

5.11 Failure of Reconstruction

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain **what followed Reconstruction** 重建之后.

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

1 Worked examples

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

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ Four means

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

■ 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.

2 Practice

2.1 State what happened to land ownership after Reconstruction. [2]

2.2 Name the four means by which rights were stripped away. [2]

2.3 The amendments outlived their defeat.

(a) State the CED's claim. [2]

(b) State whom the sharecropping system limited. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The sharecropping system is described as exploitative and [1]

- **A** soil-intensive
- **B** voluntary
- **C** short-lived
- **D** profitable for tenants

3.2 "Progressively stripped away" indicates the loss of rights was [1]

- **A** over time
- **B** immediate
- **C** reversed
- **D** never real

3.3 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. [1]

(b) Explain how this is possible.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **5.11 Failure of Reconstruction** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Period 5: 1844-1877** section of the AP US History handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

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

2.2 segregation; violence; Supreme Court decisions; local political tactics.

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

3.1 A. soil-intensive.

3.2 A. over time.

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the text remained in the Constitution while its enforcement lapsed, so a later court could enforce what had never been repealed.