

Chapter 14

The Politics of Sectionalism, 1846-1861

Practice Test

1. The Wilmot Proviso proposed that
 - A) slavery be ended by the turn of the century.
 - B) free labor should exist in territory gained in the Mexican War.
 - C) the gag rule should be restored in Congress.
 - D) the property of western slaveholders should be protected.
2. Proponents of *popular sovereignty* believed that
 - A) all slaves should be declared free.
 - B) Southerners were too unreasonable for a fair debate on slavery.
 - C) presidential elections should not be decided by the electoral college.
 - D) residents of a territory should decide the issue of slavery.
3. Zachary Taylor's strong base of electoral support was in the
 - A) South.
 - B) Northeast.
 - C) Far West.
 - D) western territories.
4. In January of 1848, gold was discovered in
 - A) New Mexico.
 - B) Florida.
 - C) Texas.
 - D) California.
5. To what political party did Taylor belong?
 - A) Free Soil
 - B) Northern Whigs
 - C) No affiliation
 - D) Conscious Whigs
6. Pro-slavery Southerners became concerned
 - A) upon the election of Zachary Taylor.
 - B) that support for state's rights was slipping in the Lower South.
 - C) when California and New Mexico wished to be admitted as free states.
 - D) about the popularity of the Free-Soil Party in the South.

7. The Compromise of 1850 established all of the following statutes EXCEPT
- A) the Fugitive Slave Act.
 - B) admission of California as a free state.
 - C) admission of New Mexico as a slave state.
 - D) popular sovereignty in Utah.
8. Effects of the Compromise of 1850 included
- A) sectional dissatisfaction by both sides.
 - B) peaceful resolve of the fugitive slave issue.
 - C) the unsure status of slavery in California.
 - D) the South's decision to attack Fort Sumter.
9. Reaction against the Fugitive Slave Act was strongest among
- A) members of the Free-Soil Party.
 - B) Conscience Whigs.
 - C) working-class ethnic groups.
 - D) northern blacks.
10. The League of Freedom and the Liberty Association were created
- A) by Southerners who supported state's rights.
 - B) to stop fugitive slaves from being captured.
 - C) in support of Zachary Taylor for president.
 - D) as political fronts for secessionists.
11. When did slaveholders notice an increased amount of black resistance in the South?
- A) the early 1850s
 - B) the mid 1850s
 - C) the late 1850s
 - D) none of the above
12. The influential novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, was written by
- A) Hinton Rowan Helper.
 - B) Angelina Grimke.
 - C) Harriet Beecher Stowe.
 - D) Frederick Douglass.
13. All of the following statements about *Uncle Tom's Cabin* are true EXCEPT
- A) By the Civil War, it had sold more copies than any work of American fiction.
 - B) Northern blacks embraced the work as beneficial to aiding the plight of blacks.
 - C) It emphasized Christian values as being opposed to the institution of slavery.
 - D) All of the novel's antagonists were white Southerners who personified evil.

14. As a novel with social power, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* succeeded because it
- A) presented real characters and not just abstract arguments.
 - B) included symbolism which was difficult to interpret.
 - C) portrayed Southerners as virtuous defenders of freedom.
 - D) never directly addressed the moral issues of slavery.
15. Which of the following emotional themes is not discussed in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?
- A) the broken family
 - B) denial of freedom
 - C) salvation for all
 - D) the Christian martyr
16. Members of Young America supported
- A) Winfield Scott for president in 1852.
 - B) universal suffrage for all males.
 - C) the repeal of the unpopular Compromise of 1850.
 - D) extending American influence throughout the Americas.
17. Franklin Pierce failed to
- A) be elected president by a large margin.
 - B) effectively handle the territorial problems in Kansas.
 - C) consider foreign policy in developing his plans as president.
 - D) support the American cause in the Mexican War.
18. President Pierce tried to mute the conflicts about slavery by emphasizing
- A) Indian removal acts.
 - B) the rechartering of the National Bank.
 - C) an aggressive foreign policy.
 - D) wide scale social reforms.
19. Stephen Douglas supported all of the following ideas EXCEPT
- A) expansion of the nation's rail system.
 - B) popular sovereignty.
 - C) the Kansas-Nebraska Act.
 - D) immediatism.
20. Northerners of all parties were outraged by the Kansas-Nebraska Act because it
- A) admitted Nebraska to the union as a slave state.
 - B) was viewed as a plot to extend slavery above the Missouri Compromise line.
 - C) did not acknowledge California's existence as a permanent free state.
 - D) was passed after Stephen Douglas threatened that southern states would secede.

21. Results of the Kansas-Nebraska Act included
- A) a bloody civil conflict between proslavery and antislavery forces in Kansas.
 - B) a brief period of peace in Kansas before the outbreak of the Civil War.
 - C) an increase in the popularity of Stephen Douglas in the North.
 - D) the Congressional admission of both territories as new slave states in the Union.
22. Who was an antislavery agitator in the middle of the violent confrontation in Kansas?
- A) John Brown
 - B) Frederick Douglass
 - C) Hinton Rowan Helper
 - D) Charles Sumner
23. Who carried 11 free states in the election of 1856?
- A) Buchanan
 - B) Pierce
 - C) Fremont
 - D) Douglas
24. The Dred Scott decision's chief justice Roger Taney's declared Scott
- A) should be set free, due to his living in a free state.
 - B) should be indentured to his master's decedents.
 - C) was not a citizen.
 - D) should be set free by the laws of popular sovereignty.
25. Which group was the only one favored by members of the Know-Nothing Party?
- A) Roman Catholics
 - B) African-American slaves
 - C) New Irish immigrants
 - D) English-Americans

When?

1. What is the correct order of events?
- A) Dred Scott decision, election of 1860, John Brown's raid
 - B) Election of 1860, John Brown's raid, Dred Scott decision
 - C) Dred Scott decision, John Brown's raid, election of 1860
 - D) Election of 1860, Dred Scott decision, Jon Brown's raid
2. Which event happened after the Kansas-Nebraska Act?
- A) Compromise of 1850
 - B) passing of the Lecompton Constitution
 - C) Wilmot Proviso
 - D) election of 1852

3. Which event happened first?
- A) John Brown's raid
 - B) The Dred Scott decision
 - C) "Bleeding Kansas"
 - D) First publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
4. The Confederates attacked Fort Sumter in
- A) 1858.
 - B) 1860.
 - C) 1861.
 - D) 1863.
5. Which event happened last?
- A) Lincoln elected.
 - B) Virginia secedes from the Union.
 - C) South Carolina secedes from the Union.
 - D) Fort Sumter attacked.

Where?

Matching

Match the following with the state with which each is associated.

Lincoln Douglas Debates	Kansas
John Brown's Raid	Virginia
Fort Sumter	Louisiana
Pierre Soule	South Carolina
Lecompton Constitution	Illinois
Constitutional Union Party	Pennsylvania
David Wilmot	Maryland
National Black Convention	Georgia
Robert Toombs	New York

How and Why?

1. Demonstrate how the American ideals of freedom, liberty, and self-determination didn't apply to Blacks in the Dred Scott Decision.

2. What characterized the response to the Fugitive Slave Act?

3. What factors caused the creation of the Republican Party?

4. What were the mixtures of views expressed by the Know-Nothing Party?

5. How did the election of 1860 reveal the severe nature of sectionalism?

6. Frederick Douglass discussed “necessary links in the chain” that would lead to the destruction of slavery. As you look at the 1850’s, what three events, more than any other, drove the nation toward conflict over the issue of slavery?

7. Discuss the ways in which the North and South had become very different cultures in the areas of politics, economics, and social customs.

8. Imagine that you are either a southern Democrat or Northern Whig in the U.S. Congress of 1854. Express your opinion on the proposed Kansas-Nebraska Act.

9. As a work of art and as a politically influential piece of writing, what accounted for the huge success of the novel, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* ?

10. Was John Brown’s Raid a success or failure? Why? How did the raid change Southern public opinion and what fears did it instill among Southerners?

up to
+5
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OR
(short conversation)
11. Write a series of letters from Abraham Lincoln to Stephen Douglas that reveal the two men’s different visions of solving the nation’s problems.