

4.9 The Development of an American Culture

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **new national culture** 新的民族文化.

You must be able to:

- state the three elements the new culture combined
- name the two influences on literature and the arts
- explain what 'human perfectibility' contributed
- connect this subtopic to the reform movements

1 Worked examples

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

■ Three elements

A new national culture emerged that combined American elements, European influences, and regional cultural sensibilities. The regional element is in the definition of the national culture.

■ Two influences

Liberal social ideas from abroad and Romantic beliefs in human perfectibility influenced literature, art, philosophy, and architecture.

■ Perfectibility

If people can be improved, then institutions that fail them can be reformed. The belief supplies the premise the reform movements of 4.11 argue from.

■ The connection

4.9 and 4.11 are the same intellectual development seen twice: once as culture and once as politics. An answer that keeps them apart misses why the reform movements arose when they did.

2 Practice

2.1 State the three elements the new culture combined. [3]

2.2 Name the two influences on literature and the arts. [2]

2.3 Perfectibility connects to reform.

(a) Explain the connection. [2]

(b) State what an answer keeping 4.9 and 4.11 apart misses. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The new national culture combined American elements, European influences and [1]

- **A** regional cultural sensibilities
- **B** foreign languages only
- **C** nothing else
- **D** military traditions

3.2 Romantic beliefs concerned [1]

- **A** human perfectibility
- **B** hereditary rank
- **C** trade policy
- **D** judicial review

3.3 A society believes people can be improved.

(a) State what follows for its institutions. [1]

(b) Explain why this produces reform movements.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **4.9 The Development of an American Culture** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Period 4: 1800-1848** section of the AP US History handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 American elements; European influences; regional cultural sensibilities.

2.2 liberal social ideas from abroad; Romantic beliefs in human perfectibility.

2.3 (a) if people can be improved, institutions that fail them can be reformed, which is the premise the reform movements argue from. (b) why the reform movements arose when they did.

3.1 A. regional sensibilities.

3.2 A. human perfectibility.

3.3 (a) that they can be judged by whether they improve people. (b) an institution that does not improve people now stands accused, and improving it becomes a project people can organise around.