

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY

2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

Analyze the ways in which controversy over the extension of slavery into western territories contributed to the coming of the Civil War. Confine your answer to the period 1845–1861.

The 8–9 Essay

- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that explains the ways in which the controversy over the extension of slavery into western territories from 1845–1861 contributed to the coming of the Civil War.
- Develops the thesis with substantial, relevant historical information on how the controversy over the extension of slavery into western territories from 1845–1861 contributed to the coming of the Civil War.
- Provides effective analysis and links the ways the controversy over the extension of slavery into western territories contributed to the coming of the Civil War; treatment may be somewhat uneven.
- May contain minor errors that do not detract from the overall quality of the essay.
- Is well organized and well written.

The 5–7 Essay

- Contains a partially developed thesis that addresses the ways in which the controversy over the extension of slavery into western territories from 1845–1861 contributed to the coming of the Civil War.
- Supports the thesis with some relevant historical information.
- Provides some analysis and some linkage of the ways in which controversy over the extension of slavery into the western territories contributed to the coming of the Civil War; treatment may be imbalanced and/or implicit.
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.
- Has acceptable organization and writing.

The 2–4 Essay

- Contains an undeveloped or unfocused thesis, or simply paraphrases the question.
- Provides few relevant facts, or lists facts with little or no application to the question.
- May describe the controversies over the extension of slavery into the western territories but provides little or no explanation of, or linkage to, how they contributed to the coming of the Civil War; the treatment of 1845–1861 may be seriously imbalanced.
- May contain major errors.
- May be poorly organized and/or written.

The 0–1 Essay

- Lacks a thesis or simply restates the question.
- Demonstrates an incompetent or inappropriate response.
- Has little or no understanding of the question.
- Contains substantial errors.
- Is poorly organized and/or written.

The — Essay

- Is completely blank or off topic.

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Question 3 — Fact Sheet

1845 John O’Sullivan wrote of “our manifest destiny to overspread and to possess the whole of the continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty and federated self-government entrusted to us.”

U.S. annexed Texas as a slave state when lame-duck president John Tyler convinced Congress to pass a joint resolution that admitted the Lone Star Republic to the Union.

1846 Congress affirmed a state of war with Mexico. Polk’s opponents charged him with provoking the war to satisfy a “slave power” in the South.

Wilmot Proviso:

- Stated that slavery should never exist in any territory taken from Mexico.
- Passed the House but not the Senate.

1848 Treaty of Guadalupe–Hidalgo:

- Included the Mexican Cession.

“Conscience Whigs” or anti-slavery Whigs opposed to the Mexican–American War.

Election of 1848:

- Lewis Cass (Democrat) — “popular sovereignty” (squatter sovereignty);
- Zachary Taylor (Whig) — quiet about slavery but was a slaveowner;
- Martin Van Buren (Free Soil).

California Gold Rush (Forty-niners soon increased population to 100,000).

1850 Compromise of 1850 (introduced by Henry Clay: Douglas drove through):

- Admission of California as a free state (16 free states and 15 slave states).
- New Mexico and Utah open to popular sovereignty.
- Texas lost land that would probably become free territory.
- The slave trade was banned in Washington, D.C.
- Fugitive Slave Law of 1850:
 - Heavy fines and jail sentences for those who helped runaway slaves escape.
 - The South was losing about a thousand runaway slaves a year.
 - “Personal liberty laws” in the North.
 - “We went to bed one night old-fashioned, conservative, Compromise Union Whigs and waked up stark-mad Abolitionists.”

1852 Election of 1852:

- Franklin Pierce (Democrat) — made national politics an arena where sectional and cultural differences over slavery were fought;
- Winfield Scott (Whig) — party split over its candidate and platform (Compromise of 1850); John P. Hale (Free Soil) — won 5 percent of the popular vote.

Uncle Tom’s Cabin — Harriet Beecher Stowe.

1853 Gadsden Purchase (U.S. acquisition of land south of Gila River from Mexico for possible southern transcontinental railroad line; route was never used).

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Question 3 — Fact Sheet (continued)

1854 *Black Warrior* incident/Ostend Manifesto (reinforced image of Democratic Party as favoring slavery): attempt to provoke a war with Spain to claim Cuba as a slave state.

Kansas–Nebraska Act:

- Senator Stephen Douglas;
- Sought transcontinental railroad terminus in Chicago;
- Popular sovereignty in Kansas and Nebraska territories;
- Undid the Missouri Compromise.

Republican Party created.

1855 Bleeding Kansas (open warfare between proslavery and antislavery factions):

- “Border ruffians”/Lecompton and Topeka constitutions;
- “Beecher’s Bibles”;
- Attack at Lawrence, Kansas;
- John Brown/Pottawatomie Massacre.

1856 William Walker claimed presidency of Nicaragua and legalized slavery.

Brooks–Sumner Affair:

- “The crime against Kansas.”

Election of 1856:

- James Buchanan (Democrat) — “Kansas-less” because of an appointment in London;
- John C. Fremont (Republican) — against the extension of slavery;
- Millard Fillmore (American Party/“Know Nothings”).

1857 Lecompton Constitution (Buchanan’s decision to admit Kansas to the Union with a proslavery constitution; defeated in Congress in 1858).

Dred Scott v. Sanford:

- Declared the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional because Congress did not have the power to ban slavery in the territories (welcomed in the South, condemned in the North).

1858 Lincoln: “A house divided cannot stand.” (Republican Senate nominee acceptance speech in Chicago)

Lincoln–Douglas debates:

- Freeport Doctrine (Douglas said that the *Dred Scott* decision made slavery legal in the territories in theory, but the people of a territory could keep slaves out in practice. His stance cost him southern support for the presidency in 1860.)

1859 John Brown’s raid on Harpers Ferry (northern support shocks the South).

1860 Election of 1860:

- John C. Breckinridge (Constitutional Democrats);
- Stephen Douglas (National Democrats);
- John Bell (Constitutional Union);
- Abraham Lincoln (Republicans);
- Democratic split allows Lincoln to win.

South Carolina seceded (eventually 11 states secede).

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Question 3 — Fact Sheet (continued)

- 1861** Confederate States of America:
- President Jefferson Davis.

Crittenden amendments to the Constitution:

- Restored the 36°30' line.

Fort Sumter.

General Information

- Underground Railroad (Harriet Tubman)
- States' rights argument
- Expansion of Cotton Kingdom
- Industrializing of North (market revolution) vs. slave-based economy in the South
- Debate over morality of slavery
- Growing importance of abolitionist movement
- End of the Second American Party system

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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3A
(1 of 4)

The civil war was one of the defining events in American history, and the antebellum years of the 1840s and 1850s were filled with turmoil and ~~occasional~~ bloodshed. The expansion of slavery into newly-acquired western territories exacerbated the already delicate political situation, increasing the sectional tensions between the North and the South. The South viewed slavery as essential to their traditional way of life, but many in the North were staunchly opposed to its spread. Several key events from 1845-1861 ~~threw~~ threw these regional differences to the forefront of national politics, eventually leading up to the seemingly inevitable ~~the~~ American civil war.

United States victory in Mexico and the subsequent 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo gave the United States much-coveted territory in the southwest. The prevailing issue, however, was what to do with this new land. Free soilers and Northern Whigs opposed the extension of slavery, but southerners wanted more slave states to ~~give~~ give their cause more political power. Under President Fillmore, Congress ~~eventually~~ eventually accepted Henry Clay's Compromise of 1850, which proposed that California enter as a free state while New Mexico and Utah were carved from the Mexican cession. Furthermore, the compromise banned the slave trade in Washington DC — to appease the

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3A
(2 of 4)

South, it became necessary to enact a tougher fugitive slave law. This last proposition incited great controversy and bolstered anti-slavery sentiment in the North. The nation had reached an uneasy agreement, but Clay's last great compromise did not resolve the underlying issues between the North and the South.

Tensions reached a new high in 1854, with the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Stephen Douglas's bill opened Kansas+Nebraska to popular sovereignty, which meant that a vote would be held to determine the slave/nonslave status of the state. The act ~~was~~ met with outrage because it went against the Missouri compromise of 1820, which banned slavery North of the 36°30' line. Pro-slavery Missourians known as border ruffians flooded into Kansas to try to influence the vote, where they clashed with anti-slavery settlers. The conflict became known as Bleeding Kansas, and the violence shocked many throughout the nation. ^{Abolitionist} John Brown led a massacre at Pottawatomie Creek, further increasing the tensions. Eventually, two constitutions emerged — the pro-slavery LeCompton constitution and the anti-slavery Topeka constitution. Disagreements over which ought to be official ~~for~~ incited more controversy. The consequences

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3A
(3 of 4)

of all the turmoil in Kansas led to the splintering of the Whig party into northern conscience Whigs and southern Cotton Whigs, as well as the creation ~~of~~ of the Republican party to halt the spread of slavery.

The political scene of America had now shifted so that it lay entirely on sectional lines. In the 1960 presidential election, Republican Abraham Lincoln was able to win without a single southern state (he didn't even appear on some ballots.). The South, feeling like the colonies during the American Revolution, threatened secession in order to maintain slavery and their fundamental way of living.

Another key event was the Dred Scott case. Chief Justice Taney ruled that Scott had no right to sue because he was not a citizen, and also declared that he was still a slave, despite having been brought into non-slave ~~states~~ ^{a few years} states. This ruling essentially overturned the now-defunct Missouri Compromise, and people were outraged that slavery had the potential to exist in the entire country.

The great debate over the "peculiar institution" of slavery contributed to the coming of the Civil War by worsening sectional tensions between the North and the South. Northerners viewed slavery as morally wrong, ~~which~~ ^{a stance which} southerners saw as a direct attack on their way of life. New territory.

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3 A
(4 of 4)

would raise the slavery question time and time again, and various ~~pieces of~~ legislation led to dissatisfaction and violence. The civil war was a result of seemingly irreconcilable regional differences, and slavery in western territories served to drive the nation ever closer to disintegration.

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or (3)	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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3B
(1 of 3)

The issue of the extension of slavery into western territories contributed mightily to the coming of the Civil War. The battle ~~to~~ of maintaining a balance between free and slave states was fierce and hotly contested. Many compromises needed to be made to appease both sides of this debate.

In 1850 California applied for statehood as a free state. Slave states opposed this because it would upset the balance between free and slave states in Congress. Elder Statesman Henry Clay, 30 years after his groundbreaking Missouri Compromise, proposed ~~the~~ the Compromise of 1850. It stated that California would be added as a free state, popular sovereignty would be implemented in the Utah and New Mexico territories, and the slave trade would be banned in Washington D.C. To appease the slave states, who were upset over California entering the union as a free state, Clay ~~included~~ included more stringent policies on returning runaway slaves to their rightful owners. Although this was a temporary remedy to the problem it was eventually a failure as animosity continued between free and slave states.

In 1854 Henry Clay's protégé, a young democratic Senator from Illinois named Stephen A. Douglas, issued the Kansas-Nebraska Act. This act stated that popular sovereignty would be used to determine whether or not slavery would be allowed in the Kansas and Nebraska territories. In comparison to ~~the Missouri Compromise~~,

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

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3B
(2 of 3)

his mentor Henry Clay, whose only goal was to ~~be~~ preserve the Union, Douglas had more selfish motives. He wanted Nebraska to be organized so he could establish a transcontinental railroad through it. This act, like the Compromise of 1850 before it, met little success. It eventually led to a period known as "Bleeding Kansas" where ~~the~~ pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups fought violently, which ~~was~~ turned out to be a presage of things to come.

Another key contributor to the Civil War was the Dred Scott Decision of 1857. Abraham Lincoln called this Supreme Court case "The first shot fired in the Civil War." Dred Scott was a slave who was taken by his owner to the free state of Wisconsin to live for 2 years. Scott and his lawyers argued that his time in the free state made him a free man. The Supreme Court under Chief Justice Taney ruled 1) Scott was a slave and therefore did not have the right to sue in court. 2) The federal government does not have the right to dictate where slavery shall exist, making the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional. Northerners were outraged by this ruling as they felt it condoned slavery and its expansion westward. Some Northerners went ~~as~~ as far as to say that the Dred Scott case was fixed to achieve that result.

All of these events were major contributors to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. The ~~disagreements~~ disagreements between free and slave states and their

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3B
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Subsequent representation in Congress was the most major cause
of the Civil War.

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(1 of 3)

The Civil War was one of the bloodiest events on American soil. When one looks forward the reasons of why it was fought they should see slavery as the main issue. Leading up to the beginning of the Civil War there is a pattern of Southern hostility all stemming from the argument ^{over} slavery. ~~After the Mexican American~~ There is also a pattern of a slave state being admitted to the Union everytime a free state is admitted. This was a tactic that the Southern Democrats came to expect in order to a balance of political power in the senate.

After western territories came into place in America there would be a fight over whether or not they would become free or slave states. A policy known as "Popular Sovereignty" came into place. It consisted of the idea that once a territory had enough people to become a state they would then vote on whether or not it would become a free or slave state.

The South was hungry for a slave state by the time that Popular Sovereignty came into place. After Mexican Cession the president, Zachary Taylor, thought it would be a good idea to have California admitted as a free state. This threw off the balance of free and slave states and the South expected a slave state to be admitted shortly after. But once Kansas and Nebraska were ready to become states no policy was set. So the south then pushed for popular sovereignty for both of the states expecting

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3C
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an early ^{victory} ~~victory~~. Surprisingly enough, the Northerners against slavery flooded in Kansas and the South responded in the same way. Skirmishes were fought and a revolution was nowhere in sight. Popular sovereignty was a failure and the episode became known as "Bleeding Kansas".

On the other side of the spectrum there was controversy brewing in the Dred Scott Supreme Court decision. The Democrat led Supreme Court finally had an opportunity to make a mark in the slavery issue. A slave, Scott, was taken into a free state but remained a slave so he sued for his freedom. The court decided to not only decide that he ^{still} was a slave, they also decided to state that slaves could be taken anywhere and also that congress had no right to make decisions on slavery within the states.

Soon after came the Compromise of 1850 in which the Fugitive Slave Act was enforced. This act made abolition seem like much more than a "lunatic fringe". It also brought along a sort of nullification crisis in which states began to deny federal laws because they were "unconstitutional". These incidents led to ^{growing} hostility between the South and the North. South Carolina's economy depended on cotton and the work force consisted of slaves. They need slavery to persist in the South. When slavery began to look like a lost cause they decided to secede from the Union which began the civil war. It is because of this

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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epic struggle for land that the civil war was fought

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY 2010 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 3

Overview

This mainstream question is from a significant period of United States history (1845–1861) and tested students' understanding of events leading to the Civil War. It gave students an opportunity to display their knowledge about the spread of slavery into the western territories and then link their chosen events to the coming of war.

Sample: 3A

Score: 8

This essay has a clear and well-developed thesis. It has substantial, relevant information and is especially effective in its treatment of the 1840s and the Kansas conflict. It also provides strong analysis and linkage of the events in the western territories and the coming of the Civil War. Although the essay falters slightly toward the end, it is an excellent treatment of the question and belongs in the top category.

Sample: 3B

Score: 5

The thesis in this essay identifies a generalized struggle over congressional power as the source of controversy over the extension of slavery into the western territories, but the linkage is limited to the balance between free and slave states. The essay contains some relevant historical information — largely centered around the Compromise of 1850, the Kansas–Nebraska issue and the Dred Scott decision — noting in the process both political and economic reasons for sectional tensions over slavery expansion.

Sample: 3C

Score: 3

This essay has a limited thesis that does not fully address the question. Although several major controversies of 1845–1861 (Mexican Cession, California, Kansas–Nebraska, Dred Scott, the Compromise of 1850) are mentioned, the discussion is descriptive and is not linked to the extension of slavery into the western territories and how that contributed to the coming of the Civil War.