

7.2 Imperialism: Debates

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **imperialism debate** 帝国主义辩论.

You must be able to:

- name the four imperialist arguments
- name the three anti-imperialist arguments
- state what both sides invoked
- explain what the shared argument shows

1 Worked examples

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

■ **Four imperialist arguments**

Economic opportunities, racial theories, competition with European empires, and the perception in the 1890s that the western frontier was "closed" —used to argue that Americans were destined to expand their culture and institutions to peoples around the globe.

■ **Three anti-imperialist arguments**

Principles of self-determination, racial theories, and the U.S. foreign policy tradition of isolationism.

■ **The shared argument**

Racial theories appear on both lists. The same body of thought was used to argue for expansion and against it.

■ **What that shows**

An argument is not the same as a position. Racial theory could justify governing others or refusing to admit them, so knowing someone's premises does not tell you their conclusion —which is exactly why the CED lists it twice.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the four imperialist arguments. [2]

2.2 Name the three anti-imperialist arguments. [3]

2.3 One argument appears on both lists.

(a) Name it and explain how it served both. [2]

(b) State what this shows about arguments and positions. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Imperialists cited the 1890s perception that the western frontier was [1]

- **A** "closed"
- **B** expanding
- **C** unexplored
- **D** foreign

3.2 Anti-imperialists invoked self-determination, racial theories and [1]

- **A** the tradition of isolationism
- **B** the Monroe Doctrine
- **C** the tariff
- **D** free silver

3.3 The same theory is used by both sides of a debate.

(a) State what this shows. [1]

(b) Explain what an answer must therefore do.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **7.2 Imperialism: Debates** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Period 7: 1890-1945** section of the AP US History handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 economic opportunities; racial theories; competition with European empires; the perception that the frontier was closed.

2.2 principles of self-determination; racial theories; the U.S. foreign policy tradition of isolationism.

2.3 (a) racial theories; they justified governing others and also refusing to admit them. (b) that premises do not determine conclusions.

3.1 A. "closed".

3.2 A. isolationism.

3.3 (a) that the theory does not determine the position. (b) state which use of the theory it means and how that use produced the conclusion in question.