

4.3 Politics and Regional Interests

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

KEY WORDS regional interests 区域利益

Objective

Build the skills to explain **regional interests** 区域利益 in politics.

You must be able to:

- state the CED’s claim about regional and national concerns
- state what debates over the American System were about
- state the CED’s verdict on the Missouri Compromise
- explain what ‘only temporarily stemmed’ concedes

1 Worked examples

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

■ Regional over national

Regional interests often trumped national concerns as the basis for many political leaders’ positions on slavery and economic policy. “Often” and “many” — a tendency, carefully qualified.

■ The American System

Plans to further unify the U.S. economy, such as the American System, generated debates over whether such policies would benefit agriculture or industry, potentially favoring different sections of the country. A plan for unity that produced a sectional argument.

■ Missouri

Congressional attempts at political compromise, such as the Missouri Compromise, only temporarily stemmed growing tensions between opponents and defenders of slavery.

■ ‘Only temporarily’

The CED grants that the compromise worked and denies that it settled anything. Both halves matter: an answer calling it a failure has missed that it held, and one calling it a success has missed that the tensions were still growing.

2 Practice

2.1 State the CED’s claim about regional and national concerns. [2]

2.2 State what debates over the American System were about. [2]

2.3 “Only temporarily stemmed” has two halves.

(a) State each. [2]

(b) State what the qualifiers “often” and “many” contribute. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The CED says regional interests often trumped [1]

- **A** national concerns
- **B** foreign policy
- **C** the Constitution
- **D** party discipline

3.2 The American System debate concerned whether policies would benefit [1]

- **A** agriculture or industry
- **B** Britain or France
- **C** courts or legislatures
- **D** cities or towns

3.3 A compromise holds for thirty years and the underlying tension grows.

(a) State the CED's judgment. [1]

(b) Explain why both halves belong in an answer. [2]

Solutions

2.1 regional interests often trumped national concerns as the basis for many leaders' positions on slavery and economic policy.

2.2 whether such policies would benefit agriculture or industry, potentially favouring different sections of the country.

2.3 (a) it did stem the tensions; it did so only temporarily. (b) they make the claim a tendency rather than a rule.

3.1 A. national concerns.

3.2 A. agriculture or industry.

3.3 (a) that it only temporarily stemmed growing tensions. (b) calling it a failure misses that it held; calling it a success misses that the tensions kept growing beneath it.