

5.5 Sectional Conflict: Regional Differences

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 14 marks

KEY WORDS violence 暴力 • the sectional argument 地区分歧

Objective

Build the skills to explain **the sectional argument** 地区分歧.

You must be able to:

- state the two labour systems the CED contrasts
- explain the free-soil argument and how it differs from abolition
- state the three things abolitionists did
- name the three grounds on which slavery was defended

1 Worked examples

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

■ Two labour systems

The North's expanding manufacturing economy relied on free labor in contrast to the Southern economy's dependence on enslaved labor.

■ Free soil

Some Northerners did not object to slavery on principle but claimed that slavery would undermine the free labor market. As a result, a free-soil movement arose that portrayed the expansion of slavery as incompatible with free labor. Free soil is an argument about labour markets, not about the morality of slavery — a distinction the CED makes explicitly.

■ Abolitionists

African American and white abolitionists, although a minority in the North, mounted a highly visible campaign against slavery, presenting moral arguments against the institution, assisting escapes, and sometimes expressing a willingness to use violence to achieve their goals.

■ **Three defences**

Racial doctrines, the view that slavery was a positive social good, and the belief that slavery and states' rights were protected by the Constitution.

A racial claim, a social claim and a legal claim.

2 Practice

2.1 Explain the free-soil argument and how it differs from abolition. [2]

2.2 Name the three grounds on which slavery was defended. [3]

2.3 Abolitionists were a minority.

(a) State the three things they did. [3]

(b) State the CED's word for their campaign. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Free soil argued that slavery's expansion was incompatible with [1]

- **A** free labor
- **B** the tariff
- **C** westward migration
- **D** immigration

3.2 Abolitionists in the North were [1]

- **A** a minority
- **B** a majority

- **C** a political party
 - **D** nonexistent
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3.3 A movement opposes slavery's expansion without objecting to slavery.

(a) Name the movement. [1]

(b) Explain the reasoning behind its position. [2]

Solutions

2.1 free soil claimed slavery's expansion would undermine the free labour market; abolition objected to slavery on principle.

2.2 racial doctrines; the view that slavery was a positive social good; the belief that slavery and states' rights were protected by the Constitution.

2.3 (a) presenting moral arguments; assisting escapes; sometimes expressing a willingness to use violence. (b) highly visible.

3.1 A. free labor.

3.2 A. a minority.

3.3 (a) the free-soil movement. (b) it held that enslaved labour would displace free labour in new territories, so the objection is economic and concerns the territories rather than the institution.