

**PRUEBAS DE ACCESO A LA UNIVERSIDAD PARA ALUMNOS DE
BACHILLERATO LOGSE. Junio 2000**

INGLÉS. CÓDIGO 24

The Rise of a World Power

The half century from the Civil War to the first World War was an epoch (1) of dynamic change in American life. During this period the United States consolidated its continental domain, absorbed a host of immigrants, developed its potential as the most resourceful industrial power in the world, and moved toward a genuine hegemony in world affairs.

The conquered South, at the beginning of this era, was fully (2) occupied with the problems of reconstruction and survival, but the industrial machine of the North soon attained (3) an unprecedented productive capacity. Immigrants thronged* into the industrial centers, or joined the march of older Americans to the West, where the last frontiers gave way** before the growth of railroads, the improvement of farm machinery, and expanding markets. Within a few years, even the South had developed a new economy of small farms and sharecroppers**** and had revived its urban prosperity.

As a whole (4), the period immediately succeeding the Civil War was marked by the restless expansion of new lands and new wealth, by the development of revolutionary inventions, technologies, and new industries, by great accumulations of capital, and by an overwhelming spirit of optimism.

By the 1880s, however, the growing pains of rapid expansion, and the consequent social dislocations, were everywhere acutely evident. The agrarian interests and the poor urban masses found common cause against the industrial giant. Reform movements and labor unrest appeared in successive waves of protest, which resulted in new social and economic legislation improving (5) the prospects of the average citizen.

* *thronged*: crowded, went in large masses.

** *gave way*: (here) surrendered.

*** *sharecropper*: a tenant farmer who pays a share of his crop as rent to the owner of the land (Spanish "aparcerero").

PREGUNTAS (NO ESCRIBIR NADA EN ESTA HOJA DE PREGUNTAS)

Read the preceding text carefully and answer the following questions as specified:

1. What were the advantages and the disadvantages of the rapid progress experienced by the U.S. in those fifty years?

Answer and explain your answer in your own words (25-50 words) (2 marks).

2. How would you judge the behavior of the United States as the most powerful country in the world?

Answer and explain your answer in your own words (25-50 words) (2 marks).

3. Choose the best option. Please, copy the option on your answer sheet (1 mark):

- This restless expansion of the U.S. economy took place immediately before the Civil War.
- This restless expansion of the U.S. economy took place immediately after the Civil War.
- This restless expansion just consisted of the development of revolutionary inventions.
- This restless expansion was restricted to the South, with its overwhelming optimism.

4. Complete the following sentences, using information from the text. PLEASE AVOID REPRODUCING LITERALLY PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, UNLESS THIS IS UNAVOIDABLE (2 marks):

- a. The period.....
- b. The South.....
- c. The North.....
- d. In spite of this rapid expansion

5. Complete with one or more adequate words, using information from the text. PLEASE AVOID REPRODUCING LITERALLY WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT (1 mark):

During the 1880s, a series of financial crises only accentuated the gap (a) the rich and the poor. Serious reform thinkers (b) the eighties and nineties viewed the existing order with (c) distaste and pessimism. This feeling was intensified by government acts of intervention and imperialism overseas, (d) the Spanish-American War of 1898 caused.... (e) violent reaction among these reformers.

6. Relate the words in column A (as marked with numbers in the text) with each of the words in column B (Ex. start and...') (1 mark).

A	B
epoch (1)	reach (1)
fully (2)	make better (2)
attain (3)	completely (3)
as a whole (4)	age (4)
improve (5)	altogether (5)

7. Fill in the blanks with one or more adequate words (1 mark). PLEASE DO NOT COPY WORDS FROM THE TEXT.

- a. The United States lots of immigrants throughout its history.
- b. Between 1860 and 1918, the United States..... the most powerful country in the world.
- c. Between 1860 and 1918, of Americans emigrated to the West.
- d. The rapid growth of the economy of the United States during this period was not serious problems.