

5.11 Failure of Reconstruction

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

KEY WORDS sharecropping 分成租佃 • stripped away 逐步剥夺
• supreme court decisions 最高法院判决 • segregation 种族隔离 • reconstruction 重建时期

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]

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.