DBQ – Black Migration

Source: Princeton Review

Directions: Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. You are advised to spend 15 minutes planning and 45 minutes writing your answer.

Write your response on the lined pages that follow the questions. In your response you should do the following:

- State a relevant thesis that directly answers all parts of the question.
- Support the thesis or relevant argument with evidence from all, or all but one of the documents.
- Incorporate analysis of all, or all but one, of the documents 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.

1. Analyze the extent to which the social and economic experiences of African Americans who migrated within the United States represented both change and continuity in the 20th century.

Document 1

Source: The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How it Changed America, by Nicholas Lemann, 1991

[The Great Migration] was one of the largest and most rapid mass internal movements in history-perhaps the greatest not caused by the immediate threat of execution or starvation. In sheer numbers it outranks the migration or any other ethnic group-Italians or Irish or Jews or Poles-to [the United States]. For blacks, the migration meant leaving what had always been their economic and social base in America, and finding a new one.

Document 2



Document 3

Source: A sign outside the Sojourner Truth housing project in Detroit, 1942



Document 4

Census year (national rank through 100, state rank through 3) '	Race															
	Total population		White		Black		American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut		Asian and Pacific Islander		Other race		Hispanic origin (of any race)		White, not of Hispanic origin	
		Percent	Number	Percent		Percent	Number		Number		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Perce
Chicago				,									_			
1990 (3, 1)	2 783 726	100.0	1 263 524	45.4	1 087 711	39.1	7 064	0.3	104 118	3.7	321 309	11.5	545 852	19.6	1 056 048	3
Sample	2 783 726	100.0	1 265 953	45.5	1 086 389	39.0	6761	0.2	104 141	3.7	320 482	11.5	535 315	19.2	1 063 281	3
1980 (2, 1)	3 005 072	100.0	1 490 216	49.6	1 197 000	39.8	6072	0.2	69 191	2.3	242 593	8.1	422 063	14.0	1 299 557	4
Sample	3 005 078	100.0	1 512 411	50.3	1 197 174	39.8	6 804	0.2	73 745	2.5	214 944	7.2	423 357	14.1	1 311 808	4
1970 (2, 1)	3 366 957	100.0	2 207 767	65.6	1 102 620	32.7	6 575	0.2	29 687	0.9	20 308	0.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(1
15% sample	3 362 947	100.0	2 219 145	66.0	1 098 824	32.7			44 978	1.3			247 343	7.4	1 985 295	5
5% sample	3 366 805	100.0	2 217 712	65.9	1 102 457	32.7			46 636	1.4			247 857	7.4	1 992 024	5
1960 (2, 1)	3 550 404	100.0	2 712 748	76.4	812 637	22.9	3 3 9 4	0.1	19 182	0.5	2 443	0.1	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1)
1950 (2, 1)	3 620 962	100.0	3 111 525	85.9	492 265	13.6	775	-	14 163	0.4	2 234	0.1	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(1
1940 (2, 1)	3 396 808	100.0	3 114 564	91.7	277 731	8.2	274	-	4 239	0.1	(X)	(X)	16 438	0.5	3 098 126	9
5% sample	(NA)	100.0	3 118 680	91.8	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(X)	(X)	16 460	0.5	3 102 220	9
1930	3 376 438	100.0	3 137 093	92.9	233 903	6.9	246		5 196	0.2	(X)	(X)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(1
"Mexican" in Other race	3 376 438	100.0	3 117 731	92.3	233 903	6.9	246	•	5 196	0.2	19 362	0.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	()
1920 (2, 1)	2 701 705	100.0	2 589 169	95.8	109 458	4.1	94	-	2 984	0.1	(X)	(X)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(1
1910 (2, 1)	2 185 283	100.0	2 139 057	97.9	44 103	2.0	108	•	2 015	0.1	(X)	(X)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(1
1900 (2, 1)		100.0		98.1	30 150	1.8	8	-	1 277	0.1	(X)	(X)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(1
1890 (2, 1)		100.0		98.6	14 27 1	1.3	14	-	567	0.1	(X)	(X)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(2
1880 (4, 1)	503 185	100.0	496 495	98.7	6 480	1.3	37	-	173	· ·	Black					
1870 (5, 1)	298 977	100.0	295 281	98.8	3 691	1.2	5		•	·	Total Free		-	Slave		
1860 (9, 1)	112 172	100.0	111 214	99.1	958	0.9	•			•	955	100.0	955	100.0	•	
1850 (24, 1)	29 963	100.0	29 640	98.9	323	1.1	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	323	100.0	323	100.0	-	

Document 5

Source: "The New Great Migration: Black Americans' Return to the South, 1965-2000," by William H. Frey

The list of metro areas that experienced the largest net losses of black migrants changed most abruptly between the late1960s and late 1970s...with the exception of Pittsburgh, the 10 largest net losses at the metropolitan level between1965and 1970 occurred in the South, and mostly in Deep South areas, including three each in Alabama (Birmingham, Mobile, and Montgomery) and Louisiana (New Orleans, Lafayette, and Shreveport). But in the late 1970s, industrial shake-outs in the Northeast and Midwest fueled a new migration of blacks out of several metropolitan areas that were their major destinations in earlier decades..., in fact, only New Orleans-a metro that continues to lose black migrants today-represents the South on the "bottom 10" list in the late 1970s....

Now, more educated blacks are migrating to Southern destinations at higher rates than those with lower educational levels ... [This] pattern is mirrored in white migration to the South during the same period. As with the black population, the South gained whites at all education levels, though net gains were larger for higher-educated whites.



Document 6

Source: Library of Congress, Distribution of Negro Population by County 1950: Showing each County with 500 or more Negro Population by Samuel Fitzsimmons

