

## Jefferson Questions

Why does Jefferson prefer an agricultural society to a manufacturing society? What do you think about statements such as, “Those who labour in the earth are the chosen people of God, if ever he had a chosen people, whose breasts he has made his peculiar deposit for substantial and genuine virtue”? (p.64)

Why does Jefferson’s viewpoint on being solely an agricultural society change?

Does Jefferson favor urban or rural life? Why? Why does he have such a dislike for urban life? Do you agree with him?

Do you think that cities are the main centers of discord in discontent in a society? What are your thoughts on Jefferson’s statement that “the mobs of great cities add just so much to the support of pure government, as sores do to the strength of the human body”? (p.64)

Looking at his letter to Dr. Benjamin Rush, do you think Jefferson believes in divine punishment? (p.66)

Do farmers really have a greater stake in a country’s fate because by their trade they are tied “by the most lasting bonds?” (p.65)

Does Jefferson agree with Malthus’ ratios of populations and subsistence?

What final conclusion does Jefferson come to in regard to manufacturing? Why do you think that is so, and why is it important? (p.67)

What would Jefferson think of American society and its economic position in the world today?

What would Jefferson say about off shore manufacturing? (p.65)

Does Jefferson believe in Washington's farewell address of isolationism? (p.67)

If the United States followed Jefferson's ideas about manufacturing, would we have ever made any progress at all?

How does Jefferson understand subsistence? What, if any limitations, come up in his definition? (p. 65, 66)

How effective was Jefferson's original support of agriculture? What role might it have played in the early formation of the U.S. political economy? (p.65)

How does Jefferson compare/contrast Europe and the U.S? Are these comparisons fair? ( i.e. in terms of land space and urbanization-p.66)

How does Jefferson understand his role in government? Is he a man of his word? (p.65, 69)