**Practice Document-Based Question**

**Suggested reading and writing time:** 60 minutes

It is suggested you spend 15 minutes reading the documents and 45 minutes writing your essay.

**Note:** You may begin writing your response before the 15 minute reading period is over.

**Directions:** This question is based on the accompanying documents. They have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

In your response, you should do the following.

* **Thesis:** Respond to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis or claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
* **Contextualization:** Describe a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
* **Use of the documents:** Support an argument in response to the prompt using at least six documents.
* **Outside evidence:** Use at least one additional piece of specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt.
* **Sourcing the documents:** For at least three documents, explain how or why the document’s point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument.
* **Argument Development**: Develop and support a cohesive argument that recognizes and accounts for historical complexity by explicitly illustrating relationships among historical evidence such as contradiction, corroboration, and/or qualification.

**Question 1**: Evaluate the extent to which responsesto the spread of influenza were similar in the early twentieth century.

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| Document One |
| Source: Medical doctor, letter to a friend, Camp Devens, United States Army base near Boston, Massachusetts, 1918.  Camp Devens has about 50,000 men, or it did before the epidemic broke loose. The epidemic started about four weeks ago, and has developed so rapidly that the camp is demoralized and all ordinary work is help up till it has passed. All assemblages of soldiers are taboo. We have been averaging about 100 deaths a day, and still keeping it up.  The normal number of doctors here is about 25 and that has been increased to over 250, all of whom have temporary orders. The little town nearby is quite a sight. It takes special trains to carry away the dead. For several days there were no coffins and the bodies piled up something fierce. We used to go down to the morgue and look at the boys laid out in rows. It beats any sight they ever had in France after a battle.  And you can imagine what the paper work alone is-- fierce-- and the Government demands all paper work be kept up in good shape. So you can see that we are busy. |

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| Document Two |
| Source: Two nurses demonstrate patient care at the Red Cross Emergency Ambulance Station in Washington, D.C., during the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. |

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| Document Three |
| Source: Sanitary Commissioner's report on the influenza epidemic, Madras, British India, 1918.  People, mostly in the interior, were averse in the beginning to resorting to a medical treatment under a superstitious belief that the epidemic was a visitation of the Hindu Goddess Amman and that no treatment by drugs should be attempted. |

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| Document Four |
| Source: Editorial, Brazilian newspaper, Rio de Janeiro, 1918.  The first thing that took us by surprise was our public health agency’s unbelievable ignorance regarding this sickness, which was sweeping Europe in epidemic fashion. Every day the newspapers were filled with telegraphic information on the spread of the illness, on its spread though the Old World, but our public health agency remained unaware of it all and let ships that had departed from questionable ports arrive in Brazil without any sanitary prevention measures. The cases of the naval squadron and the medical mission eventually were reported and only then did the apathy of the Public Health bureaucracy come to an end! |

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| Document Five |
| Source: Two women recalling events from their childhood during 1918 and 1919 in New Zealand, excerpt from a radio show, 1967.  [First Speaker]:  Mother would come home and she would boil up and make the most beautiful vegetable and meat soups, and then I would take them in thermos flasks to people who were too ill to perhaps warms their own food. And I wasn’t allowed to enter the house, I just placed it on the doorstep and then went back to my pony. Most of these people were barely able to come to the door and pick up the container that was left for them.  [Second Speaker]:  I was living with my sister, and she would have a fire set ready for me to light with sulfur sprinkled all over the wood. Before I mixed with the family, I went to this room, lit the fire and bent over it and inhaled some of the fumes and was also fumigated at the same time. We kept away from crowds and never took home books from libraries. |

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| Document Six |
| Source: C.T. Stoneham, British soldier who served in East Africa, about a British military base in Dar es Salaam in 1919, book, *Africa All Over*, published in England, 1934.  Native and Indian *fundi\** made coffins by lamplight and wondered if they themselves would occupy them. Rumors spread throughout the base was that this was THE END: that a God weary of war had determined to wipe humanity off the world by means of a plague more fatal than man’s destructiveness.  \**fundi* (Swahili): a skilled craftsman |

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| Document Seven |
| Source: American resident of British Samoa, account published in *The Evening Post*, a New Zealand newspaper, Wellington, 1919.  *The Samoa Times* admits that 8,000 of our small population in British Samoa have died, but in my own view this is probably too few. Many people insist that the deaths exceed 9,000. We had news of the approach of the influenza about a week before it arrived. The ship *Talune* came in with sickness raging on board. Within four days the infection was on the island of Savaii, and had spread all over. Samoans died on the roads, on the beaches, and near water holes, where they went to bathe their fevered bodies.  The disease, however, was readily kept out of American Samoa, and no one here blames the American Governor John Poyer for keeping out the boat from British Samoa by imposing five days’ isolation. Had British Samoa been similarly guarded we would have continued a safe and prosperous community. |

**Proposed Argument Responses:**

1. Responded by turning to the divine as the cause of the flu.
   1. Docs 3,6
2. Responded by volunteering.
   1. Docs 1,2,5
3. Lack of adequate/unprepared government response.
   1. Docs 4,7