Industrial Revolution DBQ

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying Documents.

Write an essay that:
• Provides an appropriate, explicitly stated thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question and does NOT simply restate the question.
• Discusses a majority of the documents individually and specifically.
• Demonstrates understanding of the basic meaning of a majority of the documents.
• Supports the thesis with appropriate interpretations of a majority of the documents.
• Analyzes point of view or bias in at least three documents.
• Analyzes the documents by explicitly grouping them in at least two appropriate ways.

You may refer to relevant historical information not mentioned in the documents.

Writing Prompt: Identify and evaluate the issues raised by the Industrial Revolution in Europe.

Document 1

A place more destitute than Manchester is not easy to conceive. In size and population it is the second city of the kingdom. Imagine this multitude crowded together in narrow streets, the houses all built of brick and blackened with smoke: frequent buildings among them as large as convents, without their antiquity, without their beauty, without their holiness, where you hear from within, the everlasting din of machinery; and where, when the bell rings, it is to call the wretches to their work instead of their prayers.

Document 2

Diseases caused or aggravated by atmospheric impurities produced by decomposing animal and vegetable substances, by damp and filth, and close and overcrowded dwellings, prevail among the laboring classes. The annual loss of life from filth and bad ventilation is greater than the loss from death or wounds in modern wars. The exposed population is less susceptible to moral influences, and the effects of education are more temporary than with a healthy population. These circumstances tend to produce an adult population short-lived, reckless, and intemperate, and with habits of sensual gratification.
Document 3
Source: Flora Tristan, French socialist and women’s rights advocate, her published journal, 1842.

Unless you have visited the manufacturing towns and seen the workers of Manchester, you cannot appreciate the physical suffering and moral degradation of this class of the population. Most workers lack clothing, bed, furniture, fuel, wholesome food—even potatoes! They spend from twelve to fourteen hours each day shut up in low-ceilinged rooms where with every breath of foul air they absorb fibers of cotton, wool or flax, or particles of copper, lead or iron. They live suspended between an insufficiency of food and an excess of strong drink: they are all wizened, sickly and emaciated, their bodies thin and frail, their limbs feeble, their complexions pale, their eyes dead. If you visit a factory, it is easy to see that the comfort and welfare of the workers have never entered the builder’s head. O God! Can progress be bought only at the cost of men’s lives?

Document 4

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<tr>
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<th>Gentry/Professional</th>
<th>Farmer/Trader</th>
<th>Laborer/Artisan</th>
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<td>Manchester</td>
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Document 5
Source: William Alexander Abram, journalist and historian, journal article, 1868. The condition of the factory laborers has been vastly improved within the last quarter of a century. The Hours of Labor in Factories Act, passed in 1844, worked a thorough reform. The excessive hours of labor have been legally reduced to ten hours per day. Wages—thanks mainly to accelerated machinery and improved working conditions—have largely increased. A new cotton mill of the first class is a model of spaciousness and convenience. The lavish provision of public parks, baths, and free libraries promotes the health, happiness and culture of the industrial orders. Far seldomer than before do we hear the murmur of popular discontent. Sickness and mortality have been reduced to an extent that is almost incredible.
Document 6