

2.3 The Regions of British Colonies

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

KEY WORDS lax attention 松散管理 • cereal crops 谷物 • tobacco 烟草
• indentured servants 契约仆役 • self-governing institutions 自治机构

Objective

Build the skills to compare the **colonial regions** 殖民地区域.

You must be able to:

- state each region’s economy
- state the labour system of each
- state the CED’s claim about self-government
- explain how New England and southern political power differed

1 Worked examples

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

■ Four regions

Chesapeake and North Carolina: tobacco, initially by white, mostly male indentured servants and later by enslaved Africans. **New England:** settled by Puritans, small towns with family farms, a thriving mixed economy of agriculture and commerce. **Middle colonies:** a flourishing export economy based on cereal crops, attracting a broad range of European migrants, with greater cultural, ethnic and religious diversity and tolerance. **Southern Atlantic coast and British West Indies:** long growing seasons, plantation economies exporting cash crops, dependent on the labour of enslaved Africans.

■ Enslaved majorities

In the southern Atlantic and West Indies colonies enslaved Africans **often constituted the majority of the population and developed their own forms of cultural and religious autonomy.**

■ Self-government

Distance and Britain’s initially lax attention led to the colonies creating self-governing institutions that were unusually democratic for the era.

■ Two political forms

New England based power in participatory town meetings, which in turn elected members to their colonial legislatures; in the southern colonies, elite planters exercised local authority and also dominated the elected assemblies. Both elected; the difference is who could effectively participate.

2 Practice

2.1 State the economy and labour system of the Chesapeake. [2]

2.2 State what produced colonial self-government. [2]

2.3 Two regions organised political power differently. [2]

(a) State each form. [2]

(b) State what the middle colonies’ economy attracted. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The middle colonies’ export economy was based on [1]

A	B
C	D

- A cereal crops
B tobacco
C sugar
D furs

3.2 Colonial self-governing institutions arose from distance and [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** Britain's initially lax attention
B a royal decree
C a written constitution
D military defeat

3.3 Both New England and the southern colonies had elected assemblies.

(a) State what nonetheless differed. [1]

(b) Explain the difference. [2]
