Max Roser, [“The short history of global living conditions and why it matters that we know it”](https://ourworldindata.org/a-history-of-global-living-conditions-in-5-charts)

Roser gives us progress data in six areas: Poverty, Health, Literacy, Freedom, Population, Education.

1. In your judgment, does Roser’s data support his claim that global living conditions have improved?

2. Do you think those six measures are important?

3. Are those six the *most* important, or are others that were not included more important?

4. In which of the six area(s) do you think we have made the *most* progress?

5. Why does he consider Literacy and Education separately? Are they not intimately related, as literacy is a foundational aspect of education?

6. As this is a *business* ethics course, what role do you think business played in making possible the progress we’ve made?

7. Roser offers some suggestions to explain why so many people are pessimistic or disbelieving about the progress we’ve made. Do you find his explanation satisfactory?

8. Roser claims this: “None of the achievements over the last 2 centuries could have been made without the expansion of knowledge and education. The revolution in how we live was not only driven by education it also made education more important than ever.” Do you think he’s right to say that education drove the progress? Why not, say, technology or political freedom or religious toleration?