

Exercise walk-through

Failure of Reconstruction ■ 5.11

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what happened to land ownership
- explain the sharecropping system and whom it limited
- name the four means by which rights were stripped away
- state the CED's claim about the amendments' later use

Method — Land

Southern plantation owners continued to own the majority of the region's land even after Reconstruction. Formerly enslaved persons sought land ownership but generally fell short of self-sufficiency.

Method — Sharecropping

An exploitative and soil-intensive sharecropping system limited blacks' and poor whites' access to land in the South. The CED names poor whites as well — the system's victims were not defined by race alone.

Method — Four means

Segregation, violence, Supreme Court decisions, and local political tactics progressively stripped away African American rights. “Progressively” — over time, not at once.

Method — Later use

The 14th and 15th amendments eventually became the basis for court decisions upholding civil rights in the 20th century. The text survived its own defeat and became the instrument of a later advance.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what happened to land ownership after Reconstruction.

Solution 2.1

Method: Land

Worked steps

Southern plantation owners continued to own the majority of the region's land **B1**; formerly enslaved persons sought land ownership but generally fell short of self-sufficiency **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Name the four means by which rights were stripped away.

Solution 2.2

Method: Four means

Worked steps

segregation; violence; Supreme Court decisions; local political tactics **B2**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

The amendments outlived their defeat.

- (a) State the CED's claim.
- (b) State whom the sharecropping system limited.

Solution 2.3

Method: Sharecropping

Worked steps

(a) they eventually became the basis for court decisions upholding civil rights in the 20th century **B2**. (b) blacks and poor whites **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The sharecropping system is described as exploitative and

A soil-intensive

B voluntary

C short-lived

D profitable for tenants

Solution 3.1

Method: Sharecropping

A soil-intensive



B voluntary

C short-lived

D profitable for tenants

Worked steps

A. soil-intensive.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

“Progressively stripped away” indicates the loss of rights was

A over time

B immediate

C reversed

D never real

Solution 3.2

Method: Four means

A over time



B immediate

C reversed

D never real

Worked steps

A. over time.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A constitutional text is nullified in practice and later becomes the basis of a legal victory.

- (a) State the CED's claim about the 14th and 15th amendments.
- (b) Explain how this is possible.

Solution 3.3

Method: Later use

Worked steps

(a) exactly this **B1**. (b) the text remained in the Constitution while its enforcement lapsed **B1**, so a later court could enforce what had never been repealed **B1**.