

United States History

SECTION II

Part A

(Suggested writing time—45 minutes)

Percent of Section II score—45

Directions: The following question requires you to construct a coherent essay that integrates your interpretation of Documents A through H and your knowledge of the period referred to in the question. High scores will be earned only by those essays that both cite key pieces of evidence from the documents and draw on outside knowledge of the period.

To what degree did the American political system and public opinion accept broad construction of the Constitution in antebellum America?

Document A

Source: McCullough v. Maryland, Supreme Court Decision, 1819.

The powers of the general government, it has been said, are delegated by the States, who alone are truly sovereign; and it must be exercised in subordination to the States, who alone possess supreme domination. It would be difficult to sustain this proposition. . . . The government of the United States, then, though limited in its powers, is supreme. . . .
[Commanger, *Documents*: 213]

Document B

Source: The Missouri Compromise, 1820.

And be it further enacted, that in all that territory ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of 36°30' N latitude, not included with the limits of the state [Missouri], slavery and involuntary servitude, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes . . . shall be, and is hereby, forever prohibited. . . . [Annals IV: 592]

Document C

Source: Hugh S. Legaré, Review in the Southern Review, 1828.

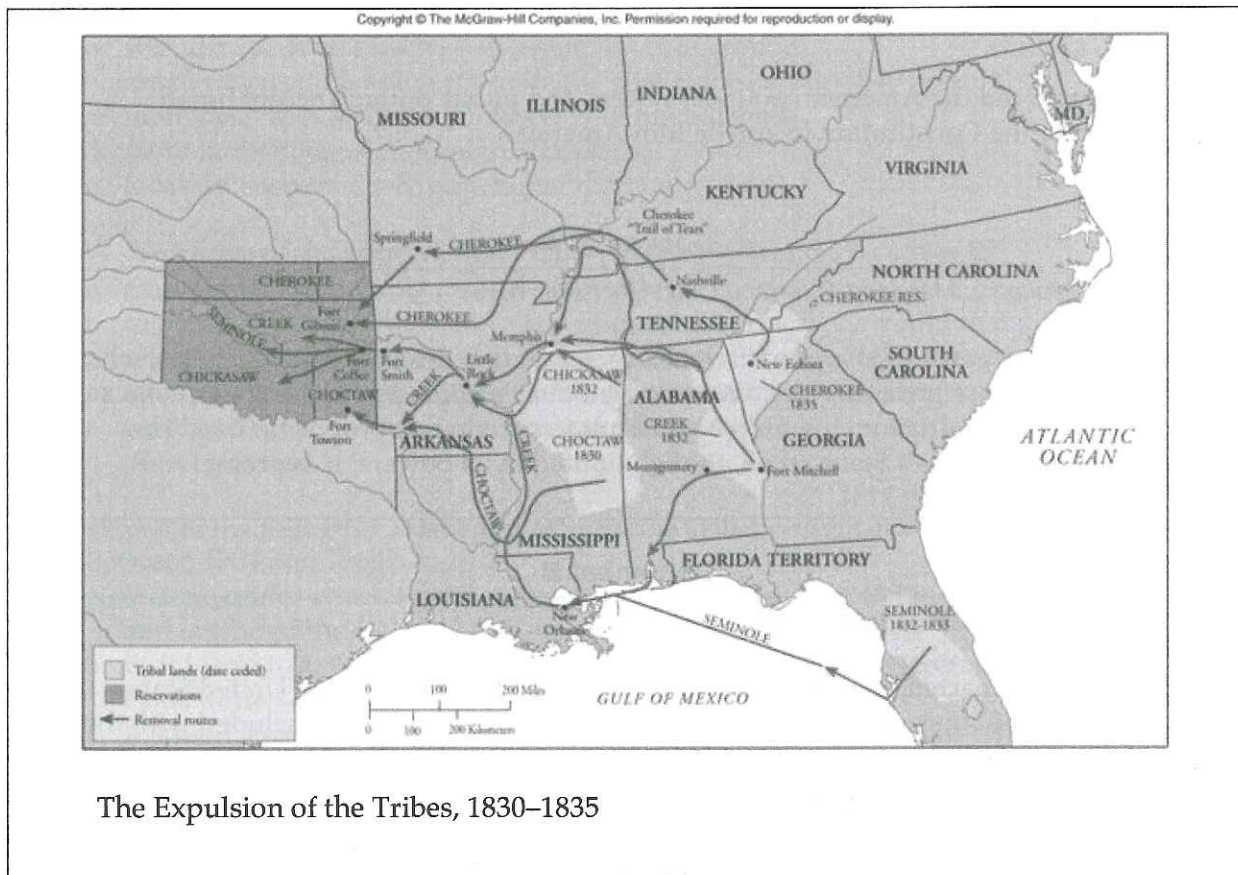
“. . . the government has been fundamentally altered by the progress of opinion; that instead of being any longer one of enumerated powers and a circumscribed sphere, as it was beyond all doubt intended to be, it knows absolutely no bounds but the majority of Congress; that instead of confining itself in time of peace to the diplomatic and commercial relations of the country, it is seeking out employment for itself by interfering in the domestic concerns of society, and threatens, in the course of a very few years, to control, in the most offensive and despotic manner, all the pursuits, the interests, the opinions, and the conduct of men.
[Annals V: 276]

Document D

Source: James Madison, letter to Edward Everett, 1830.

This brings us to the expedient lately advanced, which claims for a single state a right to appeal against an exercise of power by the government of the United States decided by the state to be unconstitutional. . . . Can more be necessary to demonstrate the inadmissibility of such a doctrine than it puts in the power of the smallest fraction over one-fourth of the United States. . . . giving such a power to such a minority over such a majority would overturn the first principle of free government. . . . [Annals V: 402]

Document E



Document F

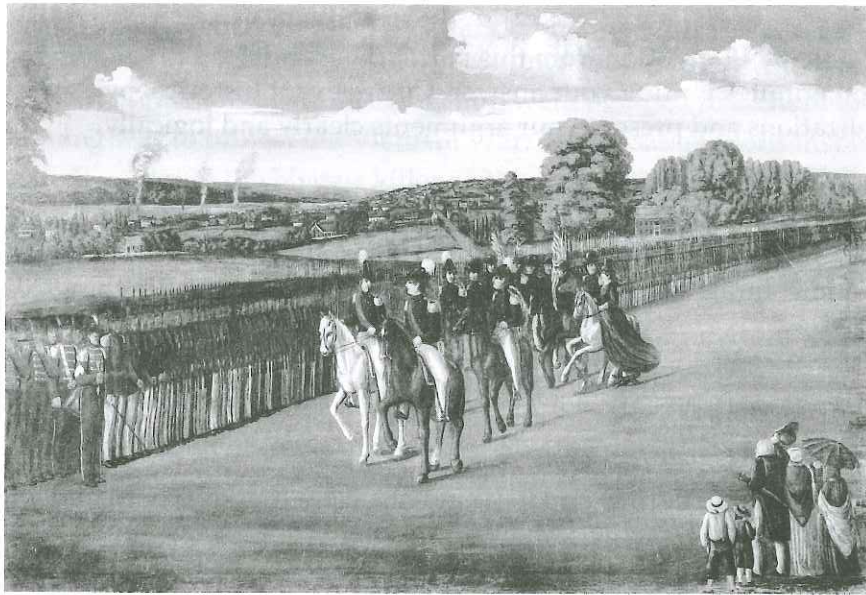
Source: Library of Congress.



King Andrew the First political cartoon, 1832

Document G

Source: Carl Christensen, Mormon Joseph Smith Reviewing His Troops, Nauvoo, IL, 1839–1845.



Joseph Smith reviewing his troops

Document H

Source: James K. Polk, Inaugural Address, 1845.

Whatever is good or evil in the local institutions of Texas will remain her own, whether annexed to the United States or not. None of the present states will be responsible for them any more than they are for the local institutions of each other. [Annals VII: 287]

United States History

SECTION II

Part B and Part C

(Suggested total planning and writing time—70 minutes)

Percent of Section II score—55

Part B

Directions: Choose ONE question from this part. You are advised to spend 5 minutes planning and 30 minutes writing your answer. Cite relevant historical evidence in support of your generalizations and present your arguments clearly and logically.

1. How closely did America adhere to George Washington's foreign policy principles in TWO of the periods listed below?
1805 to 1825
1844 to 1865
1880 to 1900
2. Analyze the role of women and minorities in antebellum reform movements.

Part C

Directions: Choose ONE question from this part. You are advised to spend 5 minutes planning and 30 minutes writing your answer. Cite relevant historical evidence in support of your generalizations and present your arguments clearly and logically.

1. "World War I was the culmination of progressivism in America."
Evaluate the validity of this statement during the period 1901–1921.
2. Compare and contrast the role of religion in society and politics in the 1920s and the 1950s.

PRACTICE EXAM ANSWERS

Multiple-Choice Answers

1. d. Relations between Pilgrims and local Indians were friendly compared with those between the Chesapeake settlers and the Powhatan tribe.
2. a. *Common Sense* was published in January 1776 and made a strong argument in straightforward prose for a break with England.
3. d. Jefferson's policy changes were not radical, but the Louisiana Purchase had a dramatic effect on the development of the United States.
4. e. With the passage of the Force Bill, Jackson was ready to send troops to South Carolina to collect the tariff. A compromise tariff defused the crisis.
5. b. Much like the slave codes, the black codes were designed to keep African Americans in a subservient position.