

DBQ – Immigration from 1890 to 1924

Source: College Board Practice Exam

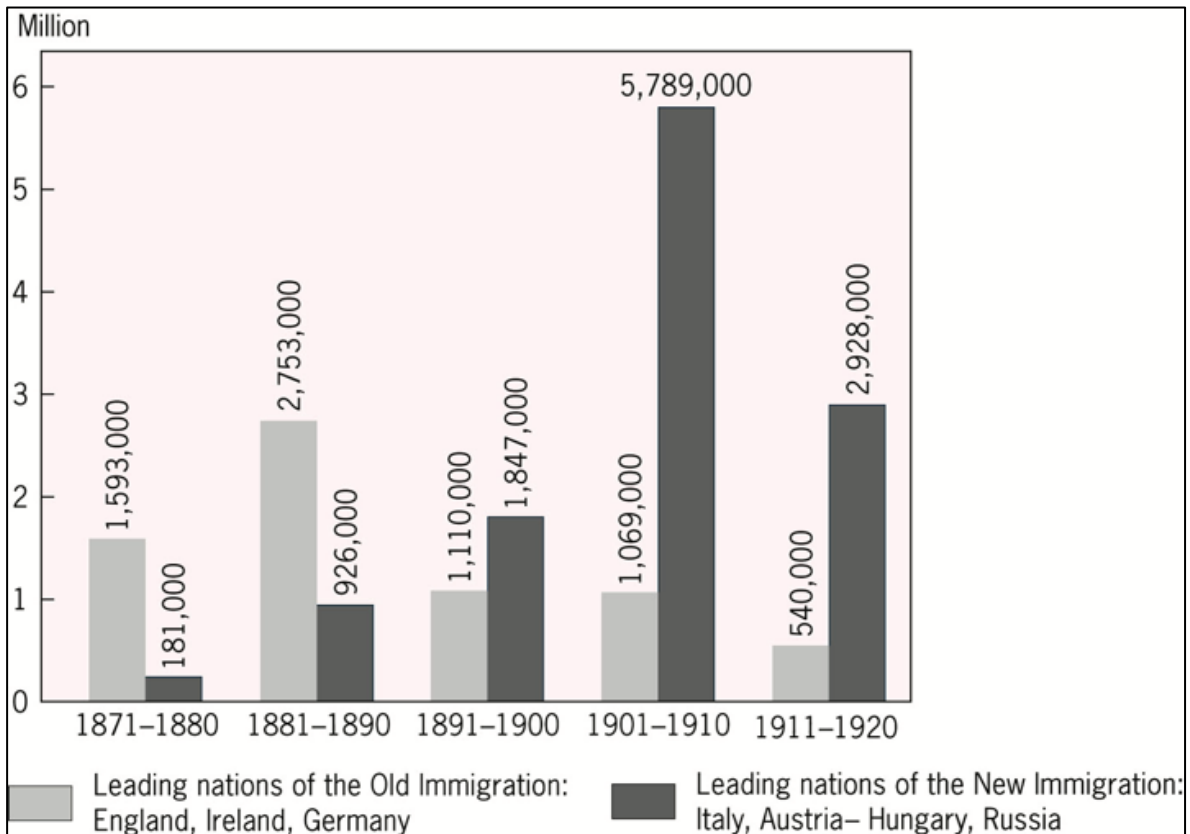
Directions: Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. You are advised to spend 15 minutes planning and 45 minutes writing your answer.

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. Assess the social, economic, and political impact of immigration on the United States in the period from 1890 to 1924.

Document 1



Document 2

“Looking Backward” (1893)



Joseph Keppler’s cartoon “Looking Backward,” which appeared in the magazine *Puck* in 1893, depicted American descendants of immigrants denying entry to the country’s next generation of newcomers.

Document 3

Source: Circular Letter of the Immigration Restriction League (1903)

Our standard of public morality is endangered when there are annually added to our great cities whole communities that are unfit for the responsibilities of American citizenship, and whose members, whatever their good intentions, become helpless victims of the corrupt boss, or of the irresponsible agitator.

Document 4

Source: “Roosevelt Bars the Hyphenated” *New York Times* (October 13, 1915)

There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism. When I refer to hyphenated Americans, I do not refer to naturalized Americans. Some of the very best Americans I have ever known were naturalized Americans, Americans born abroad. But a hyphenated American is not an American at all ... The one absolutely certain way of bringing this nation to ruin, of preventing all possibility of its continuing to be a nation at all, would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities, an intricate knot of German-Americans, Irish-Americans, English-Americans, French-Americans, Scandinavian-Americans or Italian-Americans, each preserving its separate nationality, each at heart feeling more sympathy with Europeans of that nationality, than with the other citizens of the American Republic ... There is no such thing as a hyphenated American who is a good American. The only man who is a good American is the man who is an American and nothing else

Document 5

“Melting Pot in PS ¹ 188” (1910)



Picture Research Consultants & Archives

¹ “PS” designates a *public* school (as opposed to a *private*, usually religion-based school), usually found in larger cities.

Document 6

Source: Edward Hale Bierstadt, “The Immigrant and Industry” (1922)

The position of the immigrant workman, as differentiated from that of the native born in our industrial life, is somewhat peculiar. He stands in the middle with both ends playing against him. He represents the mass of unskilled labor in this country, and he represents likewise the greater portion of unorganized labor...This condition has provided an additional twist in the industrial complex. The immigrant laborer has come to stand for the “X,” the unknown quantity in the long-sought equation between Capital and Labor. The employer accuses him of fomenting strikes and industrial agitation. Labor uses him as a scapegoat when anything of an untoward nature occurs.

Document 7

Source: Congressman Robert H. Clancy, Speech before Congress (1924)

The congressional reports of about 1840 are full of abuse of English, Scotch, Welsh immigrants as paupers, criminals, and so forth...But to-day it is the Italians, Spanish, Poles, Jews, Greeks, Russians, Balkanians, and so forth, who are the racial lepers...Forty or fifty thousand Italian-Americans live in my district in Detroit...They rapidly become Americanized, build homes, and make themselves into good citizens...One finds them by thousands digging streets, sewers, and building foundations, and in the automobile and iron and steel fabric factories of various sorts. They do the hard work that the native-born American dislikes. The farmers of the United States are up in arms. They are the bone and sinew of the nation; they produce the largest share of its wealth; but they are getting, they say, the smallest share for themselves. The American farmer is steadily losing ground. His burdens are heavier every year and his gains are more meager; he is beginning to fear that he may be sinking into a servile condition. He has waited long for the redress of his grievances; he purposes to wait no longer.