

## DOCUMENT BASED QUESTION

**This question is based on the accompanying documents (1- 8). This question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.**

### **Historical Context:**

The Civil War may have settled some significant national problems, but it created many more. Yes, slavery was abolished, secession had been refuted, and the supremacy of the national government confirmed. But the cost of Union victory- in lost lives, destroyed property, and sectional bitterness- was staggering, and created huge new problems and tasks.

**Task:** Using information from the documents and your knowledge of US history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay, in which you will be asked to answer:

- Select three reasons Reconstruction failed to guarantee rights for Freedman and for each:
  - o Explain why each measure failed.

NOTE: The rubric (scoring criteria) for this essay appears on the next page.

## Document Based Question Scoring Rubric

### Score of a 5:

- Shows a thorough understanding of the theme or problem
- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth
- Is more analytical than descriptive
- Incorporates relevant information from a majority of the documents
- Incorporates substantial relevant outside information
- Richly supports essay with relevant facts, examples and details
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

### Score of a 4:

- Develops all aspects of the task but may do so somewhat unevenly
- Is both descriptive and analytical
- Incorporates relevant information from a majority of the documents
- Incorporates relevant outside information
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples and details
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

### Score of a 3:

- Develops all aspects of the task but with little depth or develops most aspects of the task in some depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical
- Incorporates some relevant information from some of the documents
- Incorporates limited relevant outside information
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some minor inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a satisfactory and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that may be a restatement of the theme

### Score of a 2:

- Minimally develops all aspects of the task or develops some aspects of the task in some depth
- Is primarily descriptive; may include faulty, weak or isolated application or analysis
- Incorporates little relevant information from the documents *or* consists of primarily relevant information copied from the documents
- Presents limited relevant outside information
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addressed; may lack an introduction and/ or conclusion

### Score of a 1:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task
- Is descriptive; may lack understanding, application or analysis
- Makes vague, unclear references to the documents or consists primarily of relevant and irrelevant information copied from the documents
- Presents no relevant outside information
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details; may include inaccuracies
- May demonstrate a weakness in organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addressed; may lack introduction and/ or a conclusion

### Score of a 0:

Fails to develop the task or may only refer to the theme in a general way; *OR* includes no relevant facts, examples or details; *OR* includes only the historical context and/ or task as copied from the test booklet; *OR* includes only entire documents copied from the test booklet *OR* is illegible; *OR* is a blank paper

## Part A: Documents

### Document 1

In January 1866, soon after the Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery, radical Republicans in Congress began arguing that freedmen should be allowed to vote on equal terms with whites. A bill was introduced to give the vote to the freedmen of the District of Columbia. Most Democrats and many moderate Republicans opposed the bill, though most radical Republicans supported it (even though only five Northern states allowed African- American men to vote at the time). The following excerpts come from a speech of Pennsylvania Congressman Benjamin Boyer, a Democrat who opposed the bill to enfranchise the African-Americans of the District of Columbia.

It is common for the advocates of negro suffrage to assume that the color of the negro is the main obstacle to his admission to political equality.... But it is not the complexion of the negro that degrades him... [the Negro is] a race by nature inferior in mental caliber... the negroes are not the equals of white Americans, and are not entitled... to participate in the Government of this country...

1a. Why, according to Congressman Boyer, should African Americans be denied the right to vote? [1]

---

---

1b. Was this racist viewpoint widely held at the time? Explain your answer. [1]

---

---

Score

### Document 2

This excerpt, from the report of General George Thomas about activity in Tennessee, was published in the *New York Times* on November 23, 1868.

With the close of the last, and the beginning of the new year the state of Tennessee was disturbed by the strange operations of a mysterious organization known the “Kuklux Klan”... its grand purpose being to establish a nucleus around which “the adherents of the late rebellion might safely rally.”

2a. According to General Thomas, what was the purpose of the Ku Klux Klan? [1]

---

---

2b. How did the Ku Klux Klan help to undermine Congress’ efforts to ensure equal rights? [1]

---

---

Score

**Document 3**

This excerpt is from *The Era of Reconstruction, 1865- 1877*, by Kenneth M. Stampp.

Meanwhile southern Democrats gained strength when Congress finally removed the political disabilities from most of the prewar leadership. In May 1872, because of pressure from the Liberal Republican, Congress passed a general amnesty act which restored the right of officeholding [and voting] to the vast majority of those who had been disqualified.... After the passage of this act only a few hundred ex- Confederates remained unpardoned.

3. How did the restoration of voting rights to white Southerners undermine efforts [1]

---

---

Score

**Document 4**

These excerpts are from an editorial in the *Atlanta News*, dated September 10, 1874.

Let there be White Leagues formed in every town, village and hamlet of the South, and let us organize for the great struggle which seems inevitable.

We have submitted long enough to indignities, and it is time to meet brute- force with brute- force.

If the white democrats of the North are men, they will not stand idly by and see us borne down by northern radicals and half-barbarous negroes. But no matter what they may do, it is time for us to organize.

4. What is this editorial advocating? [1]

---

---

Score

**Document 5**

Following are headlines and excerpts from front-page news stories in November 1874.

**Headline text from the *New York Times*, November 4, 1874**

**DEMOCRATIC VICTORY  
CONGRESS TO BE DEMOCRATIC**

**Headline and story text from the *New York Times*, November 5, 1874**

**THE REPUBLICAN DEFEAT**

Our later telegrams only add to the magnitude of the defeat experienced on Tuesday.... In the House [of Representatives] the Democrats' gains continue to increase in numbers.

5a. How did this Democratic victory help to undermine Congress' efforts to help the freedmen? [1]

---

---

5b. What factors discredited the Republican Party during the early 1870's? Explain. [1]

---

---

Score

**Document 6**

In 1935, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, a prominent African- American historian, published a major history of Reconstruction. Here is a brief excerpt from that book. (From *Black Reconstruction in America*)

But the decisive influence was the systematic and overwhelming economic pressure. Negroes who wanted to must not dabble in politics. Negroes what wanted to increase their income must not agitate the Negro problem... in order to earn a living, the American Negro was compelled to give up his political power.

6. According to DuBois, how were freedmen "convinced" to stop voting or taking part in politics? [1]

---

---

Score

**Document 7**

During the 1930's, a major effort was made to interview elderly African Americans who could share recollections of their youth in slavery. The following document is an excerpt from an interview with a man named John McCoy. McCoy was born in 1838 and had lived 27 years as a slave in Texas. (Benjamin Botkin, ed., *Lay My Burden Down: A Folk History of Slavery*)

Freedom wasn't no different I knows of. I works for Marse John just the same for a long time. He say one morning, "John, you can go out in the field iffen you wants to or you can get out iffen you wants to, cause the government say you is free. If you wants to work I'll feed you and give you clothes but can't pay you no money. I ain't got none." Humph, I didn't know nothing what money was, nohow, but I knows I'll git plenty victuals to eat, so I stays....

7. What does the recollection suggest as a reason for the failure to guarantee rights to freemen? [1]

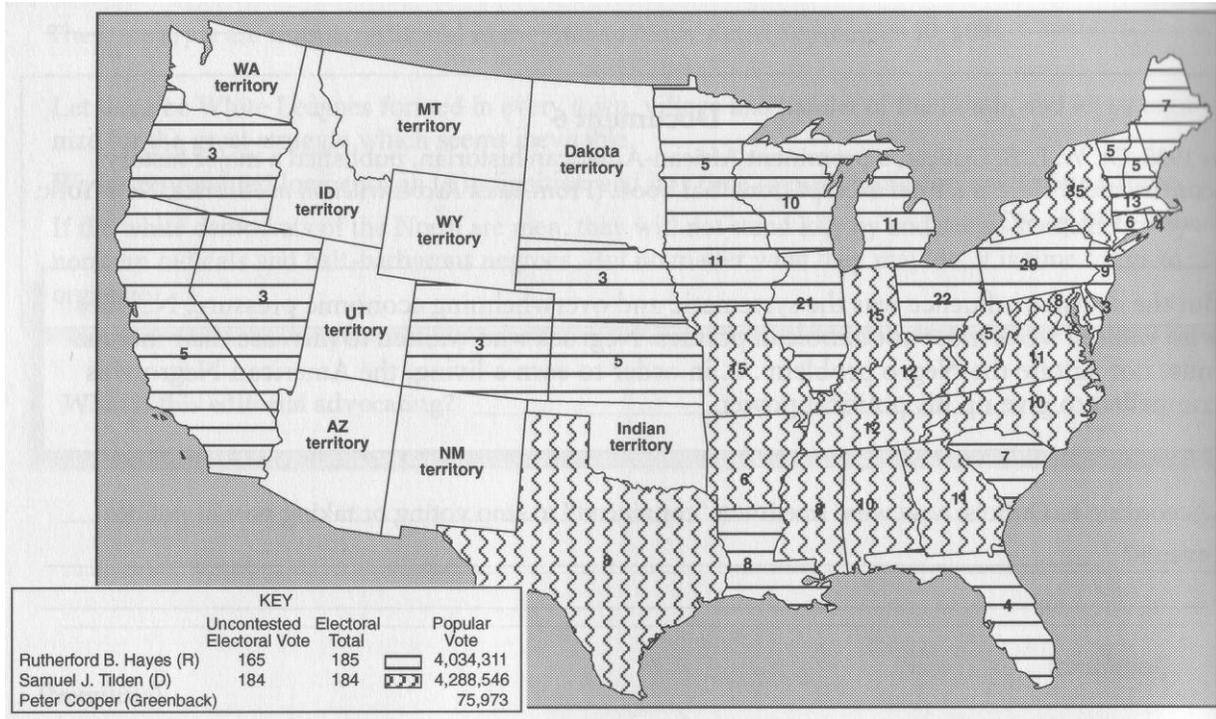
---

---

Score

**Document 8**

The disputed presidential election of 1876 set the stage for the final stage of Reconstruction- the removal of all federal troops from the last three “unreconstructed” Southern states: Louisiana, South Carolina and Florida.



7a. How was it possible that Hayes “won” the election of 1876? [1]

---



---

7b. How did this disputed election lead to the end of Reconstruction? Explain your answer. [1]

---



---

Score

## Part B

### Essay

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs and a conclusion. Use evidence from *at least five* documents in your essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples and details. Include additional related information.

### Historical Context:

The Civil War may have settled some significant national problems, but it created many more. Yes, slavery was abolished, secession had been refuted, and the supremacy of the national government confirmed. But the cost of Union victory- in lost lives, destroyed property, and sectional bitterness- was staggering, and created huge new problems and tasks.

**Task:** Using information from the documents and your knowledge of US history, write an essay in which you:

- Select three reasons Reconstruction failed to guarantee rights for Freedman and for each:
  - o Explain why each measure failed.

### Guidelines:

**In your essay, be sure to**

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from *at least four* documents in the body of the essay
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme