

## 11. A DOCUMENT-BASED ESSAY ON KOREAN SOCIAL CHANGE

**GRADE LEVEL:** 9-10

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**SUBJECT:** Global History and Geography

**TIME REQUIRED:** 1-2 class periods

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Interpret charts and graphs in relation to changes in Korean life.
2. Evaluate primary source material.
3. Explain the social changes that have accompanied Korea's rapid industrialization.

### **MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

- Handout: Document-based Essay
- Document-based Essay Scoring Rubric

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In the last forty years, Korea has built a prospering economy. At the end of the Korean War in 1953, South Korea had the second lowest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the world. By 1996, however, the South Korean economy had become the eleventh largest in the world. This economic growth has been coupled with rapid social change. Many of the changes occurring in Korea are also occurring in other countries. A careful analysis of demographic data reveals in what respect Koreans are being affected by rapid urbanization and Westernization.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Begin by asking students how historians develop their positions.
2. Inform the students that they will act as historians and use the documents given to examine the changes that have occurred within South Korea in recent decades.
3. Pass out the handout and go over the instructions with the students.
4. Have the students examine the documents and complete Part A (short-answer document-based questions—DBQs).
5. Have the students complete Part B (essay).
6. Copy several student essays for the class. Have the students critique the essays in order to better understand working with DBQs.

## Handout

### DOCUMENT-BASED ESSAY

*This task is based on the accompanying documents (1-7). Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this task. The essay is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents, charts, and newspaper articles.*

**Historical Context:** In the last forty years South Korea has rapidly modernized. Modernization has affected many aspects of Korean life.

**Task:** Describe the effects of rapid modernization on life in South Korea.

#### Part A: Short-answer Questions

The documents that follow relate to change in contemporary South Korea. Examine each document carefully, and then answer the question that follows.

##### Document 1:

"When I was young I did what my mother-in-law said. But now my daughter-in-law doesn't listen to me. So now I'm making this bean paste, and I'm feeling miserable because I'm an old woman, and she's using me. I don't know why she doesn't make bean paste herself. I think she just wants to be comfortable. She never likes hard work." (Mrs. Park, age 70)

"When I go to cities, I look at young people, the way they dress, the way they behave, and they aren't Korean. Young people always carry credit cards, and they get money from machines. They always spend money so recklessly. And young people abandon things that are still usable. Some people throw out old kettles, so I pick them up and take them home and use them." (Mrs. Sam Soon Choi, 55)

(Source: Kristof, Nicolas, "Bean Paste vs. Miniskirts: Generation Gap Grows," New York Times, May 5, 1999)

1. According to these women, how do young Koreans differ from older ones?

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##### Document 2:

"The two decades before this one [1990s] were the 'sit still' years as far as women's rights go. But now more and more women's groups have come together and made a strong National Council of Women. We are putting more and more pressure on the political parties to have at least 10 percent of the party designates be women... Our council has a task force pushing for ten major issues, including day care, after-school activities... as well as fairer family law."

(Source: Excerpt from a 1996 interview with Lee Yeon-sook, a former Vice President of the National Council of Women, Korea Lessons for High School Social Studies Courses. New York: The Korea Society, 1999, pp.148)

2. What rights are Korean women fighting for?

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**Document 3:****Composition/Percentage of Employed Persons by Industry in Korea**

YEAR	SECTOR		
	AGRICULTURE	INDUSTRY	SERVICE
1960	66.0%	9.0%	25.0%
1980	34.0%	22.5%	43.5%
2000	10.86%	20.23%	68.90%

(Source: World Bank, World Development Report, 1981; National Statistical Office Statistics with Diagram and Table, 1996)

3. How has the composition of employed persons by industry changed since 1960?

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**Document 4:****Percentage of Urban Population in Korea**

1960	1980	1995	2000
28.0%	57.2%	78.5%	79.7%

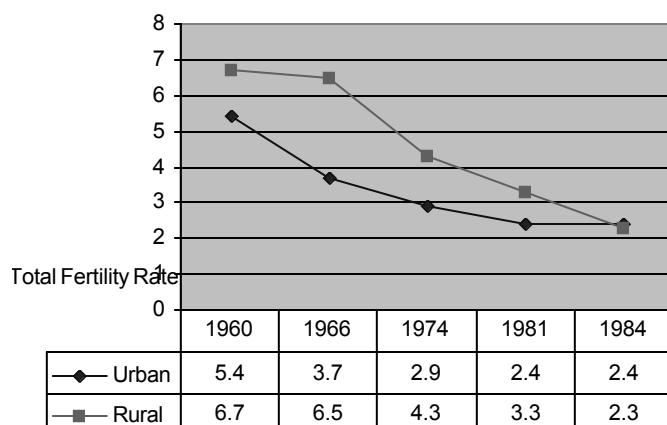
(Source: World Bank (World Development Report), 1981; National Statistical Office (Statistics with Diagram and Table), 1996)

4. What do these data reveal about Korean cities?

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**Document 5:**

(Source: Korea Institute for Population and Health, 1996)

5. What has been the general trend in Korean fertility rates since 1960?

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**Document 6:**

<b>Labor Force Participation Rate/Percentage of Females in Korea</b>
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1965	1980	1995	2000
28.6%	42.8%	48.3%	48.3%

(Source: ILO (Yearbook of Statistics), 1965-2000; National Statistical Office  
(KOCIS Statistical Database))

6. How significantly has the rate/percentage of female participation in the Korean labor force changed?

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**Document 7:**

<b>Trends in Household Composition in Korea</b>
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HOUSEHOLD	1966	1975	1985	1995	2000
Two generations	65.2%	67.7%	70%	71.2%	70.4%
Three or more generations	31.4%	26.2%	20.5%	15.5%	13.6%
Husband and wife (only)	2.3%	4.2%	7.0%	7.3%	8.8%
One-person household	----	----	1.7%	3.9%	5.1%
Others	1.1%	1.9%	2.5%	2.2%	2.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(Source: Population Census, 1965-2000)

7. How has family composition in Korea changed?

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## Part B: Essay

Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction with a thesis statement, several paragraphs explaining the thesis, and a conclusion. Analyze the documents. Use evidence from the documents to support your positions. Do not simply repeat the contents of the documents. Include specific, related outside information.

### Historical Context:

In the last forty years, South Korea has rapidly modernized. Modernization has affected many aspects of life.

Task: Describe the effects of rapid modernization on life in South Korea.

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## DOCUMENT-BASED ESSAY SCORING RUBRIC

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- Thoroughly addresses all aspects of the task by accurately analyzing and interpreting most of the documents.
- Incorporates relevant outside information.
- Richly supports essay with relevant facts, examples, and details.
- Writes a well-developed essay, consistently demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization.
- Uses information from the documents in the body of the essay but does not copy the document
- Includes a strong introduction and conclusion.

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- Addresses all aspects of the task by accurately analyzing and interpreting most of the documents.
- Incorporates relevant outside information.
- Includes relevant facts, examples, and details, but discussion may be more descriptive than analytical.
- Writes a well-developed essay, demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization.
- Includes a good introduction and conclusion.

—3—

- Addresses most aspects of the task or addresses all aspects in a limited way; uses some of the documents.
- Incorporates limited or no relevant outside information.
- Uses some facts, examples, and details, but discussion is more descriptive than analytical.
- Writes a satisfactorily developed essay, demonstrating a general plan of organization.
- Restates the theme in the introduction and concludes with a simple restatement of the theme.

—2—

- Attempts to address some aspects of the task, making limited use of the documents.
- Incorporates no relevant outside information.
- Presents few facts, examples, and details; simply restates contents of the documents.
- Writes a poorly organized essay, lacking focus.
- Has vague or missing introduction and/or conclusion.

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- Shows limited understanding of the task with vague, unclear references to the documents.
- Presents no relevant outside information.
- Attempts to complete the task, but essay demonstrates a major weakness in organization.
- Uses little or no accurate or relevant facts, details or examples.
- Has vague or missing introduction and/or conclusion.

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- Fails to address the task.
- Is illegible.
- Has blank paper.

*(Source: New York State Department of Education)*