

NAME:

DATE:

PERIOD:

UNIT VI (1865-1898) Ch. 19 Student Outline – THE POLITICS OF THE GILDED AGE

Summarize, do not quote exact wording:

Section 1 Background and Introduction, page 380

Read page 380 and additional information below. **Highlight major cues**, and answer the question that follows.

The Gilded Age, which spanned the final three decades of the nineteenth century, was one of the most dynamic, contentious, and volatile periods in American history. America's industrial economy exploded, generating unprecedented opportunities for individuals to build great fortunes but also leaving many farmers and workers struggling merely for survival. Overall national wealth increased more than fivefold, a staggering increase, but one that was accompanied by what many saw as an equally staggering disparity between the rich and the poor. Industrial giants like Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller revolutionized business and ushered in the modern corporate economy, but also, ironically, sometimes destroyed free-market economic competition in the process. Record numbers of citizens voted in national elections, but the politicians they voted for were often lackluster figures who turned a blind eye to the public interest. It was, as Dickens might have said, the best of times and the worst of times. But even that Dickensian understanding of the Gilded Age isn't quite right. It's not enough to say that the Gilded Age was a time of high highs and low lows; the highs and lows were actually often deeply intertwined parts of the exact same developments. In other words, the highs often were the lows, and vice versa. In the Gilded Age, every dark cloud had its silver lining... and every silver lining had its dark cloud. For more than a hundred years, critics have been ripping the business strategies that allowed big industrialists to build powerful monopolies—but those much-maligned monopolies brought desperately needed order to America's immature economic system. Many have also long resented the immense fortunes of personal wealth that a handful of big businessmen were able to acquire—but that wealth paid for a huge surge in philanthropy, building hundreds of libraries, schools, museums, and other public facilities still enjoyed by the American people even today. Reformers decried the way urban politicians turned corruption into a way of life—but those same crooked politicians also provided vital services to working-class and immigrant neighborhoods. The Gilded Age was a dynamic age of incredible economic opportunity, just as it was a harsh era of incredible economic exploitation. Any version of this tale that includes only the exploitation but not the dynamism—or vice versa—is missing half the story. (Smoop.com)

How did the Gilded Age differ from the era of Reconstruction?

Why did Mark Twain call this era “gilded?”

1. Explain how the terms “laissez-faire” and “Social Darwinism” both supported “**do-little**” government –
2. Explain why there was a higher voter turnout despite the two major parties alienating themselves from important issues –
3. Describe the difference between the party base of the **Republicans** and **Democrats** –
4. Explain how patronage became the driving force behind political control in this era (*Use the **stalwarts**, **halfbreeds**, and **mugwumps** in your response) –

NAME:

DATE:

PERIOD:

5. Describe the “highlights” or major events during each of the following presidencies –
 - a. **Hayes:**

 - b. **Garfield:**

 - c. **Arthur:**

6. Describe the impact of **James G. Blaine** on the Republican Party –

7. Describe the circumstances behind the **election of 1884** –

8. Describe what being hired based on civil service means and how the **Pendleton Act** facilitated that –

9. Explain why debtors, farmers and start-up business owners desired “easy” or “soft money” –

10. Explain why bankers, creditors, investors and established business leaders stood firm for “sound” or “hard” money (this is like *specie circular*) –

11. Describe the “**Crime of 1873**” and how it is connected to the greenback movement –

12. Describe the circumstances behind the **election of 1888** –

13. Explain why the Congress elected in 1888 was called the **Billion-dollar Congress** –

*Remember that whole chapter about the west and how farmers were angry and sad and blah blah blah, well they form their own political party **THE POPULISTS!** And for some reason College Board is obsessed with it! So pay very close attention!

14. Describe the **Omaha Platform** –

NAME:

DATE:

PERIOD:

15. Explain why the party's platform seemed revolutionary for the time –

16. Describe the circumstances behind the **panic of 1893** –

**William Jennings Bryan* is the new Henry Clay – sort of...so pay attention to him

17. Describe the impact of Bryan's "**Cross of Gold**" speech at the Democratic National Convention –

18. Describe the impact this had on the Populist party candidate in the election of 1896:

19. Describe the differences between Bryan's campaigning and McKinley's campaigning in the **election of 1896** –

20. Explain how McKinley (*cough **Hanna** cough*) beat Bryan –

21. Explain the significance of the **election of 1896** both short and long term –

6. Historical Perspectives: Who Were The Populists? Page 391

To what extent was the Populist movement a practical, liberal response to the political and economic problems of the Gilded Age?	To what extent was the Populist movement a romantic, idealistic response to the changes in American culture and economy during the Gilded Age?
Evidence for Populists as Realistic:	Evidence for Populists as Idealistic:

Answer the following Multiple Choice questions in the space below:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

NAME:

DATE:

PERIOD:

Please answer Short Answer #1 in the space below

Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2** on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box.

Q2

Please answer Short Answer #3 in the space below:

Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3 or 4** on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box.

Q3

or

Q4