

Fresno Unified School District  
Social Science Department Document Based Question (DBQ)

**Background:** *The years after the American Civil War have been characterized by Mark Twain and others as “The Gilded Age.” Generally, historians have emphasized the decline of human values, the low state of public morality, greed, corruption and crass materialism. Middle class reformers responded to these issues by developing social programs and advocating changes to the law.*

**Directions:** *Use the documents and your knowledge of U S History to answer the question.*

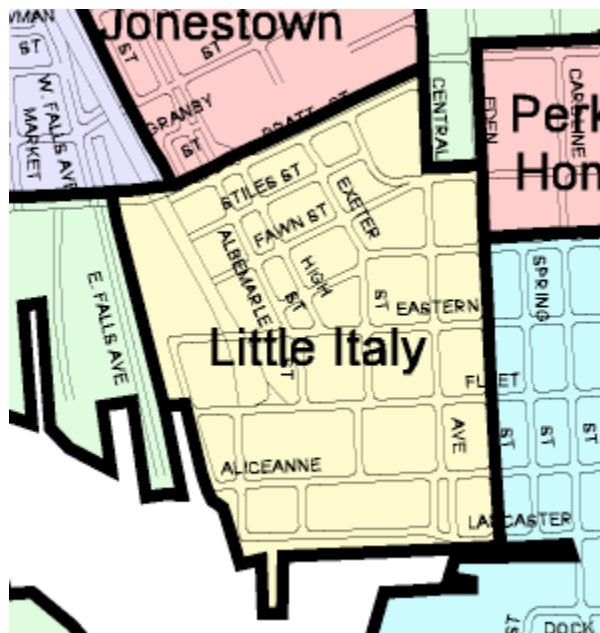
**Question:** *Describe the effects of immigration and industrialization on the growth of American cities.*

**Document A**

“Today three-fourths of [New York’s] people live in tenements . . . The gang is the ripe fruit of tenement-house growth. It was born there, endowed with a heritage of instinctive hostility to restraint by a generation that sacrificed home to freedom, or left its country for its country’s good . . . New York’s tough represents the essence of reaction against the old and the new oppression, nursed in the rank soil of its slums.”

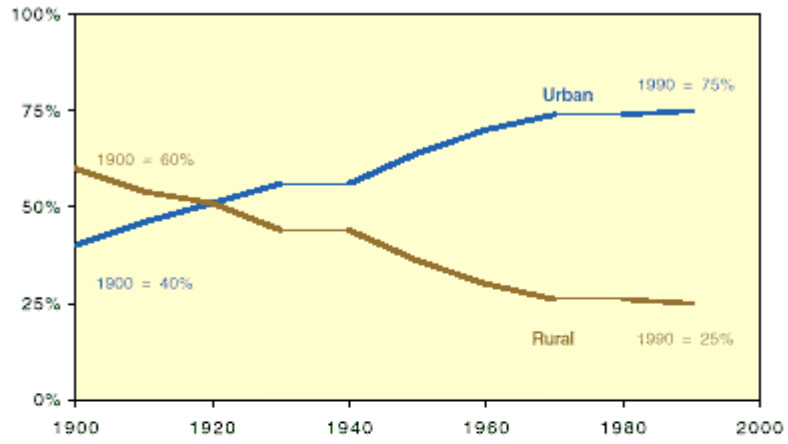
-Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*, 1890

**Document B**

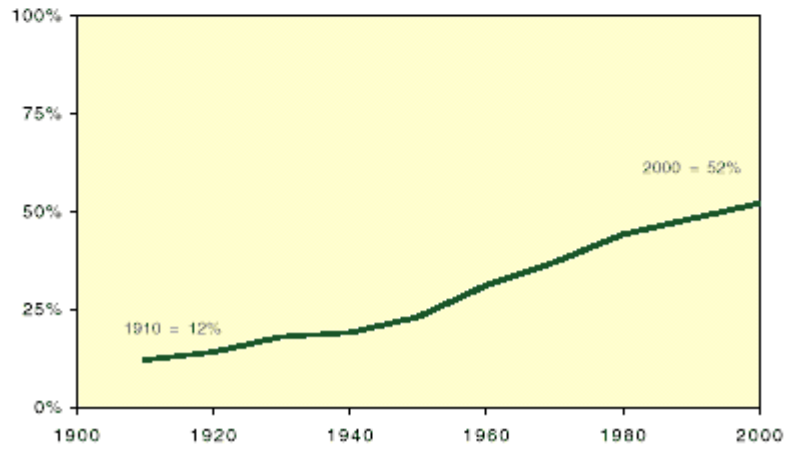


## Document C

**Urban and Rural**  
Percentage of total population



**Population Living in the Suburbs**  
Percentage of total population



**Document D**



New York City circa 1900-1909