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AP®

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AP® United States History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Long Essay Question 3

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Question 3: Long Essay Question, Industrial Capitalism Later 1800s

6 points

General Scoring Notes

- Except where otherwise noted, each point of these rubrics is earned independently; for example, a student could earn a point for evidence without earning a point for thesis/claim.
- **Accuracy:** The components of these rubrics require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, essays may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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 essays 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.

Evaluate the relative importance of causes of the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States in the period from 1865 to 1900.

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row A Thesis/Claim (0-1 points)	0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.	1 point Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
Decision Rules and Scoring Notes		
<p>Responses that do not earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are not historically defensible. Only restate or rephrase the prompt. Do not respond to the prompt. Do not establish a line of reasoning. Are overgeneralized. <p>Examples that do not earn this point:</p> <p>Provide a historically defensible claim, but do not establish a line of reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"Many factors caused the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States in the period from 1865 to 1900."</i> <p>Provide a claim that is not historically defensible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"The rise of industrial capitalism in the last nineteenth century resulted mainly from increased government regulation to protect the environment."</i> <p>Provide a restatement of the prompt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"Industrial capitalism grew in the late nineteenth century."</i> 	<p>Responses that earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a historically defensible thesis or claim about the causes of the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States in the period from 1865 to 1900. The thesis or claim must either provide some indication of the reasoning for making that claim OR by establishing analytic categories of the argument. 	
<p>Examples that earn this point:</p> <p>Establish a line of reasoning that evaluates the topic of the prompt with analytic categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"The rise of industrial capitalism between 1865 and 1900 was primarily caused by 'captains of industry' who benefitted from technological innovations and new forms of business enterprises. Secondary roles were played by the availability of enhanced transportation systems and the availability of a large labor supply that facilitated America's industrialization."</i> <i>"Industrial capitalism grew between 1865 to 1900 due to the discovery of many natural resources along with improvements in a national transportation system. However, the most important cause were the inventions, such as the Bessemer process, that made industrialization possible."</i> <p>Establish a line of reasoning with analytic categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"The causes of the growth of industrial capitalism were innovations in manufacturing technology and the end of the Civil War."</i> <p>Establish a line of reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"The cause of the growth of industrial capitalism in the late nineteenth century was the end of the Civil War."</i> (Minimally acceptable thesis/claim) 		
<p>Additional Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The thesis or claim must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion (which may not be limited to the first or last paragraphs). The thesis or claim must identify a relevant development(s) in the period, although it is not required to encompass the entire period. 		

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row B Contextualization (0-1 points)	0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.	1 point Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes	
	<p>Responses that do not earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an overgeneralized statement about the time period referenced in the prompt. Provide context that is not relevant to the prompt. Provide a passing phrase or reference. <p>Examples that do not earn this point:</p> <p>Do not provide context that is relevant to the topic of the prompt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"Power in the South shifted from Republicans to Democrats in the years after the Civil War."</i> <p>Provide an overgeneralized statement about the time period referenced in the prompt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"New technological ideas produced economic innovation and the industrial revolution."</i> 	<p>Responses that earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurately describe a context relevant to the causes of the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States in the period from 1865 to 1900. <p>Examples of relevant context that earn this point include the following if appropriate elaboration is provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Westward expansion Market Revolution Technological innovation Transportation innovation Cottage industry Civil War Competition with European powers Segregation Business organization Immigration Urbanization <p>Example of acceptable contextualization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"Transportation innovations and advances in manufacturing during the market revolution led to the growth of business and laid the groundwork for the rise of industrial capitalism after the Civil War."</i>
	<p>Additional Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response must relate the topic of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question. To earn this point, the context provided must be more than a phrase or reference. 	

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
Row C Evidence (0-2 points)	0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.	1 point Provides specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt.	2 points Supports an argument in response to the prompt using specific and relevant examples of evidence.
Decision Rules and Scoring Notes			
<p>Responses that do not earn points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a single piece of evidence. Provide evidence that is not relevant to the topic of the prompt. Provide evidence that is outside the time period or region specified in the prompt. Repeat information that is specified in the prompt. <p>Examples that do not earn points:</p> <p>Provide evidence that is outside the time period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"The Lowell textile mills were some of the earliest factories in the United States."</i> 		<p>Responses that earn 1 point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify at least two specific historical examples relevant to the causes of the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States in the period from 1865 to 1900. <p>Examples of evidence that are specific and relevant include the following (two examples required):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trusts and monopolies Federal subsidies and land grants Interlocking-directorates Railroads New South / Henry W. Grady Industries (clothing, meatpacking, steel) Bessemer process Telegraph Telephone Sewing machine Garment industry/sweatshops Incandescent light bulb Business leaders (Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, Cornelius Vanderbilt, J.P. Morgan) Social Darwinism Natural resources (oil, copper, coal, lumber, iron ore) Vertical integration Horizontal integration New Immigrants <p>Example of a statement that earns one point for evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company engaged in vertical integration."</i> 	<p>Responses that earn 2 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use at least two specific historical examples to support an argument regarding the causes of the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States in the period from 1865 to 1900. <p>Examples that successfully support an argument with evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"To increase profits, John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company engaged in vertical integration to control all aspects of oil production."</i> (Uses evidence to support an argument about how business organization drove industrial capitalism) <i>"The federal government supported the rise of industrial capitalism by providing subsidies and land grants to the railroad industry."</i> (Uses evidence to support an argument about the role of the federal government in the rise of industrial capitalism) <i>"New inventions such as the sewing machine allowed faster and more efficient production of goods, fueling the rise of industrial capitalism."</i> (Uses evidence to support an argument about the role of technology)
<p>Additional Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically, statements credited as evidence will be more specific than statements credited as contextualization. If a response has a multipart argument, then it can meet the threshold of two pieces of evidence by giving one example for one part of the argument and another example for a different part of the argument, but the total number of examples must still be at least two. (For example, supporting a two-part argument about business organization and the role of the federal government with evidence about government land grants.) 			

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
Row D Analysis and Reasoning (0-2 points)	0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.	1 point Uses historical reasoning (e.g., comparison, causation, continuity, and change) to frame or structure an argument that addresses the prompt.	2 points Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question.
	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes		
Responses that do not earn points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May include evidence but offer no reasoning to connect the evidence to an argument. May assert the use of historical reasoning but does not use it to frame or structure an argument. 	Responses that earn 1 point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must demonstrate the use of historical reasoning to explain the causes of the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States in the period from 1865 to 1900, although the reasoning may be uneven, limited, or imbalanced. 	Responses that earn 2 points: May demonstrate a complex understanding in a variety of ways, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explaining the nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables. Explaining both similarity and difference, or explaining both continuity and change, or explaining multiple causes, or explaining both causes and effects. Explaining relevant and insightful connections within and across periods. Confirming the validity of an argument by corroborating multiple perspectives across themes. Qualifying or modifying an argument by considering diverse or alternative views or evidence. 	Demonstrating complex understanding might include any of the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response argues that new inventions were the primary reasons for the rise of industrial capitalism. It then corroborates that argument with evidence from multiple variables, such as how multiple industries in different regions of the country benefited from different types of inventions. The response argues that new inventions were the primary reason for the rise of industrial capitalism. It then qualifies that argument with evidence that new forms of business organization allowed these new inventions to be implemented and incorporated into manufacturing practices. The response argues that the rise of industrial capitalism resulted mainly from laissez-faire government policies. It then qualifies the argument with evidence claiming that while there were few government regulations, government subsidies and pro-business policies, which were not strictly speaking laissez-faire, also supported the growth of capitalism.
Additional Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This demonstration of complex understanding must be part of the argument, not merely a phrase or reference. 			

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The 1860s were a devastating time in American history because of the Civil War where so many American lives were lost. It seemed as though the country would not recover emotionally or financially. But it did. Following the Civil War was a period called the Reconstruction which was meant to unify the country and help restore the economy. The reconstruction period (which eventually led to the Gilded Age in America where industrial Capitalism thrived and the country saw an economic boom. This rise of industrial Capitalism can be attributed towards the end of the 19th century can be attributed to the rise in American Social Darwinism, the formation of big businesses in the industry, and the laissez-faire government approach.

Social Darwinism, a concept that originated in Europe, caused American national pride to be taken to the ~~extreme~~ extreme and the result was the belief that America was superior to all other nations.

~~This idea~~ Social Darwinism contributed to the rise of industrial Capitalism since supporters of the concept would invade other territories and take their resources for economic profit. These supporters justified their actions by claiming that America had proven that it was the only country which could run a fully functioning government and economy, so it was therefore entitled to all the resources necessary it needed to keep functioning. This idea

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of Social Darwinism during this era led to the US invasion of the Philippines, the annexation of Hawaii, and America's claim over Puerto Rico. Overall, Social Darwinism was a short lived political phenomenon, but during its existence, it fuelled national pride as well as Industrial Capitalism. Industrialization in America led to the formation of big businesses such as the Standard Oil Company and Carnegie Steel, all of which ~~fostered~~ ^{promoted} Industrial Capitalism. Big business in the late 1800s made it so the rich got extremely richer and the poor became extremely poorer. These big businesses ~~had~~ approached the industry in a way that had never been seen before, including tactics such as horizontal and vertical integration. The titans of industry during this period such as JP Morgan, James Vanderbilt, John Rockefeller, and Andrew Carnegie favored capitalism strongly in comparison to the middle class who despised it. ~~Big~~ The growth of big business from 1865 - 1900 is arguably one of the most important factors which caused the rise of Industrial Capitalism in America.

Rather than a more hands-on approach, the government during this period ~~was~~ was class-free under a Laissez-faire tactic, meaning there was little to no government intervention in the economy. This benefited the ultra rich who were essentially running the country at that point, and



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fueled industrial Capitalism even more. The government approach was enforced by President William McKinley who has allegedly ~~been~~ working with the titans of industry in a mutualistic relationship. However, when Theodore Roosevelt was elected President, he got rid of the Laissez-faire approach upon request of the American People, which in turn, began the decline of Extreme Industrial Capitalism in America. The America's Laissez-faire style government in the late 19th century undoubtedly fueled the rise of Industrial Capitalism.

America's economy was on the rise from 1865-1900, and while the means by which America attained this are debatable by most people, there is no denying that Industrial Capitalism had its benefits as well as its repercussions. The factors which contributed to how American Society was run during this time period, continue to effect America into the present day.



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~~During~~ During the Gilded Age from 1865 to 1900, the United States became increasingly industrialized, especially in ~~the~~ Northern Urban Centers. ~~Companies~~ Industries such as steel and oil ~~soon~~ spanned massive ~~factories~~ factories and produced gargantuan amounts of products. Although some argue that the rise of industrial capitalism was caused by the lack of government controls, two more ~~important~~ crucial factors were the massive migration to the west and a source of cheap labor from newly arrived immigrants.

During the time period, many yeoman farmers immigrated West to seek new opportunities. This ~~the~~ trend led to the demand for transportation such as railroads. However, railroads required steel. Industry titans like Andrew Carnegie capitalized on this demand and ~~also~~ through his Bessemer's process, created many factories to keep up with the demand. Likewise, Vanderbilt also built his industrial endeavor thanks to Western expansion. To transport Northern manufactured goods to the West, Vanderbilt built ~~these~~ facilities like railroads and steamboats. Both Carnegie and Vanderbilt, and many ~~others~~ other industry owners, could not have built such mighty industrial complexes if it were not for the

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Expanded market in the West.

In addition, the massive wave of immigration to the United States also significantly contributed to the rise of industrial capitalism by providing a source of cheap labor. These immigrant ~~are~~ usually escaped Europe due to famine, religious persecution, and political oppression. When they came to the United States, they were willing to work long hours for very little wages. This allowed the factories to ~~produce~~ ~~make~~ goods at unparallelled efficiency. Moreover, many of these immigrants even rose up the social ladder and became industry captains themselves. For instance, both Carnegie and JP Morgan were ~~not~~ originally Americans, but through ~~the~~ hard work, they built great factories and ~~rose~~ ~~rose~~ rise to the industrial capitalism that characterized ~~the~~ the time period. Overall, the influx of immigration was a central factor in the rise of Industrial Capitalism because it brought ~~many~~ the necessary cheap labor force needed to run the equipments and attracted smart innovators ~~whose~~ like Carnegie who ~~rather~~ produced revolutionary new products.

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Industrial Capitalism was one of the biggest ~~elements~~ ^{events} of U.S. history, due to the changes economically, politically and socially. After the transcontinental railroad was built, goods were shipped faster than ever before. Industrialization made for new technologies such as the telegraph, railroads, and an increase in factory production. Agricultural ways soon were modernized, and many farmers went into the city to get jobs. ~~Everything was at its best~~ Production became more efficient and because of the newly built railroad goods were shipped faster than ever before. The telegraph made communications easier. New political advancements came to be and new ideas strong all the ~~economic effects was that~~ throughout the nation. One of the terms that referred to these advancements was the New South. Many African Americans sought to get jobs and many helped cure the economy from the World War I.

These advancements and changes were a ~~great thing~~ good thing to the nation. Except it wasn't all good. Due to farmers and people working in agriculture moving to big cities, these cities were unprepared for the sudden population growth. There weren't enough available housing and many turned to living ~~in~~ in the slums. However, there ~~were~~ ~~enough~~ trained medical wasn't enough medical care, and many died of diseases. The U.S. at this time seemed to be doing so good people invested in stock markets. These people were really wealthy and were considered "royalty." Because of the abuse ~~towards~~ the and greed, the Stock Market Crash soon took place.

The U.S. sought itself out of these conditions by making laws to have it illegal to abuse the stocks. Those who were put out of jobs

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like farmers and people working in agricultural, were protected and given jobs to reboot the economy.

Whether the good or bad specifics of the rise of industrial capitalism, 1905 positive causes were all important, because they all changed America for the better, and helped the nation as a whole.

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Question 3—Long Essay Question

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

Overview

- This question asked students to evaluate the relative importance of the causes of the rise of industrial capitalism in the period from 1865 to 1900.
- Responses could utilize a wide range of content knowledge including technological development, innovations in business practices, the role of the federal government, contributions of business leaders, or the availability of natural resources.
- This question primarily addressed Topics 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8, 6.10, 6.12, and 6.13.

Sample Identifier: 3A

Thesis/Claim: 1

Contextualization: 1

Evidence: 2

Analysis and Reasoning: 2

Total Score: 6

A. Thesis/Claim (0–1): 1

The response earned 1 point for the thesis. Found in the last sentence of the first paragraph, the thesis presents a historically defensible argument that establishes a clear line of reasoning with analytic categories.

B. Contextualization (0–1): 1

The response earned 1 point for contextualization. The opening paragraph describes the broader context by discussing the developments that occurred during the time frame of the question. The contextualization discussion is supported with numerous pieces of specific information.

C. Evidence (0–2): 2

The response earned 2 points for evidence. The response describes many examples of specific, historical evidence relevant to the topic, including laissez-faire economics, Andrew Carnegie, Vanderbilt, and horizontal and vertical integration. The points are earned despite the misnaming of “James” Vanderbilt and the overgeneralization that the middle class “despised” capitalism.

The response earned the second point by using evidence to support an argument in several places regarding the causes of the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States in the period from 1865–1900. For example, the discussion in the third paragraph explains how the tactics used by business leaders led to the growth of big business.

Question 3—Long Essay Question (continued)

D. Analysis and Reasoning (0–2): 2

This response earned 1 point for the historical reasoning skill of causation. It does so by evaluating the relative importance of the cause of the rise of industrial capitalism throughout the entire response.

This response earned 1 point for demonstrating a complex understanding. In the discussion on Social Darwinism, the response corroborates its argument that industrial capitalism rose through new business strategies by analyzing multiple variables that include national identity, imperialism, and foreign policy. Later the response also corroborates its argument across time in its discussion of the turn away from laissez-faire economics after 1900.

Sample Identifier: 3B

Thesis/Claim: 1

Contextualization: 0

Evidence: 2

Analysis and Reasoning: 1

Total Score: 4

A. Thesis/Claim (0–1): 1

The response earned 1 point in this category because it presents a historically defensible thesis with a clear line of reasoning and analytical categories in the first paragraph.

B. Contextualization (0–1): 0

The response did not earn the point for contextualization. The attempt found in the opening paragraph is limited to supporting an argument rather than providing a broader historical context for an argument.

C. Evidence (0–2): 2

The response earned 2 points for using evidence. In the second paragraph the response offers a discussion of westward migration using railroads, Cornelius Vanderbilt, the Bessemer process, and Andrew Carnegie. In the third paragraph the response discusses immigration using European origin, cheap labor for factories, and J.P. Morgan.

The response earned the second point for using evidence to support an argument in response to the prompt. It does this in the last paragraph when it states, “Overall, the influx of immigration was a critical factor in the rise of industrial capitalism because it brought the necessary cheap labor force needed to run the equipment[s], and attracted smart innovators like Carnegie who produced revolutionary new products.”

Question 3—Long Essay Question (continued)

D. Analysis and Reasoning (0–2): 1

The response earned 1 point for demonstrating the historical reasoning skill of causation. The response frames the argument by explaining how the expanded markets in the West influenced the growth of American industry. It describes that “Both Carnegie and Vanderbilt, and many other industry owners, could not have built such mighty industrial complexes if it were not for the expanded market in the west.”

The response did not earn the point for demonstrating a complex understanding. Although there is an attempt at a nuanced analysis of multiple variables by connecting immigration and the success of Carnegie and Morgan, it does not explain how the evidence corroborates, qualifies, or modifies the argument.

Sample Identifier: 3C

Thesis/Claim: 0

Contextualization: 0

Evidence: 1

Analysis and Reasoning: 0

Total Score: 1

A. Thesis/Claim (0–1): 0

The response did not earn the point for the thesis. The first sentence, although it is an attempt to provide a line of reasoning, is overgeneralized, stating “industrial capitalism was one of the biggest events of US history, due to the changes economically, politically, and socially.” The last paragraph of the response is also too vague and overgeneralized to reach the minimum threshold for this point.

B. Contextualization (0–1): 0

The response did not earn the point for contextualization. In the first paragraph the response provides only generalized references to various historical developments such as “new technologies,” “increased factory production,” and “new agricultural ways.” It does not elaborate on these enough to adequately describe a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.

C. Evidence (0–2): 1

The response earned 1 point for using evidence. In the first paragraph the response identifies the relevance of the telegraph and railroad to communication and shipping improvements.

The response did not earn the second point for evidence, as the evidence provided does not support an argument in response to the prompt.

Question 3—Long Essay Question (continued)

D. Analysis and Reasoning (0–2): 0

The response did not earn the point for using historical reasoning. The reference of farm to city migration does not offer enough reasoning to connect to a causation argument.

The response did not earn the point for demonstrating a complex understanding. It does not attempt to explain how the evidence corroborates, qualifies, or modifies the argument.