

4.13 The Society of the South in the Early Republic

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS southern society 南方社会

Objective

Build the skills to explain **Southern society** 南方社会.

You must be able to:

- state the CED's fact about slaveholding in the South
- state what most Southern leaders argued
- state what Southern business leaders relied on
- explain what overcultivation caused

1 Worked examples

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

■ The fact

Although the majority of Southerners owned no enslaved persons, most leaders argued that slavery was part of the Southern way of life. The CED puts a demographic fact and a political claim in one sentence.

■ Leaders and population

Most Southerners were not slaveholders, and most Southern leaders defended slavery. Both are true, and the gap between them is a fact about who spoke for the section.

■ The economy

Southern business leaders continued to rely on the production and export of traditional agricultural staples, contributing to the growth of a distinctive Southern regional identity. The economy and the identity develop together.

■ Overcultivation

As overcultivation depleted arable land in the Southeast, slaveholders began relocating their plantations to more fertile lands west of the Appalachians, where the institution of slavery continued to grow. An environmental cause with a political consequence.

2 Practice

2.1 State the CED's fact about slaveholding and what most leaders argued. [2]

2.2 State what Southern business leaders relied on and its effect. [2]

2.3 Overcultivation had a political consequence.

(a) State the chain. [2]

(b) State what the gap between population and leaders shows. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The majority of Southerners [1]

- **A** owned no enslaved persons
- **B** owned plantations
- **C** lived in cities
- **D** opposed slavery publicly

3.2 Overcultivation depleted arable land in [1]

- **A** the Southeast
- **B** New England

- **C** the Northwest Territory
 - **D** California
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3.3 Most people in a section do not hold an institution, and their leaders defend it as their way of life.

(a) State what this reveals. [1]

(b) Explain how such a defence can be sustained. [2]

Solutions

2.1 the majority of Southerners owned no enslaved persons; most leaders argued that slavery was part of the Southern way of life.

2.2 the production and export of traditional agricultural staples, contributing to a distinctive Southern regional identity.

2.3 (a) overcultivation depleted arable land in the Southeast, so slaveholders relocated plantations west of the Appalachians, where slavery continued to grow. (b) who spoke for the section.

3.1 A. the CED's own statement.

3.2 A. the Southeast.

3.3 (a) that the leadership's position did not depend on majority ownership. (b) the institution can be defended as regional identity rather than as personal interest, which enlists people who hold no enslaved persons themselves.