

**Assignment: DBQ - Industrialization.**

You will be completing a DBQ for this module. You will be evaluated based on whether or not you meet the DBQ requirements. A copy of your grading rubric can be downloaded from the sidebar on the right.

You should plan to spend 15 minutes looking over the documents and organizing your essay and 40 minutes writing the DBQ. Try to stick to this timeframe as much as possible.

In your response you should do the following.

- State a relevant thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question.
- Support the thesis or a relevant argument with evidence from at least six of the documents.
- Incorporate analysis of at least three into your argument.
- Focus your analysis of each document on at least one of the following: intended audience, purpose, historical context, and/or point of view.
- Support your argument with analysis of historical examples outside the documents.
- Connect historical phenomena relevant to your argument to broader events or processes.
- Synthesize the elements above into a persuasive essay that extends your argument, connects it to a different historical context, or accounts for contradictory evidence on the topic

Download a copy of the DBQ from the sidebar. You will type your essay in the word processing program of your choice. Submit your completed assignment when finished.

Question: Identify the issues raised by the growth of Manchester and analyze the various reactions to those issues over the course of the nineteenth century.

Historical Background: Manchester, England, became a leading textile manufacturing center soon after its first mechanized cotton mill was built in 1780. Its population increased from 18,000 in 1750 to over 300,000 by the census of 1851, much of this made up of the working class and immigrants. In the 1832 Reform Bill, Manchester was granted representation in Parliament and middle class men received the vote. After Queen Victoria's visit in 1851, Manchester was granted a royal charter.

As industrialization swept through England and hit upon Manchester, the city experienced exponential growth as formerly rural workers flocked to the city to seek employment in the new factories. This brought significant growth of the city in terms of population, infrastructure, and economy. However, the expansion witnessed by Manchester was not without its issues. As a result of this period of heightened expansion, it may have been true that the economy and infrastructure grew, but what grew was of a poor nature, with the streets narrow and crowded, the buildings produced en masse, and the living conditions generally poor in terms of health, food, and at times, money. Furthermore, the city became greatly polluted, exacerbating issues of health.

The economic growth experienced in Manchester was indeed great. The activity of the workers who had arrived in the city from the farms, said to be energetic and enterprising, contributed greatly to this growth. Document 7 refers to this in detail, as Manchester is said to have been elevated to being the seat of commerce and manufacture. This is indicative of the economic prosperity that was experienced in Manchester on a whole, attaining the title of the second largest city in the kingdom. This economic growth did come at a cost, however. Alexis de Tocqueville writes in Document 3 that Manchester appears outwardly of poor condition, comparing it to a filthy sewer. His writing, however, reflects also upon the general attitude towards this perception, as he attests that pure gold flows from this sewer. The general populace was entirely willing at the time to suffer in terms of sanitation and quality of life in Manchester if economic gains were produced. Miracles were worked, yes, but the economic produce of Manchester for the people was a brutish life of savagery working for low wages. According to document 4, conditions did not improve until 1844, decades since the expansion of Manchester began. Even in 1844, working conditions were comparatively poor when looking at the conditions enforced in more recent times since the 20th century, with 10 hour work days appearing not to be uncommon. Manchester's economic growth came at a definite cost.

The infrastructure that sprang up to handle the increasing population of Manchester was of equally poor quality as a product as were the conditions produced by economic growth. According to Document 2, no other place in the known civilized world was more destitute than Manchester in this area. The city had expanded to approximately six times its size, as can be concluded from Document 1's map, and so new streets, homes, and railroads were necessary. Due to the pace at which this expansion occurred, however, alongside industrialization and economic growth at all costs, it is not hard to conceive of why the results were what they were as indicated by Document 2. The rate and size of growth indicated by Document 1 caused the streets to become crowded not only with people, but with new buildings, made narrow. These buildings that surrounded the streets were of a standardized quality, all made of brick in a fashion lacking any artistic grace. Pollution existed everywhere, and it can be assumed that the public health infrastructure (running water, doctors and hospitals) was equally poor. If Document 1 and 2 are to be believed, as the properly should, Manchester's population's rate of growth as part of the economic growth of the city produced horrid infrastructure that served only to exacerbate problems that existed within the city itself.

Living conditions were poor as a result of the aforementioned goings-on of Manchester. Already the wages were not of a significant amount, and the hours were long as industrialists took advantage of the abundance of cheap labor from the farmlands that now occupied the city and grew it to a massive size. According to Document 5, many diseases in Manchester resulted

from pollution with garbage and filth existing everywhere in the city. The poor infrastructure that made it difficult to properly dispose of this waste while also cramping the crowded people together alongside the waste exacerbated the issue. Another interesting point that can be drawn from document 5 is the insinuation that these poor living conditions also contributed to education having little effect despite the best efforts of the local government. Apparently, the residents of Manchester did not care for how education would aid them and chose reckless lifestyles to attempt to live as happily as possible despite the long hours, poor wages, crowded conditions, and rampant disease. Document 6 helps to corroborate much of this, claiming that most workers lacked basic amenities of clothing, furnishings, and good nutrition. Lacking these amenities and basic nutrition, it is unsurprising that many individuals turned towards the bars that sprung up in the crowded city to not only take their mind off of the horrid situation but also to avoid the practically poisonous water and nourishment that they would receive elsewhere. These conditions resulted directly from the economic growth of Manchester as it encouraged industry to expand at a rapid, unregulated pace that led to high pollution and poor city-planning.

Manchester experienced serious issues resulting from its economic growth in terms of its industries' poor quality, city's poor infrastructure, and citizen's poor living conditions. Individuals had varying reactions to this situation, with liberals and socialists, such as the author of Document 6, to lament the conditions that existed, asking what the cost of progress was. Others answered these individuals quite plainly or even perhaps cynically; de Tocqueville said that civilization worked its miracles in Manchester for the most complete development to be attained alongside the most brutish and savage development, implying that even if it was not morally acceptable, civilization in general perceived the cost as necessary. Members of the elite, of the factories and businessmen, and journalists of the time, as seen in Documents 4 and 7, confirm this attitude, often extolling the progress towards better times even as poor conditions may have existed. The journalist, for example, attempts to explain that the government reaction after some time in passing reforms and regulations over conduct in Manchester were progress, signifying that the consensus of the time was to fix the problems after they presented themselves and as was necessary. Manchester's growing pains were great, but these individuals perhaps had a point in that it was necessary for the economic prosperity they would hope to attain far into the future as it became more possible to equalize living conditions and financial possessions.