



Mock Test

AA America 1840-1895: Expansion and Consolidation

Answers



Interpretation A

Alexander H. Stephens writing in 1868 on the causes of the American Civil War. Stephens was a prominent supporter of states' rights and had been made the first vice-president of the Confederacy in 1861, where he claimed the new Confederate government was based upon the 'great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man'.

The conflict, on this question of slavery, in the Federal Councils, from the beginning, was not a contest between the advocates or opponents of that peculiar institution, but a contest [...] between the supporters of a strictly Federative Government, on the one side, and a thoroughly National one, on the other.

Interpretation B

American Historian David Brion Davis writing in 1977 on the causes of the American Civil War.

Paradoxically, the South increasingly came to regard Negro slavery as the necessary base on which freedom must rest. From the North a commitment to slavery's ultimate extinction was the test of freedom. Each section detected a fatal change in the other, a betrayal of the principles and mission of the Founding Fathers. Each section feared that the other had become transformed into a despotic and conspiratorial power.

1. How does Interpretation B differ from Interpretation A about the main cause of the American Civil War?

Explain your answer based on what it says in Interpretations A and B.
(4 marks)

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 2 3-4 marks	Developed analysis of both interpretations' content to explain difference Answers show extended reasoning to explain difference
Level 1 1-2 marks	Simple analysis of one or both interpretations' content to identify differences

Indicative content:

- Interpretation 1 says that the main cause of the war was not 'slavery' but differences in opinion between arguments for a 'Federative' or 'National' government. It is implied that this 'contest' may have been linked to the issue of slavery, but that disagreements over the form of government took primacy.
- Interpretation 2 says that 'slavery' was the main cause of the war. The author argues that slavery highlighted the ideological differences between the North and South, with slavery representing 'freedom' in the South and abolition representing freedom in the North. This is what caused the two sides to become hostile, viewing each other as 'despotic'.

Other relevant material should be credited

2. Why might the authors of Interpretations A and B have a different interpretation about the main cause of the American Civil War?

Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B and your contextual knowledge.
(4 marks)

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 2 3-4 marks	Developed analysis of both interpretations' provenance to explain reasons for differences Answers progress from identification of differences to explanation of differences
Level 1 1-2 marks	Simple analysis of one or both interpretations' provenance to identify reasons for differences

Indicative content:

- Interpretation 1's author was a politician at the time of the events as vice-president of the Confederacy - this may be why he sees the cause of the war as political differences. Interpretation 2's author wrote in 1977 so would not have been personally involved in the politics - he has a different focus (slavery) afforded by this detachment from the events.**

Other relevant material should be credited

3. Which interpretation gives the more convincing opinion about the main cause of the American Civil War?

**Explain your answer based on your contextual knowledge and using what it says in Interpretations A and B.
(8 marks)**

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 4 7-8 marks	Complex evaluation of interpretations based on contextual knowledge/understanding A clear judgement is sustained throughout Answers at this level could analyse the relationship between the interpretations, supported by factual knowledge/understanding
Level 3 5-6 marks	Developed evaluation of interpretations based on contextual knowledge/understanding Answers may show extended reasoning Answers may make a judgement
Level 2 3-4 marks	Simple evaluation of one interpretation based on contextual knowledge/understanding They may be basic comments about the other interpretation
Level 1 1-2 marks	Basic evaluation of one or both interpretations based on contextual knowledge/understanding

Indicative content:

Arguments in favour of Interpretation 1:

- **Debates around federalism were an important source of tension between the northern and southern states**
- **Some southern states felt their liberty to make laws was being threatened - this was a reason they wanted to secede from the Union**
- **Political attempts to resolve tension didn't work - the Supreme Court declared the 1854 Missouri Compromise unconstitutional which aimed at creating a balance between free and slave states**
- **This evidence could support the author's argument that slavery was a secondary issue to the political tensions**

Arguments in favour of Interpretation 2:

- **The author taps into a real ideological need at the time to establish America's national identity**
- **Both sides saw slavery or abolition as freedom as those goals were necessary for each to advance their economies - the North needed abolition for the free development of capitalism whereas the southern economy relied on slave labour**
- **Even though the author of Interpretation 1 states that slavery was not the key issue, it is evident through the provenance information given that racist attitudes in support of slavery were fundamental to southern states' sense of identity, which would be in favour of Interpretation 2**

Other relevant material should be credited

**4. Describe two reasons why Plains Indians had a successful way of life.
(4 marks)**

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 2 3-4 marks	Answers show knowledge and understanding Answers may show extended reasoning
Level 1 1-2 marks	Answers show knowledge

Indicative content:

- The Plains Indians hunted and utilised buffalo. They provided large amounts of food and clothing. They also were far faster than travelling on horseback so were useful for Plains Indians' nomadic lifestyle.
- Plains Indians could adapt to their conditions and environment. Their nomadic lifestyle allowed them to use tipis, which effective against the elements and could be moved quickly to escape bad weather or move to areas with better food sources.

Other relevant material should be credited

**5. In what ways were the lives of Plains Indians affected by the continued settlement of the west after 1865?
(8 marks)**

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 4 7-8 marks	<p>Complex explanation of changes</p> <p>Answers show a range of relevant, accurate, detailed knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Answers at this level could explain the complex nature of change affected by differences such as time, group or social/economic factors, supported by knowledge and understanding</p>
Level 3 5-6 marks	<p>Developed explanation of changes</p> <p>Answers show a range of relevant, accurate knowledge and understanding (of 2 or more identified consequences)</p>
Level 2 3-4 marks	<p>Simple explanation of change</p> <p>Answers show specific knowledge and understanding about one of the identified changes</p>
Level 1 1-2 marks	<p>Basic explanation of one or more changes</p>

Indicative content:

- **The Plains Indians saw further violence from white settlers. Their Second Fort Laramie Treaty 1868 granted the Sioux a reserve but when they refused to sell it to the US in 1876 the US send soldiers to attack it in the Battle of Little Big Horn.**
- **The Plains Indians continued to be hemmed into reservations. When Sioux and Cheyenne warriors fled reservations, the government required them to return or face death.**
- **The Dawes Act 1887 gave Plains Indians families an allotted 160 acre homestead. This aimed to break the power of the tribal system.**
- **Plains Indians lost even more territory during the 1889 Oklahoma Land Rush.**
- **The extinction of buffalo forced huge changes for Plains Indians' way of life as they relied on buffalo to support their nomadic lifestyle, for food, transport and clothing.**

Other relevant material should be credited

6. Which of the following was the most important reason why white settlers moved west in the 1840s and 1850s?

- Manifest Destiny**
- The Gold Rush**

**Explain your answer with reference to both bullet points.
(12 marks)**

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 4 10-12 marks	<p>Complex explanation of both points leading to a sustained judgement</p> <p>Answers show a range of relevant, accurate, detailed knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Answers at this level could explain the relationship between causes supported by knowledge and understanding leading to a sustained judgement</p>
Level 3 7-9 marks	<p>Developed evaluation of both points</p> <p>Answers show a range of relevant, accurate, detailed knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Answers show extended reasoning</p>
Level 2 4-6 marks	<p>Simple explanation of one or both points</p> <p>Answers show specific relevant knowledge and understanding</p>
Level 1 1-3 marks	<p>Basic explanation of one or both points</p>

Indicative content:

- **Manifest Destiny presented moving west as a mission from God - people saw it as their duty to spread democracy and Protestantism - this was used as an ideological justification for the displacement of Plains Indians**
- **The Gold Rush was a strong material incentive for people to move west as they thought they could make their fortune there - by Spring 1849 there were 40,000 miners there**

Other relevant material should be credited