

# 5.5 Sectional Conflict: Regional Differences

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: 14 marks

KEY WORDS violence 暴力 • the sectional argument 地区分歧

## Objective

Build the skills to explain **the sectional argument** 地区分歧.

You must be able to:

- state the two labour systems the CED contrasts
- explain the free-soil argument and how it differs from abolition
- state the three things abolitionists did
- name the three grounds on which slavery was defended

## 1 Worked examples

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

■ Two labour systems

The North’s expanding manufacturing economy relied on free labor in contrast to the Southern economy’s dependence on enslaved labor.

■ Free soil

Some Northerners did not object to slavery on principle but claimed that slavery would undermine the free labor market. As a result, a free-soil movement arose that portrayed the expansion of slavery as incompatible with free labor. Free soil is an argument about labour markets, not about the morality of slavery — a distinction the CED makes explicitly.

■ Abolitionists

African American and white abolitionists, although a minority in the North, mounted a highly visible campaign against slavery, presenting moral arguments against the institution, assisting escapes, and sometimes expressing a willingness to use violence to achieve their goals.

■ Three defences

Racial doctrines, the view that slavery was a positive social good, and the belief that slavery and states’ rights were protected by the Constitution. A racial claim, a social claim and a legal claim.

## 2 Practice

2.1 Explain the free-soil argument and how it differs from abolition. [2]

2.2 Name the three grounds on which slavery was defended. [3]

2.3 Abolitionists were a minority.

(a) State the three things they did. [3]

(b) State the CED’s word for their campaign. [1]

## 3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Free soil argued that slavery’s expansion was incompatible with [1]

- A free labor
- B the tariff
- C westward migration
- D immigration

**3.2** Abolitionists in the North were

[1]

- **A** a minority
  - **B** a majority
  - **C** a political party
  - **D** nonexistent
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**3.3** A movement opposes slavery's expansion without objecting to slavery.

(a) Name the movement.

[1]

(b) Explain the reasoning behind its position.

[2]

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## Solutions

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**2.1** free soil claimed slavery's expansion would undermine the free labour market; abolition objected to slavery on principle.

**2.2** racial doctrines; the view that slavery was a positive social good; the belief that slavery and states' rights were protected by the Constitution.

**2.3** (a) presenting moral arguments; assisting escapes; sometimes expressing a willingness to use violence. (b) highly visible.

**3.1 A.** free labor.

**3.2 A.** a minority.

**3.3** (a) the free-soil movement. (b) it held that enslaved labour would displace free labour in new territories, so the objection is economic and concerns the territories rather than the institution.