Cities Under Pressure

How urban challenges shaped reform and restriction

SS24.US1.17b "Explain how various reform and reactionary movements emerged in response to the challenges of urbanization and immigration."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three challenges or fears, circle two reform responses, and box one restrictionist response. Draw an arrow from each response to a challenge or fear that helped produce it.

Different Answers to a Growing City

1 At the turn of the twentieth century, newcomers often arrived in cities where factory jobs were plentiful but housing was scarce. In crowded neighborhoods, families squeezed into tenements, and dirty water and poor ventilation helped disease spread. Many immigrants also struggled to find work while learning English and navigating unfamiliar services. These pressures did not produce one shared answer. Some Americans pushed cities to improve daily life, while others blamed immigrants for changes they feared.

2 In Chicago, Jane Addams and other settlement house workers responded to newcomers' needs by offering English classes, child care, and help finding work at Hull House. In New York, reformers exposed unsafe tenements and pressed officials to act. The state's 1901 Tenement House Act required better light, ventilation, and fire protection in new apartment buildings. These reforms treated crowded urban life as a problem that communities and governments could address rather than a reason to turn people away.

3 Other groups saw immigration itself as the threat. Some native-born workers feared competition for jobs, while others claimed that newcomers could not fit into American society. Restrictionists used those fears to demand federal limits. The Immigration Act of 1924 set national-origin quotas that sharply reduced immigration from southern and eastern Europe. Unlike settlement house workers and housing reformers, restrictionists answered the pressures of growing cities by trying to limit who could enter the country.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did newcomers' difficulties lead to the services offered at Hull House?

2. Why did New York reformers press for the 1901 Tenement House Act?

3. How did fears about immigration help produce the Immigration Act of 1924?

4. How did settlement house workers and restrictionists respond differently to immigration's effects on cities?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Suppose you advise a city council in 1910. In three sentences, propose a response not named in the passage to one challenge it describes, explain why the challenge calls for your response, and identify your idea as reform or reactionary.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.17b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three challenges or fears, circle two reform responses, and box one restrictionist response. Draw an arrow from each response to a challenge or fear that helped produce it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did newcomers' difficulties lead to the services offered at Hull House?	**Newcomers needed help learning English, finding work, and caring for children, so Hull House offered classes, job assistance, and child care.**
2	Why did New York reformers press for the 1901 Tenement House Act?	**Crowded, unsafe tenements helped disease spread, so reformers sought requirements for better light, ventilation, and fire protection.**
3	How did fears about immigration help produce the Immigration Act of 1924?	**Fears of job competition and claims that newcomers could not fit in fueled demands for limits, leading to national-origin quotas.**
4	How did settlement house workers and restrictionists respond differently to immigration's effects on cities?	**Settlement house workers provided services to help newcomers, while restrictionists sought to reduce immigration.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would ask the city to place interpreters in public health clinics. Immigrants who are learning English might otherwise have trouble describing symptoms or understanding medical advice, especially where crowded housing spreads disease. This is reform because it improves access to city services instead of limiting immigration.

Accept other passage-supported links between a challenge or fear and a response. For the open task, the proposal must be distinct from those named in the passage, address a stated challenge, and correctly explain its classification.