

Document-Based Question

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for this exercise. Spend approximately 15 minutes planning and 45 minutes writing your answer.

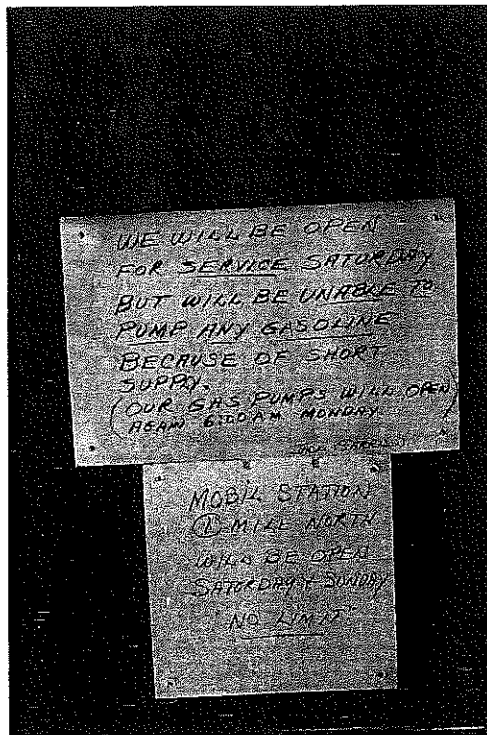
Write an essay that does the following:

- ♦ States an appropriate thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question.
- ♦ Supports the thesis or argument with evidence from all or all but one of the documents AND your knowledge of U.S. history beyond the documents.
- ♦ Analyzes all or all but one of the documents.
- ♦ Places each document into at least one of the following categories: intended audience, purpose, historical context, and/or point of view.
- ♦ Uses historical evidence beyond the documents to support your argument.
- ♦ Places the argument in the context of broader regional, national, or global processes.
- ♦ Incorporates all of the elements above into a convincing essay.

Question: The 1970s have been described by some as “the years of malaise,” defined by dictionary.com as “a vague or unfocused feeling of mental uneasiness, lethargy, or discomfort.” Analyze the foreign and domestic factors that led many Americans to feel this uneasiness with life in the 1970s.

Document 1

Source: David Falconer, U.S. National Archives, ca. 1973



David Falconer/EPA/National Archives

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Document 2

Source: *New York Times*, August 9, 1974

Document 3

Source: President Gerald R. Ford, Address to Joint Session of the Congress on U.S. Foreign Policy, April 10, 1975

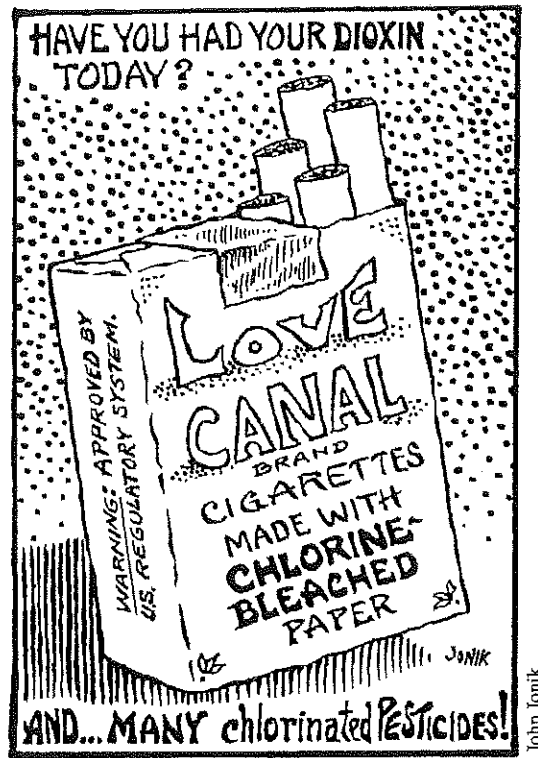
The North Vietnamese, from the moment they signed the Paris accords, systematically violated the cease-fire and other provisions of the agreement. Flagrantly disregarding the ban on the infiltration of troops, the North Vietnamese illegally introduced over 350,000 men into the south. In direct violation of the agreement, they sent in the most modern equipment in massive amounts. Meanwhile, they continued to receive large quantities of supplies and arms from their friends.

In the face of this situation, the United States—torn as it was by the emotions of a decade of war—was unable to respond. We deprived ourselves by law of the ability to enforce the agreement, thus giving North Vietnam assurance that it could violate that agreement with impunity. . . . Encouraged by these developments, the North Vietnamese, in recent months, began sending even their reserve divisions into South Vietnam. Some 20 divisions, virtually their entire army, are now in South Vietnam. The Government of South Vietnam, uncertain of further American assistance, hastily ordered a strategic withdrawal to more defensible positions.

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Document 4

Source: John Jonik, cartoon about the Love Canal chemical disaster, 1978



Document 5

Source: *Report of the President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island*, October 30, 1979

At 4:00 a.m. on March 28, 1979, a serious accident occurred at the Three Mile Island 2 nuclear power plant near Middletown, Pennsylvania. The accident was initiated by mechanical malfunctions in the plant and made much worse by a combination of human errors in responding to it. . . . During the next 4 days, the extent and gravity of the accident was unclear to the managers of the plant, to federal and state officials, and to the general public. What is quite clear is that its impact, nationally and internationally, has raised serious concerns about the safety of nuclear power.

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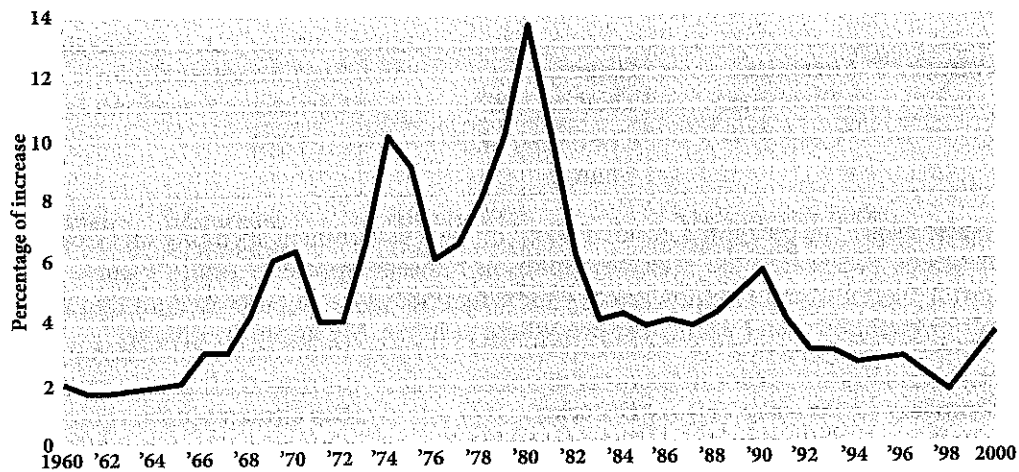
Document 6

Source: Letter from U.S. President Jimmy Carter to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran, November 6, 1979

In the name of the American people, I ask that you release unharmed all Americans presently detained in Iran and those held with them and allow them to leave your country safely and without delay. I ask you to recognize the compelling humanitarian reasons, firmly based in international law, for doing so.

Document 7

Source: U.S. inflation rate, 1960–2000.



END OF DOCUMENT-BASED SECTION