**1982 DBQ – Raising Children in Britain (16\textsuperscript{th} C. – 18\textsuperscript{th} C.)**

*Directions:* The following question is based on the accompanying Documents 1-14. (Some of the documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.) Write your answer on the lined pages of the pink essay booklet.

This question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. As you analyze the documents, *take into account the source and the point of view of the author.* Write an essay on the following topic that integrates your analysis of the documents; in no case should documents simply be cited and explained in a “laundry list” fashion. You may refer to historical facts and developments not mentioned in the documents.

*The Question:* Analyze continuities and changes in methods of child-rearing among the English upper classes from the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries. How did adult views of children shape adult practices toward their children?

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**Document 1**

Account by Lady Jane Grey of her childhood experiences in the 1530’s, later related to her tutor Roger Ascham

“When I am in the presence either of father or mother, whether I speak, keep silent, sit, stand or go, eat, drink, be merry or sad, be sewing, playing, dancing, or doing anything else, I must do it, as it were, in such weight, measure and number, even so perfectly as God made the world, or else I am so sharply taunted, so cruelly threatened, yea presently sometimes with pinches and bobs*, and other ways I will not name for the honor I bear them, that I think myself in Hell.

*blows with the fist

**Document 2**

Bartholemew Batty, The *Christian Man’s Closet*, 1581

“I myself have known some furious parents who have vied to strike and buffet their children about the face and head, and to lay upon them like malt-sacks with cudgels, staves, pitchfork or fire shovel or whatsoever came into their hands; yea, and very often have cast them on the ground and spurned and kicked them like dogs. If parents would use only the rod, then they would have the means to rejoice and become parents of wise and worthy children.”

**Document 3**

Robert Cleaver, *Godly Form of Household Government*, 1598

“By experience we can see that mothers in swaddling* their little ones do lay their limbs right, each in its place: likewise if a child be left-handed, they scold him: yea, sometimes they bind it up, or otherwise restrict the use of it.”

*to wrap narrow strips of cloth around an infant

**Document 4**

Robert Cleaver, a Calvinist minister writing in *Godly Form of Household Government*, 1598

“The young child which lieth in the cradle is both wayward and impulsive; and though his body be but small, yet he hath a wrong-doing heart, and is altogether inclined to evil. If this spark be allowed to increase, it will rage over and burn down the whole house. For we are changed and become good not by birth but by education. Therefore parents must be wary and circumspect. They must correct and sharply reprove their children for saying or doing ill.”
Document 5

Elizabeth Clinton, *The Countess of Lincoln’s Nursery*, 1622

“Because it hath pleased God to bless me with many children, I thought good to open my mind concerning the duty of nursing (breastfeeding) due by mothers to their own children. Women ought to nurse their own children rather than hire a wet nurse*. They are very willful or ignorant if they question it. I know I should have done it, but partly I was overruled by another’s authority and partly I did not consider my duty in this motherly office. Now I try to regain my peace by preventing many Christian mothers from sinning in the same way.

*a woman who cares for and suckles an infant not her own

Document 6

John Earle, an Anglican minister writing in *Microcosmographic*, 1628

“A child is man in a small letter yet the best copy of Adam before he tasted of Eve or the apple. His soul is yet a blank paper unscribbled with observations of the world, whereas in time it becomes a blurred notebook. He kisses and loves all, and, when the sting of the rod is past, he smiles on his beater. He is purely happy because he knows no evil.”

Document 7

Sir George Savile, first Marquis of Halifax, *The Lady’s New Years Gift; or Advice to a Daughter*, 1687

“You must begin early to make your children love you so that they will obey you. You must deny them as seldom as you can. When there is no avoiding it, you must deny them gently, flattering away their ill-humors and taking the next opportunity of pleasing them in some other things before they either ask or look for it. Let them be more in awe of your kindness than of your power, and above all, take heed of supporting a favorite child in its impertinence, which will give right to the rest of claiming the same privilege.”

Document 8

Letter of an Anglican rector to the Verney family, 1721

“I can no longer contain my joy for our good fortune to have that dear child [Ralph Verney, seven years old] you have left in our hands. He is in perfect health and seems contented, and the sweetness of his temper and vivacity of spirit, joined with the innocence of his age renders him the delight of all about him. He has the liberty of ranging the garden and the fields and on church days has the sole responsibility for the ringing of the bell.”

Document 9

Notes by Lady Louisa Stuart on George Selwyn and His Contemporaries, 1760

“Lord Holland’s education of [his son, Charles] was a system of the most unlimited indulgence of every passion, whim, and caprice. A great dinner was given at Holland House to all the foreign ministers. The children came in at the dessert. Charles, then in petticoats, spying a large bowl of cream in the middle of the table, had a desire to get into it. Lord Holland insisted he should be gratified and in spite of Lady Holland’s protests had it placed on the floor for the child to jump in and splash about at his pleasure.”
Document 10

William Buchan, M.D., *Domestic Medicine; or the Family Physician*, 1772

“In the past, parents wanting to make a show of the infant as soon as it was born, were ambitious to have as much finery heaped upon it as possible, and the poor child, as soon as it came into the world, had as many rollers and wrappers applied to its body, as if every bone had been fractured in the birth; while these were often so tight, as not only to irritate and wound its tender frame, but even to obstruct the motion of the heart, lungs, and other organs necessary for life. In several parts of Britain, the practice of rolling children with so many bandages is now, in some measure, laid aside.”

Document 11

Letter of Sir Philip Francis to his son’s tutor, February 17, 1774

The object which I have in view is to make my son an English gentleman. I am convinced that his mind may be moulded into any form, by the mere influence and persuasion of generous, pathetic, or rational motives. With respect to discipline, I absolutely forbid the use of blows. There are a thousand better ways of restraining and correcting a child, such, for instance, as confinement, neglect, fasting, being kept from play, etc. On the same principle, I would not have him called a dunce, or stupid, or blockhead. That way of degrading can produce no good effect.”

Document 12

[Image: from an English etching, c. 1780]
**Letter from Lady Duncannon to Georgiana, Lady Spencer, May 6, 1786**

“Lady Fitzwilliam and her newborn son are perfectly well. She has breastfed him several times. I think in my life I never saw so happy a creature as Lord Fitzwilliam. He really is almost out of his senses with joy, and can see, think and talk of nothing but his child.”

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**Thomas Gisborne, author of a popular handbook entitled An Enquiry into the Duties of the Female Sex, 1799**

“The first of the parental duties which nature points out to the mother is to nurse her own offspring. To transfer to a stranger, as modern example dictates, the task of nursing your child, when your health and strength are adequate to the undertaking is to exhibit a most shameful degree of selfishness and unnatural insensitivity.”