



AP[®] World History 2003 Sample Student Responses

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①
Part A #1

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Indentured servitude was revived again in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Its ~~earlier~~ earlier popularity had been lost when the Europeans had discovered African slave labor. However, with the antislave movements of the 1800s, the colonial powers were looking for a new labor force and found one among their own colonies. Sending thousands of indentured ~~set~~ servants to the island nations ~~and~~ of the ~~Caribbean~~ Caribbean and Pacific, the powers of the world saw an end to their labor problems. Yet, indentured servitude would prove no better than slavery in the end.

The antislavery movements of the 1800s, both in Europe and the Americas, had the colonial powers scrambling to find labor in their colonies. The colonial industries provided the raw materials Europe needed to keep supplying its colonies with the finished products. Indentured servitude seemed the easy and humane solution. It was not slavery (Document 1), it was an offer that the people could either accept or reject. It was supported within the colonies (Document 2) where the colonists realized they didn't have

enough hands to work the sugar plantations and textile factories.

It would also appear, if Documents 3 and 4 are analyzed, that the colonies ~~was~~ who went on to supply the labor believed in the ideas behind indentured servitude as well. From India, China and Japan, thousands left their homeland as indentured servants. They left looking for a better life for themselves and their families. All three of those nations were going through 'rough' spots in the 1800s and early 1900s. India was a colony of Great Britain and native Indians were unequal in the government's eyes and lived in poverty. China was carved up into spheres of influence by Europe and daily Chinese life was a struggle. Japan was at the mercy of the shoguns, fierce lords who had a puppet emperor and all the wealth.

So, Indians, Chinese, and Japanese left their homelands believing in the good conditions of their servitude contract (Document 7). They knew it would not be an easy life but it was free passage, 5 years of their lives and then freedom in a whole new country where they could possibly ~~buy~~ buy land of their own and

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provide for their family better than they could in their homeland. Not to mention they would be well taken care of while serving out their 5 years. Food and clothing given to them, a house that was to be kept in good repair by their master, medicine a doctor for the sick all to be given them simply for 5 years of their life.

Yet, it was not that simple. A lot of masters didn't uphold their end of the bargain promised to their servants. As Document 8 shows, employers pushed their ~~servants~~ servants for ~~hours~~ hours and didn't give them enough time to rest and eat. Their wages were insufficient to their daily work and they were docked days when they couldn't work because of illness. In many ways, indentured servants were treated just as slaves were, only they willingly entered into the position whereas slaves hadn't been given the choice.

The daily life of indentured ~~set~~ servants involved long hours in the fields of sugar cane (Document 5) and in the blistering sun. Most of the colonies indentured servants were used in were tropical and along the Equator. The back breaking ~~work~~ work started with sunrise and ended after dark. Those few who were

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placed in factories dealt with working with dangerous machinery and overseers constantly making them go faster which would have caused mistakes and possible injuries.

In the end, many perished from disease and exhaustion. Others reached their goal and were freed in five years to make their own fortunes. Some returned home, disillusioned by their 5 years of voluntary slavery and others remained as Document 9 shows, adding to their adopted country's prosperity and population.

Indentured servitude, though not the best system of labor, provided the tropical colonies with the labor they needed and gave other oppressed colonials the chance at a new life. Perhaps other historical documents that could have been ~~shown~~ shown would have been an indentured servant's first hand account or even an account of a servant's once they were free and entered the society of the servant's 'new' country.

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In the 1800's, after the abolition of slavery in America in 1865, and Britain in 1833, cheap labor had such a high demand that a new institution was created to satisfy this demand. This institution became known as indentured servitude. Indentured servitude was a type of bondage mostly supported by the elite in wealthy countries. The less fortunate were less enthusiastic about the idea; as they were the ones who suffered. Although indentured servitude was in some ways a cruel and unjust system, with low pay and terrible conditions, (Document 7), it also provided a way to satisfy the demand for labor.

~~This demand for cheap labor was so strong that the aristocracy went to great lengths to obtain it.~~
The demand for labor in some places was so strong that in 1855, it was estimated that around 60,000 workers were needed to work the 60,000 acres of sugar crops (Document 2). Because of this immense need, Document 2 justifies the use of indentured servants. The British colonist writing the editorial in this document most likely had a biased view, as they wanted to import cheap labor to avoid paying workers higher wages. Britain in general was not very generous towards indentured servants,

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they considered them "... recruits for the military service," (Document 1), written by a powerful British man as a way to justify the use of indentured servants. ~~The~~ He shared a popular belief that indentured servants are not slaves, but proletarians that voluntarily sell themselves to make a living. Both of these documents were written by powerful, educated, British men, who no doubt were biased. The demand for labour and thirst for profit surely had much to do with the creation of the institution of indentured servitude.

After the creation, the institution spread fast and furiously throughout Africa, and Asia. ~~The~~ According to Document 3, indentured migrations were largest from ~~the~~ East Asia to South America, and the Middle East to South America. The reason for the large influx to S. America was most likely the large production of sugar cane, coffee, and tobacco. Another document analyzing migration is Doc. 4, which clearly shows that the largest immigration was from ~~S. America~~ ^{India} to ~~S. America~~ ^{Manitoba} (455,000), and India to Suriname (239,000). China also contributed to Peru, ~~Japan~~, Cuba, and Hawaii, while Japan sent servants to Peru and Hawaii. These two documents are charts, and graphs, and have no

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visible bias. Document 6, published by the British government, shows the changes of former slaves and Asian Indians in Mauritius, one of the most prominent areas for indentured servants. This document shows the consequences of the immigration of Asian Indians as indentured servants to the island of Mauritius. Another consequence is shown in Document 9, ~~which~~ because ~~of~~ of indentured migration, the majority of population in 1920-1921 in the Caribbean was indentured servants from Asia.

Indentured servants endured back-breaking work, long hours, and low pay. Document 8 is written by an indentured servant describing such conditions. Ramana had insufficient time to rest, 15 hour work days, and an unfair master. These conditions violate the contract that Ramana probably signed (Document 7). The emigrant is not required to work on Sundays, and only required to labor seven-ten hours a day. This contract provides transportation and clothing there, but not for the return voyage. The contract is written by an educated man, who was most likely trying to trick one of the indentured servants. It was ~~was~~ apparently not valid anyway, as the

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IN4
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employers took advantage.

~~Finally,~~

Other documents to be used to analyze indentured servitude would be first hand accounts from Asian ~~and~~ African and American indentured servants.

Finally, although indentured servitude provided labor, it was an unfair system, as the rich took advantage and exploited the cheap labor.

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With the sequential ban of slavery worldwide, the quest to find new sources of labor became increasingly important to ^{previously} strong economies based on slave labor. Many such economies turned to the application & exploitation of indentured servants to help to reduce labor necessities in the Caribbean especially. During the late nineteenth & early twentieth century, the brutal working & living conditions rivaled those of the previous slave labor conditions, a fundamental shift in the primary origin of the indentured servants & the effects that the ban on slavery had on the increasing number of indentured servants.

Indentured servants during the nineteenth & twentieth centuries had a similarly poor set of working & living conditions to that of the preceding slave labor living & working conditions. Herman Merivale describes in Document 1 that indentured servants are not "voluntary immigrants" nor "slaves seized by violence" but rather that they have been recruited for service similar to "military service". As a British undersecretary, Merivale obviously tries to explain that indentured servitude is better than slavery & even hints at it being honorable as he equates it to military service. He does not tell of the harsh conditions of servitude but rather that the people choose to become indentured servants. The pictures illustrated in Document 5 illustrate, first, the poor living conditions of indentured servants, and then, the extreme amount of labor required from indentured servants. However, the fact that both pictures are taken to illustrate the poor conditions of indentured servitude & white superiority, illustrates that perhaps not all places of indentured servitude are of these poor conditions. Document 7 & Document 8 are polar opposites as Document 7 is ~~the~~ an illustration of a British indentured service agreement which, of course, will make servitude more appealing to possible servants while Document 8 tells the real account of a servant in South Africa. Although, Document 8 might also have published the truth to make his argument of harsh treatment & conditions seem more cruel & unjust. Document 1 tells of what the British supposedly promise to the

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will save of indentured servants but Document 8, though biased, tells of a first person account of those rights being violated & exploited. The working of many areas of indentured servitude are made to seem tolerable & palatable by colonizing nations but are not always followed through with & do not make people as happy as it seems.

The ban & significant reduction of legal areas of slavery leads to the exponential increase in the number of indentured servants as their labor gradually replaces slave labor in plantations especially in the Caribbean. Document 7 is a South African document that claims that the decrease of slave labor has "caused a significant increase in work to be done & will need no "fewer than 60,000 laborers" to be required in South Africa. This editorial makes it seem that indentured servants are a necessity and the increasing labor needs are a justification for indentured servitude labor.

It is because of this need for labor created by the abolition of slavery that cause the number of indentured servants to sky-rocket during the nineteenth & twentieth centuries.

Document 6 illustrates that beginning in 1816, the amount of slaves 49,300 in Mauritius is replaced by nearly 56,200 indentured servants. This shows the direct correlation between the decrease in slaves yielding an increase in servants. However, because of the fact that this is a British Government table, the numbers quite possibly skewed to favor the British in the number of indentured servants & former slaves.

As Document 3 illustrates, the primary focus of African slave labor was to the Caribbean & Doc 3 shows that most of the servants went to the same region showing that the decrease in slaves was just displaced in the region by an increase in servants. But, the fact that no specific number of indentured servants is given by the document shows that there may be bias as to the amount of servants coming from all parts of the world.

Another key aspect of the indentured servant migration to consider is that as slavery shifted to indentured servitude, the principle origin of labor shifts from Africa

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to India: South east Asia. As Document 3 shows, the two main places of servant ~~labor~~^{migration} is from Malaysia: India to the Americas: the Caribbean. The table in Document 4 illustrates the main migration points of India, China: Japan to mainly the Caribbean & South America. Notice the discrepancy between Document 3 & 4 because Document 3 has Malaysia as a key ~~place~~^{source} of servitude labor while Doc 4 does not even mention it as a ~~key~~ place of regard. Finally, Document 9 shows the concentration of Asian Indians in various places of indentured servitude. The percentages are shown to be quite high, as high as 71%, which is probably embellished to show the involvement of Asian Indians in the indentured ~~servant~~ labor migrations. However, the fact that it is a compilation of "various official government records" adds to its credibility, as it is not a single government's statistics. But it is seen that over the nineteenth & 20th centuries labor pools shifted from primarily Africa to primarily East, South & South east Asia.

Additional documents that could be helpful were letters of Asian governments regards towards the increase of indentured servants taken from their countries. Also, a diary entry or personal writing of an indentured servant in the Caribbean would be helpful to view the view of indentured servants & labor conditions. So as slavery decreased, indentured servitude increased because of a need for labor which caused a different ~~source~~ source of the labor force: a dramatic increase in the number of indentured servants while the same conditions ^{treatment of servants} were used as in the preceding years of slavery.