

Exercise walk-through

Slavery in the British Colonies ■ 2.6

eXercise

You must be able to

- state the three causes of colonial participation in the slave trade
- state the regional variation the CED describes
- state what the new racial laws did
- state how enslaved people responded

Method — Three causes

All the British colonies participated to varying degrees **due to the abundance of land and a growing European demand for colonial goods, as well as a shortage of indentured servants.**

Method — Regional variation

Small New England farms used relatively few enslaved laborers, all port cities held significant minorities of enslaved people, and the emerging plantation systems of the Chesapeake and the southern Atlantic coast had large numbers of enslaved workers, while the great majority of enslaved Africans were sent to the West Indies. All the colonies participated; the scale differed.

Method — Racial law

As chattel slavery became the dominant labor system in many southern colonies, new laws created a strict racial system that prohibited interracial relationships and defined the descendants of African American mothers as black and enslaved in perpetuity. The system was made by legislation.

Method — Response

Africans developed both overt and covert means to resist the dehumanizing nature of slavery and maintain their family and gender systems, culture, and religion. Two kinds of resistance, and maintenance as well as resistance.

Practice 2.1 ■ 3 marks

State the three causes of colonial participation in the slave trade.

Solution 2.1

Method: Three causes

Worked steps

the abundance of land **B1**; growing European demand for colonial goods **B1**; a shortage of indentured servants **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State what the new racial laws did.

Solution 2.2

Method: Racial law

Worked steps

they created a strict racial system prohibiting interracial relationships **B1** and defined the descendants of African American mothers as black and enslaved in perpetuity **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Enslaved people responded.

- (a) State the CED's two kinds of means.
- (b) State what they maintained.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) overt **B1** and covert **B1** means of resistance. (b) their family and gender systems, culture and religion **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The CED says the great majority of enslaved Africans were sent to

- A** the West Indies
- B** New England
- C** the middle colonies
- D** Canada

Solution 3.1

Method: Regional variation

A the West Indies



B New England

C the middle colonies

D Canada

Worked steps

A. the West Indies.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

The strict racial system was created by

- A** new laws
- B** custom alone
- C** royal proclamation only
- D** the colonists' churches

Solution 3.2

Method: Racial law

A new laws



B custom alone

C royal proclamation only

D the colonists' churches

Worked steps

A. new laws.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A student writes that only southern colonies participated in slavery.

- (a) State the error.
- (b) Explain the accurate claim.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) all the British colonies participated to varying degrees **B1**. (b) New England farms used relatively few enslaved labourers and port cities held significant minorities **B1**, while the plantation systems held large numbers — a difference of scale, not of participation **B1**.