

2.3 The Regions of British Colonies

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to compare the **colonial regions** 殖民地区域.

You must be able to:

- state each region's economy
- state the labour system of each
- state the CED's claim about self-government
- explain how New England and southern political power differed

1 Worked examples

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

■ Four regions

Chesapeake and North Carolina: tobacco, initially by white, mostly male indentured servants and later by enslaved Africans. **New England:** settled by Puritans, small towns with family farms, a thriving mixed economy of agriculture and commerce. **Middle colonies:** a flourishing export economy based on cereal crops, attracting a broad range of European migrants, with greater cultural, ethnic and religious diversity and tolerance. **Southern Atlantic coast and British West Indies:** long growing seasons, plantation economies exporting cash crops, dependent on the labour of enslaved Africans.

■ Enslaved majorities

In the southern Atlantic and West Indies colonies enslaved Africans **often constituted the majority of the population** and **developed their own forms of cultural and religious autonomy**.

■ Self-government

Distance and Britain's initially lax attention led to the colonies creating self-governing institutions that were unusually democratic for the era.

■ Two political forms

New England based power in participatory town meetings, which in turn elected members to their colonial legislatures; in the southern colonies, elite planters exercised local authority and also dominated the elected

assemblies. Both elected; the difference is who could effectively participate.

2 Practice

2.1 State the economy and labour system of the Chesapeake. [2]

2.2 State what produced colonial self-government. [2]

2.3 Two regions organised political power differently.

(a) State each form. [2]

(b) State what the middle colonies' economy attracted. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The middle colonies' export economy was based on [1]

- **A** cereal crops
- **B** tobacco
- **C** sugar
- **D** furs

3.2 Colonial self-governing institutions arose from distance and [1]

- **A** Britain's initially lax attention
- **B** a royal decree
- **C** a written constitution
- **D** military defeat

3.3 Both New England and the southern colonies had elected assemblies.

(a) State what nonetheless differed. [1]

(b) Explain the difference. [2]

4 Go further

- work through the **2.3 The Regions of British Colonies** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Period 2: 1607-1754** section of the AP US History handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 tobacco exporting; initially white, mostly male indentured servants and later enslaved Africans.

2.2 distance and Britain's initially lax attention.

2.3 (a) New England: participatory town meetings electing colonial legislatures; southern colonies: elite planters exercising local authority and dominating the assemblies. (b) a broad range of European migrants, producing greater cultural, ethnic and religious diversity and tolerance.

3.1 A. cereal crops.

3.2 A. lax attention.

3.3 (a) who could effectively participate. (b) New England power began in participatory town meetings, while southern assemblies were dominated by elite planters who already held local authority.