

Essay Questions Arranged by Topics 2014
1985-2014

United States Civil War: causes, course and effects 1840–1877

1. Why was it possible for the North and the South in the United States to reach a compromise on the issue of slavery expansion in 1820 and 1850 but not in 1860? (1985)
2. "Slavery was essentially a benign system."

Using examples from at least TWO countries in the region, evaluate this historical viewpoint. (1987)
3. Assess the importance of slavery as a cause of the American Civil War. (1987)
4. "Although few of them were slave-holders, the majority of farmers feared the abolition of slavery."

Evaluate this statement in the light of
 - (A) the economic role of slavery
 - and
 - (B) the social implications of slavery in TWO countries in the region. (HL) (1988)
5. Discuss the significance of the following relationship between North and South in the period 1820-1860:
 - (A) the Missouri Compromise
 - (B) the Compromise of 1850
 - (C) the Kansas-Nebraska Act. (HL) (1988)
6. Were the causes of the American Civil War primarily political, social, or economic? (HL) (1989) What social and economic roles did slavery serve in EITHER the United States OR Brazil in the nineteenth century? (HL) (1990)
7. "The surprising fact is not that the Confederacy lost the American Civil War but that it survived as long as it did." Discuss. (HL) (1990)
8. "Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean was profoundly different from slavery in the United States." How far do you agree with this assertion? (HL) (Nov 1991)
9. "Slaves were basically content with their position. White reformers stirred them up." With specific reference to (A) the nature of slavery and (B) the abolitionist movements, show how far you agree with this statement. Reference should be made to at least TWO countries from the Caribbean and/or mainland America. (HL) (1991)

10. What were the main political results of the Civil War in the United States? (HL) (Nov 1991)
11. What were the political issues underlying the American Civil War? (HL) (1991)
12. Why were slave insurrections and revolts generally unsuccessful? Use examples from TWO countries. (HL) (1992)
13. How important were the abolitionists in the coming of the Civil War? (HL) (1992)
14. Assess the economic profitability of slavery in TWO countries of the region. (HL) (1993)
15. In what ways and to what extent were race relations in the South changed by the Civil War in the United States? (HL) (1993)
16. What were the major arguments for and against slavery in the period before 1860? (HL) (1994)
17. How successful was Reconstruction following the American Civil War? (HL) (1994)
18. What were the major similarities and differences in the master-slave relationship in the slave cultures of any TWO countries in the region? (HL) (1995)
19. "The United States Civil was entirely an economic struggle" To what extent do you agree with this assessment? (HL) (1995)
20. To what extent was the expansion of slavery into the territories the primary cause of the United States Civil War? (HL) (1996)
21. Who opposed slavery in the Americas and why? (HL) (1997)
22. What were the political causes and results of the US Civil War? (HL) (1997)
23. "In the nineteenth century blacks were allowed greater economic and social mobility in Latin America than in the United States." How do you account for this difference? (HL) (1998)
24. Assess the contribution made by African-American soldiers during the United States Civil War. (HL) (1998)
25. How and why did the antislavery movement in the United States change during the course of the nineteenth century. (HL) (November 1999)
26. "It was the result of tensions between two ways of life." "The war was caused by unnecessary fanatical agitations." Which of these explanations for the outbreak of the

- Civil War in the United States do you consider to be the most appropriate and why?
(HL) (November 1999)
27. Analyze the reasons why slavery in the Americas was supported by different social and economic groups. (HL) (1999)
 28. Assess the successes and failures of Reconstruction in granting civil and political equality for former slaves in the southern states of the United States. (HL) (1999)
 29. Compare the political, economic, and military strengths and weaknesses of the North and South United States at the beginning of the United States Civil War in 1863? (HL) (2000)
 30. “The attempts in the Reconstruction period 1865 to 1877 to solve problems caused by the Civil War failed African-Americans.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? (HL) (2000)
 31. “Abraham Lincoln has been given greater credit than he deserves for the emancipation of slaves in the US.” How far do you agree with this statement? (HL) (2001)
 32. Analyze the conditions that produced slave insurrections **either** in the United States **or** Brazil. To what extent were these insurrections successful? (HL) (2002)
 33. To what extent did economic and social differences cause the United States’ Civil War? (HL) (2002)
 34. “The wasteful economy of slavery was replaced by the productive economy based on salary.” With reference to **two** countries of the region, explain to what extent you agree with this view. (HL)
 35. Analyze the immediate and longer-term political effects of the United States Civil War in the period 1865 to 1896. (HL) (2003)
 36. Who opposed slavery in the Americas, and why? (2004)
 37. Why did the United States Civil War break out in 1861? (2004)
 38. Analyse the main arguments of
 - (a) those who supported slavery;
 - (b) those who opposed slavery. (HL) (2005)
 39. "Abraham Lincoln's leadership was the main reason why the Union won the Civil War." To what extent do you agree with this claim? (HL) (2005)
 40. For what reasons and, in what ways, did supporters of slavery in the nineteenth century

- use legal, religious, and economic arguments in its defence'? (HL) (2006)
41. Assess the relative strengths of the North and the South at the beginning of the United States Civil War in 1861. (HL) (2006)
 42. Evaluate the economic and social conditions of free African Americans in **one** country of the region during the nineteenth century.. (2007)
 43. Why, in spite of the advantages of the North over the South, did the civil War in the United States last so long?. (2007)
 44. For what reasons, and with what impact, did abolitionism develop in the north of the United States?. (2008)
 45. Why was compromise no longer possible between the North and the South in the United States by 1860?. (2008)
 46. With reference to at least **two** examples of slave rebellions, analyze the reaction to the rebellions in **one** country of the region.. (2009)
 47. “The Civil War in the United States was caused by political disagreements” To what extent do you agree with this statement? (2009)
 48. In what ways did the Civil War change the economy and racial relations in the South? (2009)
 49. “The Kansas-Nebraska problem destroyed the power of the Southern pro-slavery group.” To what extent do you agree with this view? (2010)
 50. To what extent was the victory of the North in the United States Civil War due to its superior industrial resources and manpower? (2010)
 51. Compare and contrast Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis as wartime leaders during the United States Civil War. (2011)
 52. “The Battle of Gettysburg was the turning point of the United States Civil War.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? (2011)
 53. “Sectionalism, not slavery, was the major cause of the United States Civil War.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? (2012)
 54. To what extent had Reconstruction fulfilled its aims by 1877? (2012)
 55. In what ways, and to what extent, did the events of the 1850s contribute to the increase of sectionalism and the outbreak of the United States Civil War? (2013)

56. Why, and with what results, was there political opposition to the plans for Reconstruction in the United States between 1863 and 1867? (2013)
57. “The role of foreign powers had a significant effect on the outcome of the United States Civil War.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? (2014)
58. To what extent did the theory of nullification and the nullification crisis contribute to the origins of the United States Civil War? (2014)