effects of industrialization rather than reactions to industrialization. Additionally, the statement that “[t]his made certain people unhappy, dividing governments and societies into a split opinion on industrialization” does not explain the way in which societies and governments reacted to industrialization.

c) The response earned 1 point for explaining that human activity in creating and using forms of transportation led to environmental changes, including the rapid spread of pollution, in the twentieth century.