

Exercise walk-through

Imperialism: Debates ■ 7.2

eXercise

You must be able to

- name the four imperialist arguments
- name the three anti-imperialist arguments
- state what both sides invoked
- explain what the shared argument shows

Method — Four imperialist arguments

Economic opportunities, racial theories, competition with European empires, and the perception in the 1890s that the western frontier was “closed” — used to argue that Americans were destined to expand their culture and institutions to peoples around the globe.

Method — Three anti-imperialist arguments

Principles of self-determination, racial theories, and the U.S. foreign policy tradition of isolationism.

Method — The shared argument

Racial theories appear on both lists. The same body of thought was used to argue for expansion and against it.

Method — What that shows

An argument is not the same as a position. Racial theory could justify governing others or refusing to admit them, so knowing someone's premises does not tell you their conclusion — which is exactly why the CED lists it twice.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Name the four imperialist arguments.

Solution 2.1

Method: Four imperialist arguments

Worked steps

economic opportunities; racial theories; competition with European empires; the perception that the frontier was closed **B2**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 3 marks

Name the three anti-imperialist arguments.

Solution 2.2

Method: Three anti-imperialist arguments

Worked steps

principles of self-determination **B1**; racial theories **B1**; the U.S. foreign policy tradition of isolationism **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

One argument appears on both lists.

- (a) Name it and explain how it served both.
- (b) State what this shows about arguments and positions.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) racial theories **B1**; they justified governing others and also refusing to admit them **B1**. (b) that premises do not determine conclusions **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Imperialists cited the 1890s perception that the western frontier was

- A** “closed”
- B** expanding
- C** unexplored
- D** foreign

Solution 3.1

Method: Four imperialist arguments

A “closed”



B expanding

C unexplored

D foreign

Worked steps

A. “closed”.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Anti-imperialists invoked self-determination, racial theories and

A the tradition of isolationism

B the Monroe Doctrine

C the tariff

D free silver

Solution 3.2

Method: Three anti-imperialist arguments

A the tradition of isolationism



B the Monroe Doctrine

C the tariff

D free silver

Worked steps

A. isolationism.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

The same theory is used by both sides of a debate.

- (a) State what this shows.
- (b) Explain what an answer must therefore do.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) that the theory does not determine the position **B1**. (b) state which use of the theory it means **B1** and how that use produced the conclusion in question **B1**.