DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION (DBQ): Reform Movements

This question is based on the accompanying document (1-7). The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of the documents have been edited for the purposes of the question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

In the mid 1800s, many Americans became concerned about growing societal issues and the impact these issues had on the United States. To address these concerns, individuals, groups and organizations used a variety of strategies to promote social and political reform.

TASK:

Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of social studies, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to...

- Discuss at least two social or political problems reformers were concerned about in American society during the mid 1800s.
- Explain at least two methods or strategies reformers used to address these problems.

DBQ Guidelines:

- UNDERSTAND the question
- BRAINSTORM your ideas
- ANALYZE the documents
- ORGANIZE your ideas and information
- WRITE your organized essay
- EDIT your essay- grammar! focus! organization!
He has compelled her to submit to laws, in the formation of which she had no voice.

Having deprived her of this first right of a citizen, the elective franchise [the right to vote], thereby leaving her without representation in the halls of legislation, he has oppressed her on all sides.

He has made her, if married, in the eye of the law, civilly dead.

He has taken from her all right in property, even to the wages she earns.

He has so framed the laws of divorce, as to what shall be the proper causes, and in case of separation, to whom the guardianship of the children shall be given… and giving all power into his hands.

He has monopolized nearly all the profitable employments,

He has denied her the facilities for obtaining a thorough education, all colleges being closed against her.

(“He” in each sentence above refers to men, in general).

Excerpt from The Declaration of Sentiments – Seneca Falls Convention, 1848

1. According to the document, name two rights that were denied to women. [2]

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2. Which important document in American history was used as a model for The Declaration of Sentiments? [1]

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3. How would a statement like this help women to obtain their rights? [1]

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4. Describe working conditions for slaves in the mid-1800s. [1]

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5. Identify one cause for plantation owners to punish slaves. [1]

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6. Describe how Douglass’ master would treat his slaves. [1]

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7. What made Douglass’ autobiography so influential in the abolitionist movement? [1]

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8. Identify two problems identified in the illustrations. [2]

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9. Why would reformers in the 1800s believe that the use of alcohol should be limited or banned [1]

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"Is it a Crime for a Citizen of the United States to Vote?" - a speech by Susan B. Anthony

[Because the Constitution and most laws refer only to men], “is that proof that only men were meant to be included in their provisions? If you insist on this version of the letter of the law, we shall insist that you be consistent, and accept the other [side] of the dilemma, which would compel you to exempt women from taxation for the support of the government, and from penalties for the violation of laws.” We represent fifteen million people—one-half the entire population of the country—the Constitution classes us as “free people,” yet we are governed without our consent [right to vote], compelled to pay taxes without appeal, and punished for violations of law without choice of judge or juror.

Excerpt from a speech by Susan B. Anthony given while she awaited trial for attempting to vote in federal elections in 1872.

10. What argument does Susan B. Anthony use for women having suffrage in this speech? [1]

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11. What was a method women used to obtain their rights in the mid 1800s? [1]

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12. According to the map, what were two ultimate destinations of slaves on the Underground Railroad? [2]

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13. Describe the Underground Railroad. [1]

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Prohibition in the United States 1855

Prohibition simply means to prohibit alcohol. As part of the mid-1800s Temperance Movement, many states passed prohibition laws. Maine was the first state to ban the manufacturing and selling of liquor in 1851 as part of the Maine Laws.

In the map, the states that are colored white refer to the states that had passed a prohibition law by 1855. Those that are shaded had not.

14. Define prohibition. [1]

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15. According to the map, identify at least two states that successful passed prohibition laws. [2]

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Organize