

Exercise walk-through

Election of 1860 and Secession ■ 5.7

eXercise

You must be able to

- state how Lincoln's victory was accomplished
- state what followed the election
- explain the significance of 'without any Southern electoral votes'
- state the CED's word for how secession was decided

Method — The victory

Abraham Lincoln's victory on the Republicans' free-soil platform in the presidential election of 1860 was accomplished without any Southern electoral votes.

Method — What followed

After a series of contested debates about secession, most slave states voted to secede from the Union, precipitating the Civil War.

Method — Without Southern votes

A president could now be elected against the unanimous opposition of a section. That demonstrated to the South that the electoral arithmetic no longer required its consent — the political fact behind the decision to leave.

Method — ‘Contested’ and ‘voted’

The CED says debates were **contested** and states **voted**. Secession was decided, with opposition, rather than occurring; and “most slave states” is not all of them.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State how Lincoln's victory was accomplished.

Solution 2.1

Method: The victory

Worked steps

on the Republicans' free-soil platform **B1**, without any Southern electoral votes **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain the significance of “without any Southern electoral votes”.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

a president could be elected against the unanimous opposition of a section **B1**, so the electoral arithmetic no longer required Southern consent **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

The CED's wording about secession is precise.

- (a) State what “contested” and “voted” indicate.
- (b) State what “most slave states” indicates.

Solution 2.3

Method: What followed

Worked steps

(a) that secession was decided through debate and voting **B1**, with opposition, rather than simply occurring **B1**. (b) that not all slave states seceded **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Lincoln's platform in 1860 was

- A** free soil
- B** abolition
- C** nativism
- D** annexation

Solution 3.1

Method: The victory

A free soil



B abolition

C nativism

D annexation

Worked steps

A. free soil.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

“Most slave states” indicates

A not all of them seceded

B all of them seceded

C none seceded

D only one seceded

Solution 3.2

A not all of them seceded



B all of them seceded

C none seceded

D only one seceded

Worked steps

A. not all.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A president is elected with no votes from an entire section.

- (a) State what this demonstrates.
- (b) Explain why it changes the section's calculation.

Solution 3.3

Method: Without Southern votes

Worked steps

- (a) that the section's votes are no longer needed to decide a national election **B1**.
- (b) influence inside the system had rested on being needed **B1**, and a section that is not needed must find another means of protecting its position **B1**.