
HISTORY

9697/51

Paper 5 The History of the USA, c.1840–1968

October/November 2014

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Section A

Answer **Question 1**.

Section B

Answer any **three** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

Section A: The Road to Secession and Civil War, 1846–1861

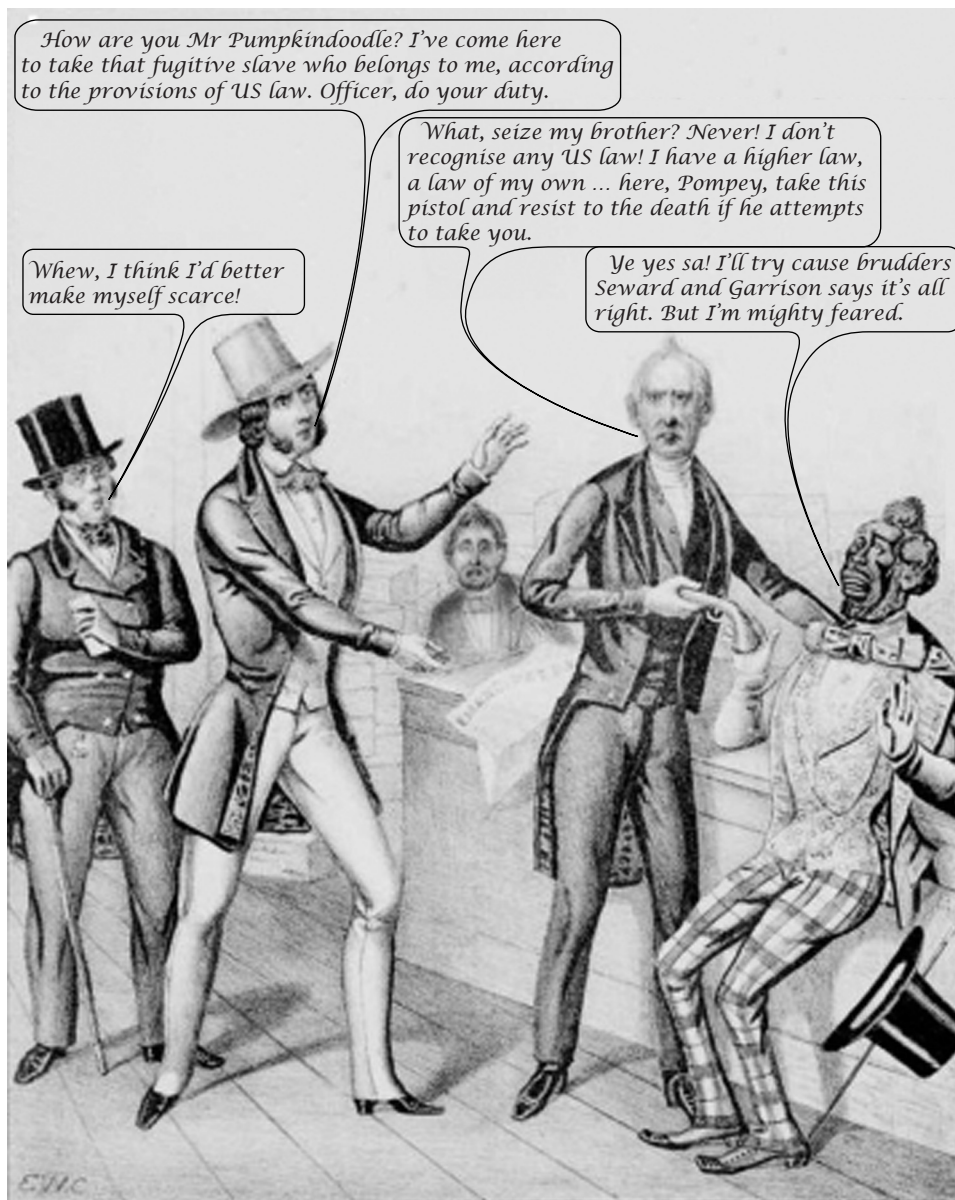
You **must** answer Question 1.

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT, 1850

- 1 Read the Sources and then answer the question.

When answering Question 1, candidates are advised to pay particular attention to the interpretation and evaluation of the Sources, both individually and as a group.

Source A



A cartoon published in 1851.

A slave-owner, nervously backed by a federal law officer, [on the left] is trying to reclaim a slave. He is prevented from doing so by the white man [on the right] who justifies himself by referring to a higher law than US federal law and encourages the runaway slave to resist by handing him a gun.

Source B

It is stated that there are 20 000 fugitive slaves in Canada, 5000 having arrived since the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law. The law has been passed about eight months and these figures would indicate there have been about six hundred arrivals per month of negro fugitives. This is an extravagant story. If that number has passed over the line, it is because the harshness of the new law has made the Northern states an unsafe residence for fugitives. The new fugitive law operates as well as any law could, involving matters wherein so much feeling exists. We can expect clamours against it but these clamours have served to bring out a strong determination for support. The composition of both Houses of the next Congress makes it certain that it must stand for many years yet. We have no doubt that it will be faithfully executed as law and that the opposition will prove fruitless.

The New Orleans 'Picayune', 18 June 1851.

Source C

The Act of Congress for the return of fugitive slaves is one required and demanded by the express words of the Constitution. Some objections have been urged against the details of the Act but it is worthy of remark that the main opposition is aimed against the Constitution itself and proceeds from persons and classes of persons many of whom declare their wish to see the Constitution overturned. Fortunately, the number of these persons is comparatively small and is believed to be daily diminishing.

President Fillmore's Second State of the Union Address, 2 December 1851.

Source D

The Fugitive Slave Bill has especially been of positive service to the anti-slavery movement. It has illustrated before all the people the horrible character of slavery towards the slave, hunting him down in a free state and tearing him away from his wife and children. It has revealed the arrogant and overbearing spirit of the slave states towards the free states, despising their principles – shocking their feelings of humanity, not only by bringing before them the abominations of slavery but by attempting to make them parties to the crime. It has called into exercise among the coloured people, the hunted ones, a spirit of manly resistance well-calculated to surround them with a bulwark of sympathy and respect hitherto unknown. For men are always disposed to respect and defend rights when the victims of repression stand up manfully for themselves.

Frederick Douglass to the Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society of Rochester, New York, 1855.

Source E

By the Compromise of 1850, the South sacrificed its essential interests. It gave away the magnificent empire of California. Above all, it consented to the abolition of the slave trade in the District of Columbia. What did the South receive in return? The Fugitive Slave Law and nothing more! The act was drawn up with care and ability. In view of the adversary's strength, the enactment of a rigorous statute for the return of fugitive slaves was some sort of triumph for the South. The success of Buchanan secured us a patriotic president for the next four years but the South is not yet absolved from the necessity of vigilant guardianship of its rights. Does the North surrender our fugitive slaves? In many, if not a majority of the Northern states, the Fugitive Slave Law has been formally and defiantly nullified by the legislature. And mark, all this contemptuous disregard of our rights and feelings – all these wrongs and insults – are inflicted upon the people of the South by their fellow Americans!

The 'Charleston Mercury', 25 May 1857.

Now answer the following question:

How far do Sources A–E support the hypothesis that the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act was beneficial to the South?

Section B

You must answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 Assess the importance of the frontier to the development of the USA in the second half of the nineteenth century.
- 3 'The Compromise of 1877 was no compromise; it was a victory for the Democrats.' Discuss.
- 4 Assess the causes and consequences of the problems facing US agriculture in the later nineteenth century.
- 5 Who contributed more to improving the position of African Americans in the early twentieth century: W E B Du Bois or Booker T Washington? Explain your answer.
- 6 Why did the policies of President Hoover, 1929–33, fail to remedy the problems caused by the Great Crash?
- 7 Assess Franklin Roosevelt's role as war leader between 1941 and 1945.
- 8 Account for the increasing importance of 'youth culture' in the 1950s and 1960s.

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