

1.5 Labor, Slavery, and Caste in the Spanish Colonial System

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS caste system 种姓等级制度 • encomienda system 委托监护制 • mining 采矿 • spanish colonial system

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **Spanish colonial system** 西班牙殖民体系.

You must be able to:

- state what the encomienda system did
- state the CED's account of the trade in enslaved Africans
- state what the caste system did
- use the CED's precise wording on this subject

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Encomienda

In the encomienda system, Spanish colonial economies marshaled Native American labor to support plantation-based agriculture and extract precious metals and other resources.

■ The trade

European traders partnered with some West African groups who practiced slavery to forcibly extract enslaved laborers for the Americas. The Spanish imported enslaved Africans to labor in plantation agriculture and mining. Note **some**, and note **forcibly extract**.

■ Caste

The Spanish developed a caste system that incorporated, and carefully defined the status of, the diverse population of Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans in their empire. A system of law, not of custom.

■ Precision

The CED’s qualifiers are exact and each one does work: “some West African groups” refuses a generalisation, “forcibly extract” names the act, “carefully defined” makes the caste system deliberate. Reproduce them.

2 Practice

2.1 State what the encomienda system did. [2]

2.2 State the CED’s account of the trade in enslaved Africans. [2]

2.3 The CED’s qualifiers do work.

(a) State what “some West African groups” refuses. [1]

(b) State what “carefully defined” makes the caste system. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The caste system defined the status of Europeans, Africans and [1]

- A Native Americans
- B Asians only
- C nobody else
- D the clergy only

3.2 The CED’s verb for how enslaved labourers were obtained is [1]

- A forcibly extract
- B freely recruit

- **C** peacefully purchase
 - **D** voluntarily employ
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3.3 A student writes that West African societies supplied enslaved people.

(a) State what the CED's wording adds. [1]

(b) Explain why the qualifier matters. [2]

Solutions

2.1 it marshaled Native American labor to support plantation agriculture and extract precious metals and other resources.

2.2 European traders partnered with some West African groups who practiced slavery to forcibly extract enslaved laborers; the Spanish imported enslaved Africans for plantation agriculture and mining.

2.3 (a) a generalisation about West African societies. (b) it makes the caste system a deliberate legal construction rather than a custom that grew up.

3.1 A. Native Americans.

3.2 A. forcibly extract.

3.3 (a) “some” West African groups, and that the extraction was forcible. (b) the CED declines to generalise across West African societies, and naming the force accurately is what makes the account true.