

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

# GRADE 8

## INTERMEDIATE-LEVEL SOCIAL STUDIES TEST

### BOOKLET 2 DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION (DBQ)

JUNE 3, 2009

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Print your name and the name of your school on the lines above.

The test has three parts. Today you will take Part III of the test.

**Part III** is based on several documents.

**Part III A** contains the documents. Each document is followed by one or more questions. Write your answer to each question in this test booklet in the space provided.

**Part III B** contains one essay question based on the documents. Write your answer to this question in the separate essay answer booklet, beginning on the first page of the booklet.

You will have  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours to answer **all** the questions in Booklet 2 and write your essay.

**DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.**



The answer to the essay question is to be written in the separate essay booklet.

### Part III

#### DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

This question is based on the accompanying documents. It is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of the question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

#### Historical Context:

The history of the United States can be told in part through its technology. Technology has had both positive and negative effects on American life. Examples of technology that have affected the United States include the *cotton gin*, the *railroad*, and *nuclear power*.

#### Task:

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of social studies, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to

Choose **TWO** examples of technology mentioned in the historical context and for *each*

- Discuss *positive* effects of this technology on the United States
- Discuss *negative* effects of this technology on the United States

In your essay be certain to write about only **TWO** examples of technology identified in the Historical Context above.

In developing your answer to Part III, be sure to keep this general definition in mind:

**discuss** means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”

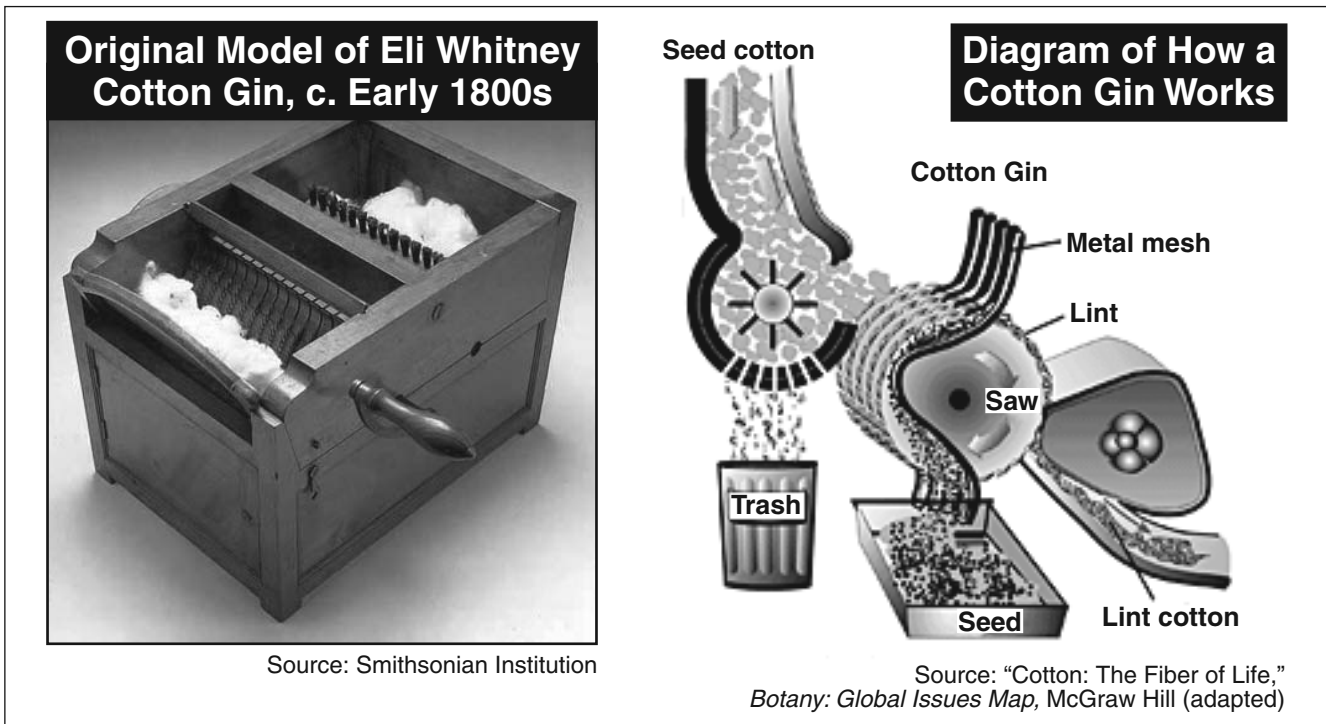
## Part A

### Short-Answer Questions

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

#### Document 1

Eli Whitney invented the mechanical cotton gin in 1793. Before this invention, removing seeds from cotton was very time consuming.

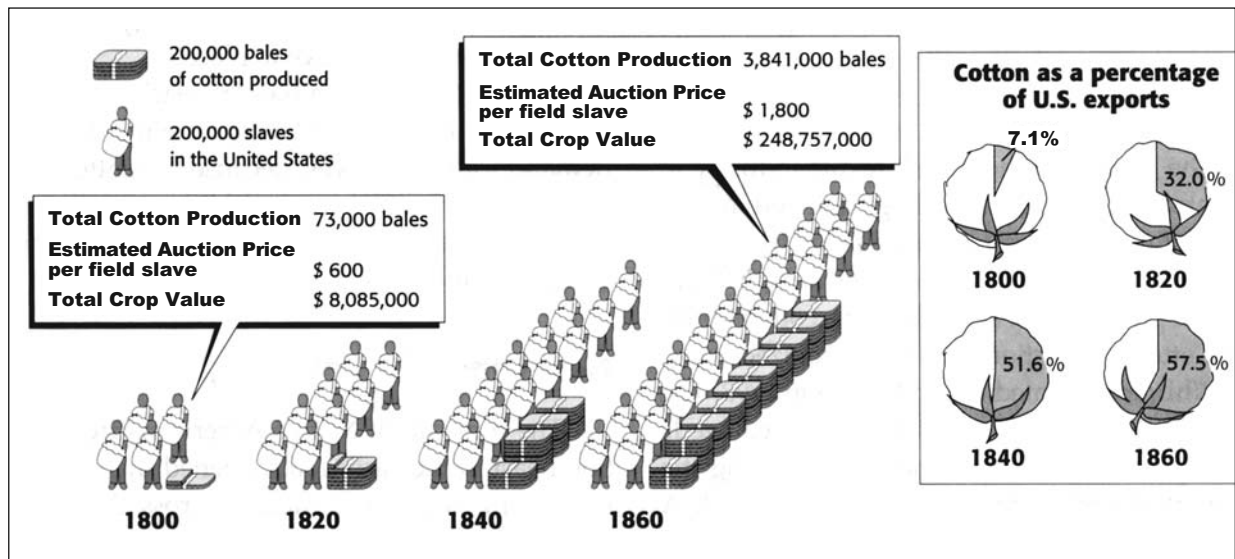


- 1 Based on this document, how did the use of this technology change the way cotton was processed?  
[1]

Score

Document 2

Cotton Production in America, 1800–1860



Source: Joyce Appleby et al., *The American Journey*, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 1998 (adapted)

2a Based on this document, state **one** effect the cotton gin had on cotton production. [1]

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Score

b Based on this document, state **one** effect the cotton gin had on the growth of slavery. [1]

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Score

**Document 3a**

. . . However, like many inventors, Whitney (who died in 1825) could not have foreseen the ways in which his invention would change society for the worse. The most significant of these was the growth of slavery. While it was true that the cotton gin reduced the labor of removing seeds, it did not reduce the need for slaves to grow and pick the cotton. In fact, the opposite occurred. Cotton growing became so profitable for the planters that it greatly increased their demand for both land and slave labor. In 1790 there were six slave states; in 1860 there were 15. From 1790 until Congress banned the importation of slaves from Africa in 1808, Southerners imported 80,000 Africans. By 1860 approximately one in three Southerners was a slave. . . .

Source: The Eli Whitney Museum

3a Based on this document, state **one** effect the invention of the cotton gin had on the number of slave states. [1]

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Score

**Document 3b**

. . . Because of the cotton gin, slaves now labored on ever-larger plantations where work was more regimented [organized] and relentless [unending]. As large plantations spread into the Southwest, the price of slaves and land inhibited [slowed] the growth of cities and industries. In the 1850s seven-eighths of all immigrants settled in the North, where they found 72% of the nation’s manufacturing capacity. The growth of the “peculiar institution” [slavery] was affecting many aspects of Southern life.

Source: The Eli Whitney Museum




3b Based on this document, state **one** effect the invention of the cotton gin had on the growth of cities and industries in the South. [1]

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Score

### Transportation Methods of the mid-1800s

Method of Transportation	Average Speed	Shipping Costs
<p><b>Roads</b></p> 	<p>2 miles per hour by wagon 6–8 miles per hour by stagecoach</p>	<p>15 cents per ton per mile</p>
<p><b>Canals</b></p> 	<p>2–5 miles per hour</p>	<p>1.1 cents per ton per mile</p>
<p><b>Railroads</b></p> 	<p>10–20 miles per hour (including stops)</p>	<p>3.4 cents per ton per mile</p>

Source: George Rogers Taylor, *The Transportation Revolution, 1815 to 1860*, Rinehart and Company, 1951 (adapted)

4 Based on this chart, what was **one** advantage of using railroads compared with other methods of transportation in the mid-1800s? [1]

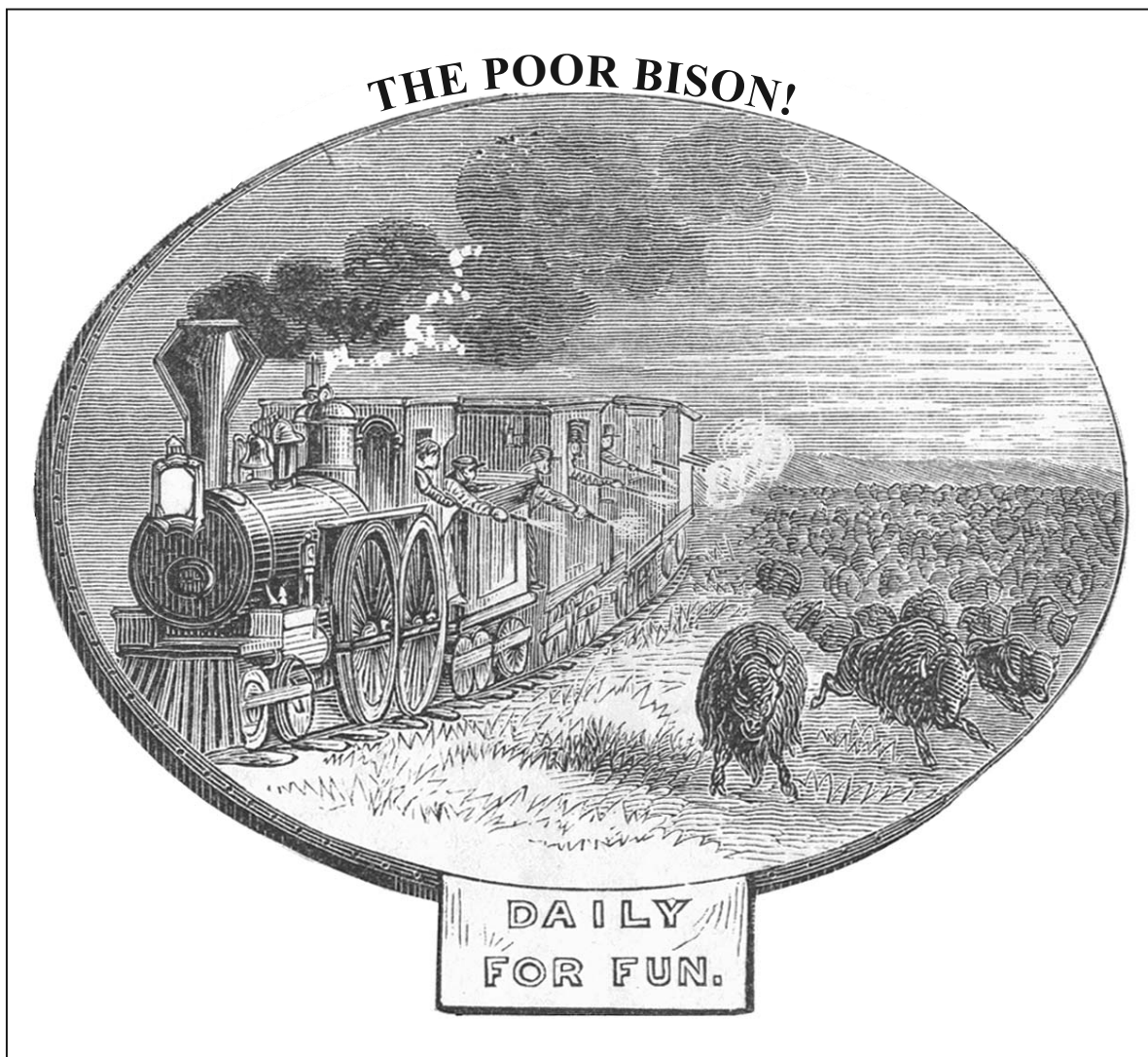
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Score

Wanton [Merciless] Destruction of the Buffalo



Source: William Edward Webb, *Buffalo Land*, Hubbard Brothers, 1872 (adapted)

5 Based on this document, what was **one** negative effect of the railroad? [1]

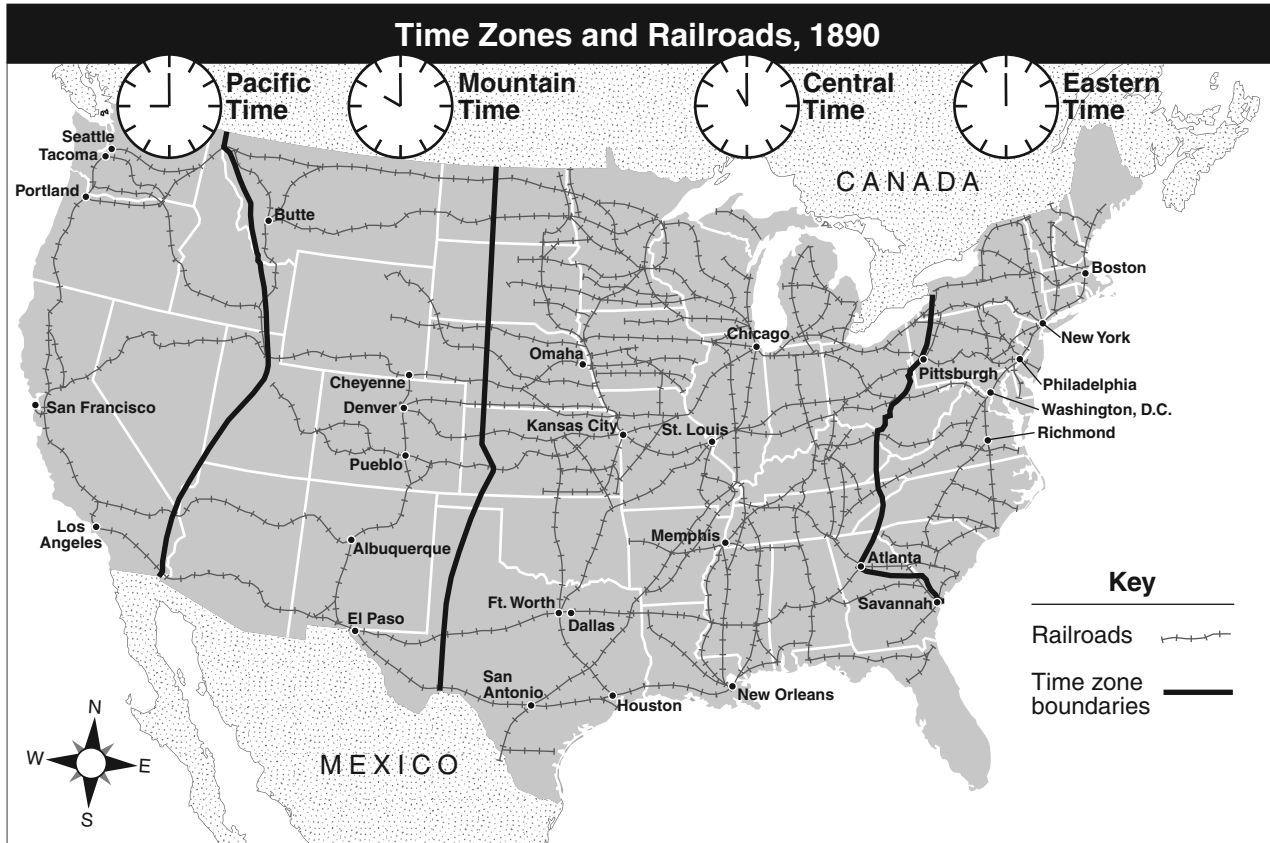
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Score



Document 6



Source: Andrew Cayton et al., *America: Pathways to the Present*, Prentice Hall (adapted)

6 Based on this map, state **one** generalization about the impact of railroads on the United States. [1]

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Score

**Document 7**

**In Favor of Nuclear Power**

. . . The more important responsibility of this Atomic Energy Agency would be to devise methods whereby this fissionable [divisible] material would be allocated to serve the needs of mankind. Experts would be mobilized to apply atomic [nuclear] energy to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture, medicine, and other peaceful activities. A special purpose would be to provide abundant electrical energy in the power-starved areas of the world. Thus the contributing powers would be dedicating some of their strength to serve the needs rather than the fears of mankind. . . .

Source: Address by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to the 470th Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, December 8, 1953

7 According to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, what are **two** advantages of nuclear power? [2]

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

Score

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

Score

**Document 8**

**Opposed to Nuclear Power**

In 1979, an accident took place at the nuclear power plant at Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania.

. . . Looking back from the vantage point of a post-Three Mile Island, post-Chernobyl [in the Soviet Union] world, people sometimes wonder why we ever went ahead with nuclear power. Didn't anyone realize how dangerous it was? Didn't anybody think about the risks to people living close to nuclear plants? Didn't anyone consider the implications of generating so much nuclear waste? These things seem so obvious today. . . .

Source: Robert Pool, "Searching for Safety," *Beyond Engineering: How Society Shapes Technology*, PBS Frontline, 1997

8 Based on this document, state **two** disadvantages of nuclear power. [2]

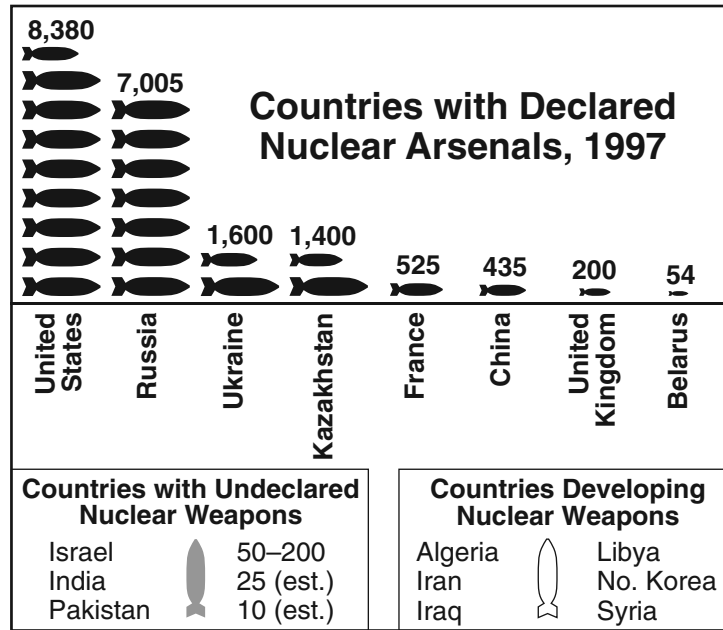
(1) \_\_\_\_\_

Score

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

Score

Document 9



Source: Paul Stich et al., *Intermediate-Level: Social Studies Big 8 Review*, N & N Publishing Company, 2002 (adapted)

9a Based on this chart, how many countries had declared nuclear arsenals as of 1997? [1]

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Score

b Based on this chart, state **one** conclusion about the danger of nuclear weapons for the United States. [1]

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Score

## Part B

### Essay

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from *at least four* documents in your essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

#### Historical Context:

The history of the United States can be told in part through its technology. Technology has had both positive and negative effects on American life. Examples of technology that have affected the United States include the **cotton gin**, the **railroad**, and **nuclear power**.

#### Task:

Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, write an essay in which you

Choose **TWO** examples of technology mentioned in the historical context and for **each**

- Discuss **positive** effects of this technology on the United States
- Discuss **negative** effects of this technology on the United States

#### Guidelines:

**In your essay, be sure to:**

- Write about only **two** examples of technology
- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from *at least four* documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme





Part I Score	
Part II Score	
Part III A Score	
Total Part I, II, and III A Score	
Part III B Essay Score	
<b>Final Score</b> (obtained from conversion chart) scaled 1–100	