Fitzgerald

Possible Essay Questions for Test on Causes of the Civil War

Each class wrote essay questions together on Thursday, May 24th, after having developed some from homework. From the questions developed the each class chose three as their possible questions.

One of the three questions will be on the test on Tuesday, May 29th.

The question’s answer will be worth 20 points.

10 points for structure and conventions –

* structure - claim, three areas of development each developed by detail, concluding thought
* conventions - full sentences, spelling, capitalization, use of past tense for historical events, third person, no vague pronouns

10 points for ideas -

* accurate, clear, complete

The questions each have suggestions of the three possible areas of development below. Students should use their notes to find the detail needed to develop these three areas.

**1st hour**

Describe the three main types of causes of the Civil War.

* Regional Differences
* The South’s lack of power in the government
* Slavery

Explain how the Election of 1860 reflects the division that led it to be the final cause of the Civil War.

* Four candidates – Who? Party? Position?
* Results – strong geographic division
* North’s control of the Electoral College

Describe how Western expansion played a role in causing the Civil War.

* Efforts to maintain the balance of power in the Senate –balancing slave and free states
* The South seeking to establish slaves states where cotton cannot be grown
* The development of the policy of popular sovereignty

**2nd hour**

Explain how the Election of 1860 reflects the division that led it to be the final cause of the Civil War.

* Four candidates – Who? Party? Position?
* Results – strong geographic division
* North’s control of the Electoral College

Explain how parts of the Compromise of 1850 became causes of the war instead of preventing war.

* The admission of California as a free state
* The fugitive Slave law
* The banning of the buying and selling slaves in Washington, D.C.

Describe the expansion of slavery.

* The development of the cotton gin making cotton profitable – instead of 1 pound of cotton a day, a person can clean 50 pounds of cotton in a day
* The Missouri Compromise – showed the beginning of the South’s work to spread slavery onto western land even if it was not cotton-growing land
* Development of the policy of popular sovereignty – allows any territory to become a slave state
* The Dred Scot Decision – states that it is unconstitutional to ban slavery anywhere in the united States as the Constitution viewed slaves as property and the 5th amendment prohibited the government from taken property without a warrant based on evidence that a person had committed a crime

**3rd hour**

Describe three different methods used to fight slavery and give an example of each.

* Political – Wilmot Proviso, the Free Soil Party, or the Republican Party
* Violent – John Brown’s murders at Potawatomie Creek in Kansas or his raid on the arsenal in Harper’s Ferry, Virginia
* Peaceful – Harriet Beecher Stowe writing *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*

Describe the Kansas-Nebraska Act and how it became a cause of the Civil War.

* Who developed the Kansas-Nebraska Act and why
* The policy of popular sovereignty
* The results of applying popular sovereignty in Kansas – “Bleeding Kansas”

Explain how parts of the Compromise of 1850 became causes of the war instead of preventing war.

* The admission of California as a free state
* The fugitive Slave law
* The banning of the buying and selling slaves in Washington, D.C.

**5th Hour**

Explain how the Election of 1860 reflects the division that led it to be the final cause of the Civil War.

* Four candidates – Who? Party? Position?
* Results – strong geographic division
* North’s control of the Electoral College

Explain why the South felt it had no power in the government of the United States.

* House of Representatives
* Senate
* Executive Branch

Discuss the effect of the Fugitive Slave Law on Northerners.

* African Americans – in danger as no evidence required - only the word of a white person, flee to Canada
* Whites – in danger of fine if don’t help slave catchers and jail if help AA, upset with seeing AA captured – band together to resist despite threats of fine and jail
* Harriet Beecher Stowe – motivated to write *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*