

Global Studies assignment

Week #3

Tuesday, May 12

Rabbi Alstock Global studies 9th and 10th grades.

Please answer questions 1a,1b,2,3a,3b,4a,4b,

5a,5b,7a,7b,based on the documents provided.

All answers should be written clearly on the answer sheet attached, and not on the questions below the paragraphs.

Please write at least 2 paragraphs explaining the problems humans face because of pollution caused by urbanization and industrialization.

Discuss attempts to solve the problems of pollution and if they have been successful.

Part A
Short-Answer Questions

Directions: Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document in the space provided.

Document 1

... It was the threat of disease, finally, that made garbage removal at least partially a public responsibility in Europe and the United States. One obstacle these days to a calm and measured approach to garbage problems is a collective memory restricted to the human lifespan of about seventy-five years. It is difficult for anyone alive now to appreciate how appalling, as recently as a century ago, were the conditions of daily life in all of the cities of the Western world, even in the wealthier parts of town. "For thousands of years," Lewis Mumford wrote in *The City in History*, "city dwellers put up with defective, often quite vile, sanitary arrangements, wallowing in rubbish and filth they certainly had the power to remove." The stupefying level of wrack [rubbish] and rejectamenta [refuse] in one's immediate vicinity that was accepted as normal from prehistory through the Enlightenment was raised horribly by the Industrial Revolution, which drew millions of people into already congested cities and at the same time increased the volume of consumer goods—future throwaways—by many orders of magnitude. . . .

Source: Rathje and Murphy, *Rubbish! The Archaeology of Garbage*, HarperCollins Publishers, 1992

1a According to Rathje and Murphy, which problem influenced cities to take responsibility for waste removal? [1]

Score

b According to Rathje and Murphy, what is **one** factor that has accelerated the production of garbage in cities? [1]

Score

Document 2

Description of Ancient Athens

. . . **The Streets and House Fronts of Athens.** — Progress is slower near the Market Place because of the extreme narrowness of the streets. They are only fifteen feet wide or even less, — intolerable alleys a later age would call them, — and dirty to boot. Sometimes they are muddy, more often extremely dusty. Worse still, they are contaminated by great accumulations of filth; for the city is without an efficient sewer system or regular scavengers. Even as the crowd elbows along, a house door will frequently open, an ill-favored slave boy show his head, and with the yell, “Out of the way!” slap a bucket of dirty water into the street. There are many things to offend the nose as well as the eyes of men of a later race. It is fortunate indeed that the Athenians are otherwise a healthy folk, or they would seem liable to perpetual pestilence [disease]; even so, great plagues have in past years harried [attacked] the city. . . .

Source: William Stearns Davis, *A Day in Old Athens*, Allyn and Bacon (adapted)

- 2 As a result of poor sanitation, what was **one** problem faced by the city of ancient Athens according to William Stearns Davis? [1]

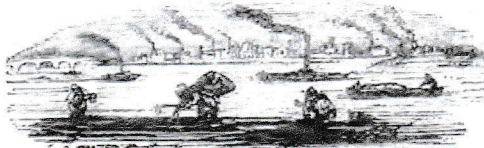
Score

Poem About the Thames River in London

THE WATER THAT JOHN DRINKS.



THIS is the water that JOHN drinks.



This is the Thames with its cento* of stink,
That supplies the water that JOHN drinks.



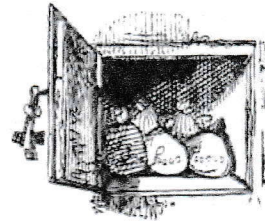
These are the fish that float in the ink-
-y stream of the Thames with its cento of stink,
That supplies the water that JOHN drinks.



This is the sewer, from cesspool and sink,
That feeds the fish that float in the ink-
-y stream of the Thames with its cento of stink,
That supplies the water that JOHN drinks.



These are vested int'rests,** that fill to the brink,
The network of sewers from cesspool and sink,
That feed the fish that float in the ink-
-y stream of the Thames, with its cento of stink,
That supplies the water that JOHN drinks.



This is the price that we pay to wink
At the vested int'rests that fill to the brink,
The network of sewers from cesspool and sink,
That feed the fish that float in the ink-
-y stream of the Thames with its cento of stink,
That supplies the water that JOHN drinks.

Source: *Punch*, Volume 17, 1849 (adapted)

*cento: a mixture

**vested int'rests: a person or group having a personal stake or financial involvement

4a According to this 1849 illustrated poem, what was **one** reason London's drinking water was polluted? [1]

Score

Document 4b

. . . When cholera* returned to Europe in 1865, it found some cities less hospitable than in previous visits. London, in particular, had moved forward. England's largest city had worked at improving sewer systems, cleaning up drinking water supplies, and collecting and disposing of refuse.

The efforts paid off. When cholera reached the city's shores, a few months after striking western Europe, it no longer leaked from the Thames into wells and other water supplies. The Thames itself was looking and smelling cleaner than it had for generations. Although the epidemic still killed several thousand people during its stay in London, its spread was limited once sources of contamination were discovered. . . .

Source: Stephanie True Peters, *Epidemic! Cholera: Curse of the Nineteenth Century*, Benchmark Books

*cholera: a disease spread through contaminated water

4b According to Stephanie True Peters, what was **one** action taken in London to reduce the number of people being affected by cholera? [1]

Score

Document 5

Winding 1,560 miles across northern India, from the Himalaya Mountains to the Indian Ocean, the Ganges River is not a sacred place: it is a sacred entity [thing]. Known as *Ganga Ma*—Mother Ganges—the river is revered as a goddess whose purity cleanses the sins of the faithful and aids the dead on their path toward heaven. But while her spiritual purity has remained unchallenged for millennia, her physical purity has deteriorated as India’s booming population imposes an ever-growing burden upon her. The river is now sick [2004] with the pollution of human and industrial waste, and water-borne illness is a terrible factor of Indian life. But the threat posed by this pollution isn’t just a matter of health—it’s a matter of faith. Veer Bhadra Mishra, a Hindu priest and civil engineer who has worked for decades to combat pollution in the Ganges, describes the importance of protecting this sacred river: “There is a saying that the Ganges grants us salvation. This culture will end if the people stop going to the river, and if the culture dies the tradition dies, and the faith dies.” . . .

In 1985, the government of India launched the Ganga Action Plan, which was devised to clean up the river in selected areas by installing sewage treatment plants and threatening fines and litigation [legal action] against industries that pollute. Almost 20 years later, the plan has been largely unsuccessful. The Western-style treatment plants simply did not meet the needs of the region. Such treatment facilities are designed for use in countries where the supply of electricity is stable, there’s no season of overwhelming monsoon rains, and the population doesn’t drink directly from the water source. Many Indians blame the plan’s failure on mismanagement, corruption and technological mistakes. A key criticism is that local communities, those most invested in the health of the river, were not included in the planning process. . . .

Source: Amberly Polidor, “Ganges River,” Sacred Land Film Project online, February 1, 2004

5a According to Amberly Polidor, what is **one** problem pollution has created in the Ganges River region? [1]

Score

b According to Amberly Polidor, what is **one** reason attempts made by the government of India to address the problems of pollution in the Ganges River region have been unsuccessful? [1]

Score

Document 7

... Mexico City residents once viewed the forest of smokestacks and their congested highways with pride. They saw these developments as symbols of modernization and proof of a growing economy. In recent years, however, air pollution has begun to have a serious impact on their lives. Several times during 1992, for instance, Mexico City's ozone level climbed well over the "very dangerous" point on the official index and remained there for days. Each time the government declared an emergency. Car use was restricted, and industries were required to cut back operations. One result of such events is that more and more people are beginning to equate the city's factories and cars with environmental destruction. . . .



Source: Geography Theme Activities, *Global Insights: People and Cultures*, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill

7a Based on this document, what is a major cause of pollution in Mexico City? [1]

Score

b Based on this document, what is **one** action taken by the government in an attempt to address the issue of pollution in Mexico City? [1]

Score

Short Answers –Global Studies Answer sheet

1A

1b

2

3a

3b

4a

4b

5a

5b

7a

7b

