

2.6 Slavery in the British Colonies

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

KEY WORDS strict racial system 严格的种族制度 • slavery in the colonies 殖民地的奴隶制 • chattel slavery 动产奴隶制
• indentured servants 契约仆役 • chesapeake 切萨皮克

Objective

Build the skills to explain **slavery in the colonies** 殖民地的奴隶制.

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

1 Worked examples

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

■ 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**.

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

2 Practice

2.1 State the three causes of colonial participation in the slave trade. [3]

2.2 State what the new racial laws did. [2]

2.3 Enslaved people responded.

(a) State the CED's two kinds of means. [2]

(b) State what they maintained. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The CED says the great majority of enslaved Africans were sent to [1]

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

3.2 The strict racial system was created by [1]

- **A** new laws
- **B** custom alone
- **C** royal proclamation only

- **D** the colonists' churches
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3.3 A student writes that only southern colonies participated in slavery.

(a) State the error. [1]

(b) Explain the accurate claim. [2]

Solutions

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

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

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

3.1 A. the West Indies.

3.2 A. new laws.

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