

6.7 Labor in the Gilded Age

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 13 marks**

KEY WORDS gilded age 镀金时代

Objective

Build the skills to explain **labour in the Gilded Age** 镀金时代的劳工.

You must be able to:

- state the CED’s three-part claim about wages and living standards
- state what labour and management battled over
- name the two forms workers’ action took
- state what happened to the industrial workforce

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ **Three parts**

As the price of many goods decreased, workers’ real wages increased, providing new access to a variety of goods and services; many Americans’ standards of living improved, while the gap between rich and poor grew. Wages up, living standards up, inequality up — all three at once.

■ **The battle**

Labor and management battled over wages and working conditions.

■ **Two forms**

Workers organised **local and national unions** and/or **directly confronted business leaders**. The CED’s “and/or” allows either or both.

■ **The workforce**

The industrial workforce expanded and child labor increased. The CED states the second half without comment, and an accurate account carries it.

2 Practice

2.1 State the CED’s three-part claim about wages and living standards. [3]

2.2 State the two forms workers’ action took. [2]

2.3 The workforce changed.

(a) State the two changes. [2]

(b) State what labour and management battled over. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 As prices decreased, workers’ real wages [1]

- **A** increased
- **B** decreased
- **C** stayed the same
- **D** were abolished

3.2 Alongside the workforce’s expansion, the CED records that [1]

- **A** child labor increased
- **B** child labor ended
- **C** unions were banned
- **D** wages fell

3.3 Living standards rise and inequality rises at the same time.

(a) State whether both can be true.

[1]

(b) Explain how.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 workers' real wages increased; many Americans' standards of living improved; the gap between rich and poor grew.

2.2 organising local and national unions; directly confronting business leaders.

2.3 (a) the industrial workforce expanded; child labor increased. (b) wages and working conditions.

3.1 A. increased.

3.2 A. child labor increased.

3.3 (a) yes. (b) a rise in real wages improves the position of those at the bottom while incomes at the top rise faster, so the gap widens even as everyone gains.