

5.7 Election of 1860 and Secession

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

KEY WORDS election of 1860 1860 年大选 • abraham lincoln 林肯

Objective

Build the skills to explain **the election and secession** 1860 年大选与脱离.

You must be able to:

- state how Lincoln’s victory was accomplished
- state what followed the election
- explain the significance of ‘without any Southern electoral votes’
- state the CED’s word for how secession was decided

1 Worked examples

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

■ **The victory**

Abraham Lincoln’s victory on the Republicans’ free-soil platform in the presidential election of 1860 was accomplished without any Southern electoral votes.

■ **What followed**

After a series of contested debates about secession, most slave states voted to secede from the Union, precipitating the Civil War.

■ **Without Southern votes**

A president could now be elected against the unanimous opposition of a section. That demonstrated to the South that the electoral arithmetic no longer required its consent — the political fact behind the decision to leave.

■ **‘Contested’ and ‘voted’**

The CED says debates were **contested** and states **voted**. Secession was decided, with opposition, rather than occurring; and “most slave states” is not all of them.

2 Practice

2.1 State how Lincoln’s victory was accomplished. [2]

2.2 Explain the significance of “without any Southern electoral votes”. [2]

2.3 The CED’s wording about secession is precise.

(a) State what “contested” and “voted” indicate. [2]

(b) State what “most slave states” indicates. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Lincoln’s platform in 1860 was [1]

- **A** free soil
- **B** abolition
- **C** nativism
- **D** annexation

3.2 “Most slave states” indicates [1]

- **A** not all of them seceded
- **B** all of them seceded
- **C** none seceded
- **D** only one seceded

3.3 A president is elected with no votes from an entire section.

(a) State what this demonstrates. [1]

(b) Explain why it changes the section's calculation. [2]

Solutions

2.1 on the Republicans' free-soil platform, without any Southern electoral votes.

2.2 a president could be elected against the unanimous opposition of a section, so the electoral arithmetic no longer required Southern consent.

2.3 (a) that secession was decided through debate and voting, with opposition, rather than simply occurring. (b) that not all slave states seceded.

3.1 A. free soil.

3.2 A. not all.

3.3 (a) that the section's votes are no longer needed to decide a national election. (b) influence inside the system had rested on being needed, and a section that is not needed must find another means of protecting its position.