

## DBQ – Reconstruction (1865-1869)

Source: Barron's

**Directions:** Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. You are advised to spend 15 minutes planning and 45 minutes writing your answer.

Write your response on the lined pages that follow the questions. In your response you should do the following:

- State a relevant thesis that directly answers all parts of the question.
- Support the thesis or relevant argument with evidence from all, or all but one of the documents.
- Incorporate analysis of all, or all but one, of the documents into your argument.
- Focus your analysis of each document on at least one of the following: intended audience, purpose, historical context, and/or point of view.
- Support your argument with analysis of historical examples outside the documents.
- Connect historical phenomena relevant to your argument to broader events or processes.
- Synthesize the elements above into a persuasive essay.

**1. Evaluate the causes of the conflict between congressional Republicans and President Andrew Johnson over plans for Reconstruction in the South in the period 1865 to 1869.**

### Document 1

Source: Abraham Lincoln, "Second Inaugural Address; March 4, 1865.

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

### Document 2

Source: Mississippi legal codes, "An Act to Confer Civil Rights on Freedmen, and for other Purposes," 1865.

An Act to Amend the Vagrant Laws of the State

Section 1. All rogues and vagabonds, idle and dissipated persons, beggars, jugglers, or persons practicing unlawful games or plays, runaways, common drunkards, common night-walkers, pilferers, lewd, wanton, or lascivious persons, in speech or behavior, common railers and brawlers, persons who neglect their calling or employment, mis-spend what they earn, or do not provide for the support of themselves or their families, or dependents, and all other idle and disorderly persons, including all who neglect

all lawful business, habitually misspend their time by frequenting houses of ill-fame, gaming-houses, or tippling shops, shall be deemed and considered vagrants, under the provisions of this act, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not exceeding one hundred dollars, with all accruing costs, and be imprisoned, at the discretion of the court, not exceeding ten days.

Section 2. All freedmen, free negroes and mulattoes in this State, over the age of eighteen years, found on the second Monday in January, 1866, or thereafter, with no lawful employment or business, or found unlawful assembling themselves together, either in the day or night time, and all white persons assembling themselves with freedmen, free negroes or mulattoes, or usually associating with freedmen, free negroes or mulattoes, on terms of equality, or living in adultery or fornication with a freed woman, freed negro or mulatto, shall be deemed vagrants.

### Document 3

Source: "Acts of the General Assembly of Louisiana Regulating Labor, Extra Session; 1865.

[Each laborer] shall not be allowed to leave his place of employment, until the fulfillment of his contract, unless by consent of his employer, or on account of harsh treatment, or breach of contraction the part of the employer; and if they do so leave, without cause of permission, they shall forfeit all wages earned to the time of abandonment ...

In cases of sickness of the laborer, wages for the time lost shall be deducted, and where the sickness is feigned for purpose of idleness, ... and also should refusal to work be continued beyond three days, the offender shall be reported to a justice of the peace, and shall be forced to labor on roads, levee, and other public works, without pay, until the offender consents to return to his labor.

When in health, the laborer shall work ten hours during the day in the summer, and nine hours during the day in winter, unless otherwise stipulated in the labor contract; he shall obey all proper orders of his employer or his agent . . . Failure to obey reasonable orders, neglect of duty, and leaving home without permission will be deemed disobedience; impudence, swearing, or indecent language to or in the presence of the employer, his family or agent ... shall be deemed disobedience.... For all absence from home without leave, the laborer will be fined at the rate of two dollars per day.

### Document 4

Source: "Selling a Freeman to Pay His Fine at Monticello, Florida," *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, January 18, 1867.



SELLING A FREEDMAN TO PAY HIS FINE, AT MONTICELLO, FLORIDA.—FROM A SKETCH BY JAS. E. TAYLOR.—SEE PAGE 275.

## Document 5

Source: "Petition to U.S. Congress, South Carolina Colored People's Convention; November 1865.

We simply desire that we shall be recognized as men; that we have no obstructions placed in our *way*; that the same laws which govern white men shall direct colored men; that we have the right of trial by a jury of our peers, that schools be opened or established for our children; that we be permitted to acquire homesteads for ourselves and children; that we be dealt with as others, in equity and justice.

We claim the confidence and good-will of all classes of men; we ask that the same chances be extended to us that freemen should demand at the hands of their fellow-citizens. We desire the prosperity and growth of this State and the well-being of all men, and shall be found ever struggling to elevate ourselves and add to the national character; and we trust the day will not be distant when you will acknowledge that by our rapid progress in moral, social, religious and intellectual development that you will cheerfully accord to us the high commendation that we are worthy, with you, to enjoy all political emoluments-when we shall realize the truth that "all men are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights: and that on the American continent this is the right of all, whether he come from east, west, north or south; and, although complexions may differ, "a man's a man for all that."

## Document 6

Source: Samuel J. Tilden, leader of the Democratic Party, Speech, New York, 1868.

[The Republican Party) resolved to make the black race the governing power in those States, and by means of them to bring into Congress twenty senators and fifty representatives practically appointed by itself in Washington....

The effect of a gain to the Republican party of twenty senators and fifty representatives is to strengthen its hold on the Federal Government.... Nor is there the slightest doubt that the paramount object and motive of the Republican party is by these **means to secure itself against a reaction of opinion adverse to it in our great populous Northern commonwealths.**

The effect of its system and its own real purpose is to establish a domination over us of the Northern states.

## Document 7

Source: Thaddeus Stevens, speech in Congress, January 3, 1867.

Since the surrender of the armies of the confederate States of America a little has been done toward establishing this Government upon the true principles of liberty and justice; and but a little if we stop here. We have broken the material shackles of four million slaves. We have unchained them from the stake so as to allow them locomotion, provided they do not walk in paths which are trod by white men. We have allowed them the privilege of attending church, if they can do so without offending the sight of their former masters. We have imposed on them the privilege of fighting our battles, of dying in defense of freedom, and of bearing their equal portion of taxes; but where have we given them the privilege of ever participating in the formation of the laws for the government of their native land?

What is negro equality, about which so much is said by knaves and some of which is believed by men who are not fools? It means, as understood by honest Republicans, just this much, and no more: every man, no matter what his race or colour; every earth. Every being who has an immortal soul, has an equal right to justice, honesty, and fair play with every other man; and the law should secure him those rights. The same law, which condemns or acquits an African, should condemn or acquit a white man.