

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. [3]

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

3.2 Abolitionists in the North were [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A a minority
B a majority
C a political party
D nonexistent

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]
