

# Dbq World History Example

**Question 1:** Using the documents and your knowledge of world history, compare industrialization in Japan and Russia between 1850 and 1914.

## Document 1

*Source: Sergey Witte, Russian finance minister, secret letter to Tsar Nicholas II, 1899.*

The entire economic structure of the empire has been transformed in the course of the second half of the current century, so that now the market and its price structure represent the collective interest of all private enterprises which constitute our national economy. Buying and selling and wage labor penetrate now into much deeper layers of our national existence than was the case at the time of serf economy . . .

I realized, of course, that there were very weighty arguments against the protectionist system and against high tariffs. But I supposed that even the proponents of free trade must be aware that it would be extremely harmful from the government viewpoint to remove the protective system before those industries had been securely established for whose creation whole generations had paid by a high tariff.

The gradual growth of industry in the country, always accompanied by falling prices for manufactured goods, will make it possible for our export trade to deal not only in raw materials, as at present, but also in industrial goods. Our present losses in the European trade can then be converted into profits in the Asiatic trade.

The influx of foreign capital is, in my considered opinion, the sole means by which our industry can speedily furnish our country with abundant and cheap goods. Each new wave of capital, swept in from abroad, knocks down the high level of profits to which our monopolistic entrepreneurs are accustomed and forces them to seek compensation in technical improvements, which, in turn, will lead to price reductions.

If we carry our commercial and industrial system, begun in the reign of Alexander III, consistently to the end, then Russia will at last come of age economically. Then her prosperity, her trade and finance, will be based on two reliable pillars, agriculture and industry; and the relations between them, profitable to both, will be the chief motive power in our economy.

**DBQ world history example** essays are an essential component of advanced history courses, particularly in Advanced Placement (AP) programs. These Document-Based Questions (DBQs) challenge students to analyze and synthesize historical documents, providing a nuanced understanding of complex historical events and themes. In this article, we will explore what a DBQ is, how to approach writing one, and provide a comprehensive example to illustrate the process.

## Understanding DBQs

### What is a DBQ?

A DBQ, or Document-Based Question, is an essay prompt that requires students to formulate an argument based on a set of historical documents. Typically used in AP history exams, DBQs assess a student's ability to:

1. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
2. Develop a coherent thesis based on evidence.
3. Organize an argumentative essay that responds to the prompt.

DBQs are not just about regurgitating facts; they demand critical thinking and the ability to connect different historical narratives.

## **The Purpose of a DBQ**

The primary purposes of a DBQ include:

- **Assessing Historical Understanding:** Students must comprehend the broader historical context to interpret the documents effectively.
- **Developing Analytical Skills:** Writing a DBQ helps hone skills in analysis and interpretation, which are crucial for historical inquiry.
- **Encouraging Argumentation:** DBQs require students to construct well-reasoned arguments supported by historical evidence.

## **How to Approach a DBQ**

### **Step 1: Analyze the Prompt**

Before diving into the documents, carefully read the prompt. Identify the key themes and questions it poses. Consider what time period and geographical area the prompt covers, as this will guide your analysis.

### **Step 2: Examine the Documents**

After understanding the prompt, read through the provided documents. Pay attention to:

- **Authors and Context:** Consider who created the document and what their perspective might be.
- **Content and Purpose:** What information does the document provide? Why was it created?
- **Connections:** Look for themes, contradictions, or connections between different documents.

### **Step 3: Develop a Thesis Statement**

Your thesis should respond directly to the prompt and reflect a clear argument. A strong thesis statement should:

- Be specific and arguable.
- Address the main themes of the prompt.
- Provide a roadmap for your essay.

### **Step 4: Create an Outline**

Organizing your thoughts before writing is crucial. A typical outline includes:

1. Introduction
  - Hook
  - Thesis statement

## 2. Body Paragraphs

- Each paragraph should focus on a specific point supporting your thesis.
- Use evidence from the documents and outside knowledge.

## 3. Conclusion

- Summarize your argument.
- Reflect on the broader implications of your argument.

# Step 5: Write the Essay

With your outline in hand, begin drafting your essay. Be sure to:

- Incorporate evidence from the documents to support your arguments.
- Analyze the significance of each piece of evidence.
- Maintain clarity and coherence throughout your writing.

# Step 6: Revise and Edit

After completing your draft, take the time to revise. Look for:

- Logical flow and organization.
- Clarity in your arguments.
- Grammatical and spelling errors.

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To better illustrate the DBQ process, let's consider a prompt that might appear on an AP World History exam:

Prompt: "Evaluate the extent to which the Industrial Revolution changed the social and economic structures of Europe in the 19th century."

## Step 1: Analyze the Prompt

The prompt asks us to evaluate changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution in both social and economic contexts. Key terms to focus on include "extent," "changed," "social structures," and "economic structures."

## Step 2: Examine the Documents

For this example, imagine we have the following types of documents:

1. A letter from a factory worker detailing working conditions.
2. A government report on economic growth due to industrialization.
3. An excerpt from a social reformer advocating for better labor laws.
4. Statistical data showing urbanization rates in Europe.

## Step 3: Develop a Thesis Statement

A possible thesis could be: "The Industrial Revolution significantly transformed Europe's social and economic structures in the 19th century by

increasing urbanization, altering labor dynamics, and prompting social reform movements, although it also led to increased inequality."

## **Step 4: Create an Outline**

Introduction:

- Hook: The Industrial Revolution marked a pivotal shift in European history.
- Thesis statement.

Body Paragraphs:

- Paragraph 1: Discuss urbanization, citing statistical data and the factory worker's letter.
- Paragraph 2: Analyze the economic changes through the government report.
- Paragraph 3: Examine social changes prompted by reformers and labor movements.

Conclusion:

- Summarize the argument.
- Reflect on the long-term impacts of these changes on modern Europe.

## **Step 5: Write the Essay**

In drafting the essay, each point should be supported with evidence from the documents, ensuring each argument ties back to the thesis.

## **Step 6: Revise and Edit**

Finally, after writing, revise for clarity, coherence, and correctness.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, mastering the DBQ format is essential for success in advanced history courses. By understanding the components of a DBQ, developing strong analytical skills, and practicing with examples, students can effectively navigate the complexities of historical analysis. The provided example illustrates the process of crafting a DBQ from prompt to outline, emphasizing the importance of evidence and argumentation in historical writing. Whether you are preparing for an exam or simply looking to enhance your historical understanding, the DBQ is a powerful tool in the study of world history.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is a DBQ in the context of world history?**

A DBQ, or Document-Based Question, is an essay prompt used in history exams that requires students to analyze and interpret a set of historical documents to answer a specific question.

### **How can I effectively analyze documents in a DBQ?**

To effectively analyze documents in a DBQ, read each document carefully, identify the author's perspective, context, and purpose, and consider how

each document relates to the overall question.

## What are some common themes found in DBQs for world history?

Common themes include imperialism, revolution, cultural exchange, economic systems, and human rights, as these topics often reflect significant historical events and trends.

## What is the typical structure of a DBQ essay?

A typical DBQ essay includes an introduction with a thesis statement, several body paragraphs that analyze the documents and provide evidence, and a conclusion that summarizes the argument and reflects on the significance.

## How much time should I spend on a DBQ during an exam?

Students are generally advised to spend about 45 minutes on a DBQ during an exam, including time for reading the documents, planning, and writing the essay.

## What strategies can help improve my DBQ writing skills?

Strategies to improve DBQ writing include practicing with past DBQs, developing a clear thesis, creating a detailed outline before writing, and incorporating outside knowledge to support your argument.

## What role does outside knowledge play in a DBQ response?

Outside knowledge plays a crucial role as it helps to contextualize the documents, add depth to your analysis, and demonstrate a broader understanding of the historical period being studied.

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`APDBQLEQ`

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Oct 18, 2003 · CSDN dbq ASP CSDN

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