

## Document-Based Question

**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 responses on the lined pages that follow the questions.

1. Analyze the impact of the Civil War on the economic, political, and social development of the United States during the period 1860–1877.

### DOCUMENT 1

“ . . . On the 25th of May, Mr. John Merryman, of Baltimore County, was arrested . . . and confined in Fort McHenry. The next day . . . his counsel . . . presented a petition for the writ of *habeas corpus* to Chief Justice Taney, who issued the writ immediately . . . [A couple of days later] a[n] aide-de-camp, came into court with a letter . . . directed to the Chief Justice, stating that Mr. Merryman had been arrested on charges of high treason, and . . . [which] . . . authorized by the President of the United States in such cases to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* for the public safety.

A startling issue was thus presented. The venerable Chief Justice had come from Washington to Baltimore for the purpose of issuing a writ of *habeas corpus*, and the President had thereupon authorized the commander of the fort to hold the prisoner and disregard the writ . . . ”

*Baltimore and the Nineteenth of April 1861: A Study of the War* by George William Brown, Chief Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore and Mayor of the City in 1861 (1887)

## DOCUMENT 2

“Office of the Union Pacific  
Rail Road Company,  
New York 23. Nov. 1863.

Sir:

If the Engineers are ready, it is proposed to break ground on the Pacific Rail Road, on the 1st or 2nd day of next month, at some point in Nebraska, through which, under the Act of Congress, the line will pass. This inauguration of the work will be followed up by early measures to complete, as soon as possible, the grading of one hundred miles of road authorized by the Board of Directors to report under contract.

In view of the vastness of the enterprise, and its probable influence upon the political and commercial prosperity of the country, it would be gratifying to receive a communication from you to be read on the occasion. I have the honor to be,

very respectfully,

Your obt. Servt.

John A. Dix

Prest. U. P. R. R. Co. [Union Pacific Rail Road Company]”

John A. Dix to Abraham Lincoln, Monday, November 23, 1863 .

DOCUMENT 3

**BUREAU R. F. & A. L.,**  
 10th DISTRICT, LEX., SUB DISTRICT, KENTUCKY.  
**CONTRACT.**

Know All Men by These Presents, That *Abraham Bledsoe* of the County of Mason, State of Kentucky, am held and firmly bound to THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in the sum of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS, for the payment of which I bind *my* Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, firmly by these presents, in this contract:—That I am to furnish the person whose name is subjoined (free laborer) quarters, fuel, substantial and healthy rations, all necessary medical supplies in case of sickness, and the amount set opposite *his* name, per month, one half to be paid at the expiration of every three months, for the services rendered for each three months preceding, the balance at the expiration of the year. *Henry Bledsoe* agrees to work faithfully for the said *Abraham Bledsoe* obeying all his instructions in good faith, and in case *he* leaves his service before the expiration of this contract (provided not driven off or discharged) *he is* to forfeit all wages due at the time of leaving.

NO.	NAME	AGE	DOLL.	CENTS.
	<i>Henry Bledsoe</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>66 2/3</i>
	<i>W. S. C. for Account.</i>			

*Said Bledsoe further agrees to procure *Henry* wages to 500 Dollars per year if he works well and faithfully.*

This contract is to continue *January 1st 1866* and close with the year.

Given in triplicate, at Maysville, this *16th* day of *June*, 1866.

Witness:  
*W. A. ...* Sup't. of 10th District.  
 Registered at Maysville, Ky., this *16th* day of *June*, 1866.

**Labor Contract, 1866**

“Transcript:  
 Bureau R.F. & A.L.  
 10th District, LEX. Subdistrict, KENTUCKY  
 CONTRACT

Know All Men by These Presents, That Abraham Bledsoe of the County of Mason, State of Kentucky, am held and firmly bound to THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in the sum of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS, for the payment of which I bind my Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, firmly by these presents, in this contract: That I am to furnish the person whose name is subjoined (free laborer) quarters, fuel, substantial and healthy rations . . . and the amount set opposite his name, per month, one half to be paid at

the expiration of every three months, for the services rendered for each three months preceding, the balance at the expiration of the year Henry Bledsoe agrees to work faithfully for the said Abraham Bledsoe obeying all his instructions in good faith, and in case he leaves his service before the expiration of this contract (provided not driven off or maltreated.) He is to forfeit all wages due at the time of his leaving.

*Henry Bledsoe Age 17 Rate per month—\$6.662/3 or \$80 per annum*

*Said 'Bledsoe' further agrees to increase wages to one hundred dollars per year if he works well and briskly.*

This contract is to commence January 1, 1866 and close with the year.

Given in triplicate, at Mayville, this 16th day of June, 1866."

#### DOCUMENT 4

##### "AMENDMENT XIV

###### Section 1.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States . . . are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor . . . deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within . . . the equal protection of the laws.

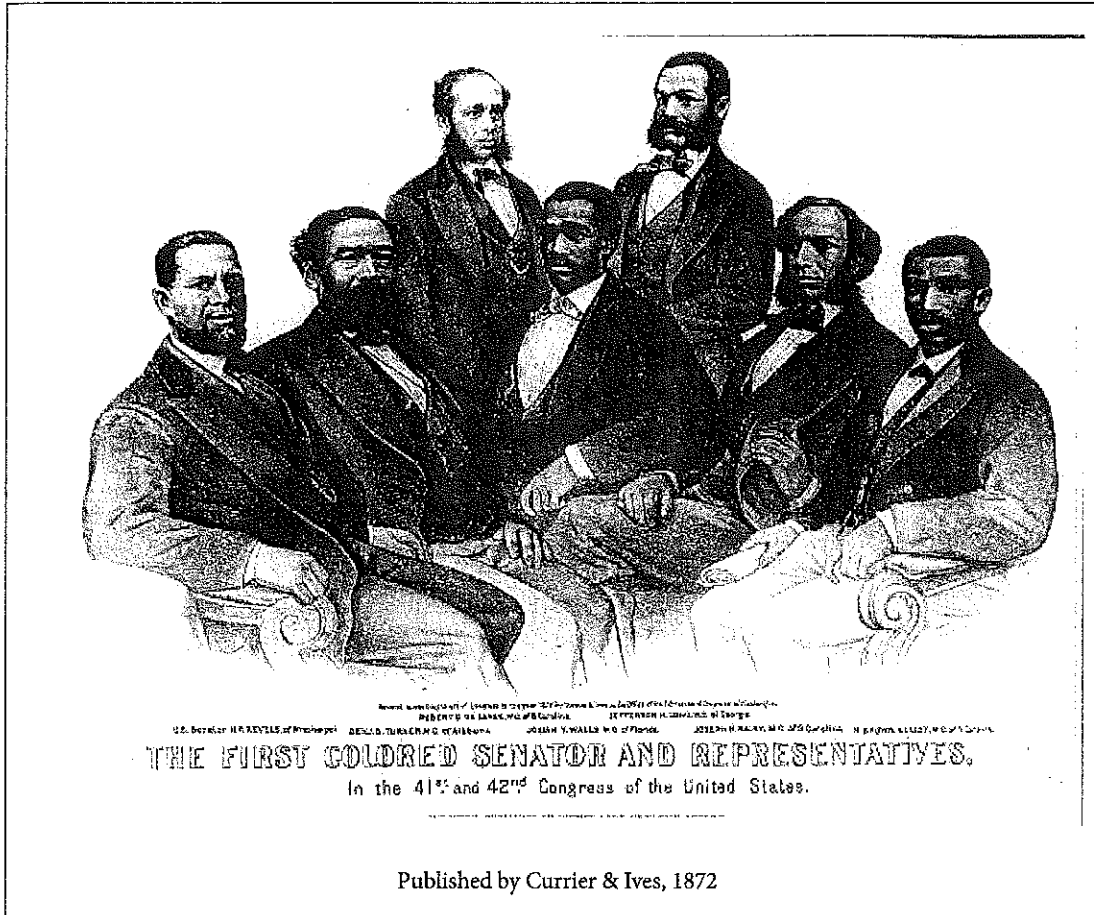
###### Section 2.

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons . . .

###### Section 4.

The validity of the public debt of the United States . . . shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave . . . "

DOCUMENT 5



DOCUMENT 6

“After the Civil War, our people had no money. We became a one-crop people. Cotton was ready money. Northern manufacturers and western farmers encouraged this, and we were without scientific knowledge. Speculators manipulated all the profit out of cotton by a system of exchanges, grades, and quotations. A system of credit was inaugurated by the State Lien Law. By this system the farmer paid tribute to the local Caesar, twenty-five to fifty times the price for plantation supplies.”

Source: Mrs. Ella Gooding (aged 80) and her husband Robert (aged 82) lived in Winnsboro, South Carolina, when they were interviewed by the WPA Federal Writers Project in the 1938.