Guide Questions:

1. Are the changes in the life of a nation inevitable? Why?

Yes, the changes in one nation are inevitable. I for one, believes that change is the only constant thing in this world. We witness changes in different aspect of our lives such as social factors, environment, and basically anything that affects us directly. We change because it is our way of coping with vast changes in our surroundings especially now with the mere existence of technology. Day by day, it is being innovated into something that is known to be helpful for human satisfaction. And this also the reason why change is inevitable, we change because we begin to develop and move forward from our lives. Thinking about the best outcomes for the future generation. It could also be a trigger from a past mistake. History is known to repeat itself which is why if we ever encounter the same scenarios, we now know how to properly manage the situation in order to avoid those past mistakes and effectively create a future that is for the good of the nation.

2. Summarize the political, economic and social structure of the 19th century Philippines.

The Spaniards still governed our country in the 19th century through the Ministry of Colonies. A Gobernador Heneral was appointed in Manila which is the central administration. He is basically the representative of the king in all matters. He exercises executive and legislative powers. Because these positions are just being handed to people without testing how they are worthy with such position, it resulted into an abuse of the administrative system. They served the position they claimed unwillingly and wasted Filipino’s money.

The economic structure of the Philippines however was developing in the agricultural production and exportation of sugar, rice and tobacco which had led Filipino families to thrive in trading and they were even able to send their children to study in Europe.

The social structure in this era fed on the feudalistic and master slave relationship. It is even divided into three classes. The Highest Class which includes the Spanish officials, the Peninsulares which are Spaniards born in Spain, and the friars. The next one is the Middle class where the pure Filipino’s belong to also the mestizos who are mixed with European or Filipino or Chinese races. The last class which we know as the Lowest Class also includes pure blood Filipinos who they call indios, because of their poor upbringing. Imagine being treated so low by colonizers in your own country.

3. Compare the present educational system to that of 19th century Philippines.

The educational system in the 19th century is quite unrecognizable to what it is now. In the 19th century, it is mainly focused on religious matters, and is very outdated when it comes to the curriculum, teaching methods and teaching materials. Even If you are very privileged at that time, you still wouldn’t be able to get into higher education if you are not a Spanish student. Discrimination was very prevalent not just to race itself but also to gender. Now, we give importance to the quality of Filipino’s Education. We adapted curriculums that is concurrent with other countries. The government provides free education to all levels of learning. It’s a working progress and there are still a lot of factors to improve on such as better facilities, non-traditional approach of teaching and better teaching materials. But so far, the most important thing is that there is a progression, and we must continue moving forward in order to achieve the best quality of education to all Filipino People. It is not bad to ask for more and I also believe we should always settle for more.

4. How did the political, social and economic conditions of the 19th century contributed to the problem of inequalities and racial discrimination of the indios.

The political, social and economic conditions of the 19th century affected the indios in a discriminating manner because the rulers took advantage of them without giving importance to their existence. They were discriminated because of their ethnicity that even if they were born and raised in the country, they were thought of as low-class citizens. They are often mistreated, humiliated, and stripped off their natural basic human rights. They are even considered as lazy when, they just lack the opportunity to make their lives better because just by looking at their skin, they are already looked down upon.

Guide Questions:

Lesson 2

Birth of a Filipino National Consciousness

1. What factors should be present for a group of people to get together, organize, and form a nation?

The factors that should be present for people to form a nation together would be that all of them are mutually aware or conscious of their own aspirations, interests, goals, sentiments and instead of feeling divided, they should feel united regardless of their differences such as race, ethnicity etc.

2. Now that you have identified the factors necessary for a people to form a nation, let us review some historical experience of the Filipino:

a. What did the pre-colonial settlers contribute to the establishments of Filipino identity?

There is already indigenous culture that existed before we were colonized and these culture were established as our own Filipino Identity. There were the early settlers from Borneo, Indo-China and South China who brought their weaponry, mining skills, pottery and the use of carabao as work animals. The second group of Malays introduced the system of writing. The last one which are the Muslim Malays who was mainly the foundation of Islam in Mindanao and Sulu were already trading with the Arabs and Chinese. We were even divided into small political groups that we call barangay who fought each other for survival.

b. What changes took place with the adoption of Spanish Institutions?

The main changes that took place is the unification of the country making Roman Catholicism the states religion and widely spread the Spanish Political System where they encourage law and order for the citizens to abide. Through Catholicism the Filipino’s were introduced with a system of education where the Spanish language and the western system of writing and alphabet were formally introduced.

c. How did the Following leaders respond to the challenge of the 19th century liberalism: Francisco “Balagtas” Baltazar, Father Pedro Pelaez, and Father Jose A. Burgos?

Francisco “Balagtas” Baltazar expressed his disgust by cautiously portraying “social cancer”, his impatience with the Spanish abuses and his love for liberty in his literary works such as Florante at Laura.

Father Pedro Pelaez respond to the challenge of liberalism by exposing and criticizing the rampant racial discrimination against the natives. He even denounced how wrong it is to deny Filipino clergy the right to administer Philippine Parishes. He even appealed the scrutiny to Queen Isabela II of Spain for clerical equality. This justice crusade was unfortunately disrupted upon his death from a disastrous earthquake in 1863. However, the student of Father Pedro Pelaez continued his unfinished mission.

Jose A. Burgos appealed to the noble people of Spain to give Filipino clergy a chance to show their ability to equal the Spanish in terms of education.

d. How did the Spanish government in the Philippines react to the liberal agitation in the 19th century?

The Spanish Governments reaction to the prevalent liberal agitation was very futile to initiate reforms. They are alarmed with the growing anti-Spanish feelings that are spreading within the Island that even Governor Rafael de Izquierdo blamed higher education as the motivating factor of these events. Which is why he suggested to promote vocational instruction as a substitute for university studies. He also sought to prohibit further ordination of Filipino Priests thus suggested that all native troops be replaced by Spanish soldiers. But because of the rising surge of nationalistic sentiments, The Spanish Government did not agree with this.

e. To what extent would you consider Carlos Ma de la Torre a liberal administrator of 19th century Philippines?

When the liberal agitation was rising Carlos ma de la Torre was one of those who warned the government and suggested reforms. But instead of prohibiting our freedom, when he was appointed as Governor General of the Philippines, he abolished the censorship of the press, fostered political discussions and even supported the secularization of parishes. He encouraged those who are educated to form organizations that freely discussed political reforms. Daring students of UST who organized (liberal young students) asked for better appointment of professors and to expand education as it is in Spain. But these demands would be recognized by the Spanish Governments as subversive that led for the arrests of those who are and who are not involved. Governor de la Torre saw the abuses of people with certain positions like alcaldes and realized the need for urgent reforms. But before he could even implement these reforms, the conservatives replaced him with Governor Izquidero who favored with the conservatives.

f. What themes and programs of reform did Dr. Gregorio Sancianco and Dr. Pedro Paterno propose in 1880?

Their literary works composed of nationalist sentiments. Dr Pedro Paterno wrote themes that tries to project Filipino’s national personality through the works of a Filipino. Dr. Gregorio Sancianco wrote on more serious themes which include economic reforms to improve the political administration. His book E Progreso de Filipinas have concluded that the inequality and injustices of our tax structure had dettered the economic growth.

g. Why were the propaganda activities in the Philippines and Spain anti-friar in nature?

This is because it created too much confusion with how much the friars in the country control everything from the economy to education and even in politics. They even exercise their powers so much that it would often lead to its abuse. The people probably had enough of the church’s political power and wanted it to be reduced as well as its educational control.

h. Describe how the propagandists in Spain pushed through the final phase of their peaceful fight for reforms?

The final push for reforms consists of different Filipino Nationalists Organizations. One of those is the La Solidaridad society that was organized in Barcelona and consists of officers which include Rizal as the auditor. Not long after that another group has also inaugurated in Madrid which is the Association Hispano-Filipina on January 12 1899 and just like La Solidaridad they aim to work for specific reforms for our country. The first issue of La Solidaridad aims to spread and defend the ideals of democracy and to promote progress in politics, science, arts and letters, commerce, agriculture and the industry. Unfortunately the paper was banned from the Philippines but copies were being sneaked in the country for the patriotic Filipinos to read.

i. Cite passages from propaganda literature expressing the urgent need for reforms, pride in the country and people, and assertion of human rights.

“But all these friendship between the parish priest and the teacher, though not apparent was fictitious. Fray Pedro (and to say “fray” us to say that he was the cacique – the absolute despot of the town) could not tolerate that Jacinta should be a teacher, as all of them should be. Solicitous in the performance of her job, lover of all that was progress, propagandist of Spanish and of education, religious without being fanatic, admitting in her ideals all that contributed to the moral and material advancement of the country.” – La Maestro de Mi Pueblo Antonio Luna ( The Independent).

“Without education and liberty, which are the soil and the sun of man, no reform is possible , no measure can give the result desired.” – Jose Rizal

j. Compile a list of reforms demanded by the propagandists. Which of these reforms reached the Cortes? Explain the negative reaction to the forms.

Guide Questions:

Lesson 3

Development of Rizal’s Nationalism

1. What conditions and events influenced Rizal’s life? Prove this hypothesis: “Change uplifts

a man’s life.”

2. What things did Rizal do to prepare himself for his role as a nationalist leader? Do you

think you can learn from these things he did to prepare yourself for your role in

nationbulding?

3. Prove that :

- Rizal was an educator

- Rizal was a scientist

- Rizal was an internationalist

- Rizal was a researcher

- Rizal was a historian

- Rizal was a community development leader

- Rizal was an artist

4. Give your justification that “Rizal’s trial was a farce.”