



AP[®] United States History 2002 Sample Student Responses

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Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's + 1960's proved that reconstruction had failed. Some instances included the Montgomery bus boycott, Rosa Parks arrest, + the rise of Martin Luther King Jr.

In the Montgomery Bus Boycott, African American citizens boycotted the bus system in hopes of receiving equal rights. Rosa Parks was arrested for not standing in order to give her bus seat to a white man. Martin Luther King Jr.

gave motivational speeches to African Americans in order to spark a revolution for equal rights such as segregated schools + segregated places of business. There were also instances of burning crosses + lynchings of black Americans that showed equality had not been achieved in the South.

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were segregated. When asked to get on many African Americans would reply 'when Jim Crow gets off.' This was so effective for them.

One big happening in their integration movement was the School in Little Rock Arkansas. Some 9 black Americans were going to go to the school there but were met with hostility and anger. During the happenings in Little Rock a southern Reverend by the name of Martin Luther King Jr. began to make important speeches. His famous speeches included how much injustice blacks had suffered even through Reconstruction. His speeches made an impact on everyone including Robert Kennedy the brother of the former president John F. Kennedy. King stated in one of his speeches that if blacks did not receive their rights then 'the Constitution, the Government, and even God was wrong.' The Reconstruction was supposed to build the south up, instead cruel desires began to tear it down both physically and morally.

Blacks had to endure a lot of racism and persecution, both before, during, and after Reconstruction time period. The North had been fairly easy on the south, and tried to rebuild the South saying that the treatment of ^{African Americans} slaves was the biggest change they had to make. This was more difficult for the South than the North could have dreamed. The changes in attitude came very slowly, especially with groups such as the KKK. However the African Americans were persistent and attitudes were able to better after the 1950s and 60s. The Reconstruction had not given the black African Americans their total freedom of walking were they chose during the ^{mid} twentieth century, and many

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important people and changes were able to move people past
the horrible sickness of Racism.

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Following the end of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, Reconstruction was instituted. ~~to~~ ^{Reconstruction was} an attempt to unite the North and South and provide means for the assimilation of newly freed blacks into American mainstream society. However, ~~it~~ Reconstruction was a complete flop and failed to address the rights of the freed slaves. The failures of Reconstruction would later be addressed by the Civil Rights Movements of the ~~the~~ 1950's and 1960's.

After the ~~the~~ Civil War, many southerners were ~~reluctant~~ a hostile and reluctant to give up a way of life they had depended on since colonial times. As a result, many southern states enacted Black Codes, which strictly regulated the lives of the recently freed ~~slaves~~ blacks. Also, blacks were still not equal and denied the right to vote. No southern state, and very few northern ones, gave the vote permitted

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blacks to vote.

Reconstruction also gave rise to the Ku Klux Klan. Founded on principles of extreme prejudice and violence, especially towards blacks, the KKK lynched innumerable amounts of blacks, and the ~~buried~~ government failed to do protect blacks ~~also~~ during this turbulent time.

Segregation was also rampant following the Civil War. In Plessey v. Ferguson, the Supreme Court upheld that separate, but equal institutions were permissible under the Constitution.

During the turbulent 1950's and 60's, the inequalities and oppression that blacks still faced were addressed in various ways. The leader of the African American Civil Rights movement was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. King advocated non-violence and lead boycotts, protests, and marches, as he condemned ~~the~~ racial ~~is~~ prejudice and segregation. After a ~~to~~ weary black ~~was~~ woman named Rosa

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Parks refused to give up her seat ^{for a white man} on a Montgomery, Alabama bus. King called all blacks to boycott the Montgomery buses. He won the support of thousands of blacks and the Montgomery was forced to desegregate their buses.

During the Civil Rights Movement, at the insistence of many blacks, the constitutionality of segregated schools was questioned. In the *Brown vs. Board of Ed (of Topeka, Kansas)*, the Supreme Court overturned *Plessey* and stated that separate institutions based on race were inherently not equal and ~~were~~ were in violation of the 14th Amendment.

In Greensboro, North Carolina, students at a local high school protested the segregation of lunch lines. The protest led to an outbreak of violence that was telecasted nationally and horrified many.

The failure of Reconstruction ~~was~~ would be successfully addressed in the

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African American Civil Rights movement of the 1950's and 1960's. For the most part, blacks dealt with the prejudice they faced in a civilized, non-violent manner as they participated in boycotts, protests and marches. The United States government ~~would~~ could no longer avoid the issues of facing blacks and finally began ~~improving~~ ^{recognizing} African Americans' social rights.