

NAME _____ SCHOOL _____

In developing your answers to Part III, be sure to keep this general definition in mind:

discuss means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”

Part III

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this 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:

The United States was established as a democratic republic. However, democracy was limited by various factors and was not equally available to all groups. For more than 200 years, attempts have been made to expand democracy and to increase citizen participation in government.

Task: Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, 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 the expansion of democracy in United States history

Part A

Short-Answer Questions

Directions: Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document in the space provided.

Document 1a

Chronology of Property Requirements for Suffrage: 1790–1855

Year	Number of States in Union	Number of States with Property Requirements
1790	13	10
1800	16	10
1810	17	9
1820	23	9
1830	24	8
1840	26	7
1850	31	4
1855	31	3*

*In 1855, the three states with property requirements were Rhode Island, New York, and South Carolina; however, Rhode Island exempted native-born citizens, New York's requirement only applied to African Americans, and South Carolina offered a residency alternative.

Source: Alexander Keyssar, *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of Democracy in the United States*, Basic Books, 2000 (adapted)

Document 1b

...The possibility of labor's emergence as a political force, a possibility that appeared to be a probability in the early Jacksonian period, was due in large part to the nation's steady advance toward universal manhood suffrage. Whether universal suffrage came as a result of the political idealism bred by the Revolution, or the conviction of Jefferson and the Jeffersonian Republicans that government should be based on wide popular support, or the relative decline of freeholders [property owners], or the influence of the frontier, or the more practical consideration that a politician's advocacy of wider suffrage was bound to ensure him the support of those enfranchised as the result of his efforts, the fact was that suffrage qualifications had been steadily lowering since the founding of the Republic...

The lowering of suffrage qualifications did not mean that pure democracy had triumphed. The ballot was still an open one, and any watcher at the polls could tell how votes were being cast. Negroes [African Americans] and women were still considered unfit for the franchise. But by Jackson's time most adult white males in the United States had the right to vote on election day. So shrewd an observer as Alexis de Tocqueville, writing in the eighteen-thirties, declared that "the principle of the sovereignty of the people has acquired in the United States all the practical development that the imagination can conceive."...

Source: Glyndon G. Van Deusen, *The Jacksonian Era: 1828-1848*, Harper & Row, Publishers, 1959 (adapted)

1a Based on these documents, what are **two** factors that contributed to the expansion of democracy prior to the Civil War? [2]

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____

Score

b Based on these documents, what is **one** way in which democracy was still restricted? [1]

Score

Document 2

...Until the Jacksonian movement the common people seemed to have been content to have the upper classes rule. But by 1828 the psychology of the plain people toward their government had changed, and they wished for direct participation in the government and for the elevation of a man of their choice into the presidency. In that year the common men came to the polls, demagogic [emotional] oratory flourished, party slogans, party workers and organizers who had an eye on the plums of office got out the vote. The campaign was personalized. This new type of democracy, composed of the farmers of the West, the yeomen [landowning farmers] and small planters of the South, and the labor vote of the North, was violently partisan and had little interest in the protection of intellectual liberty or the rights of minorities, which had ennobled [elevated] the brand of democracy that Jefferson had advocated. It was a rough and tumble movement that resulted in the elevation of pushing, mediocre men to office. Their leader Andrew Jackson, had a personality that was autocratic instead of being truly democratic, and he lacked an interest in fundamental *social* reforms....

Source: Clement Eaton, *A History of the Old South*, The Macmillan Company, 1966

2a According to Clement Eaton, who became involved in the democratic process during the Jacksonian Era? [1]

Score

b According to Clement Eaton, what is **one** way campaigns changed starting in 1828? [1]

Score

Document 3

... Blacks [African Americans] bent on remaining in America would naturally seek the right to vote and, equally as a matter of course, would base their claim in part on the Declaration. In a rally in support of the Liberty Party in 1840, Albany [New York] blacks contended that denying them equal franchise with whites contravened [contradicted] the principles of the Declaration of Independence. Later that year, also in Albany, a state convention of black spokesmen issued a formal statement which in three instances referred to the Declaration, including its assertion that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. Twenty years later, in a tract issued for state-wide distribution, "The New York City and County Suffrage Committee of Colored Citizens," invoked the Declaration in its plea to the electorate to eliminate the property requirement for voting imposed only on blacks....

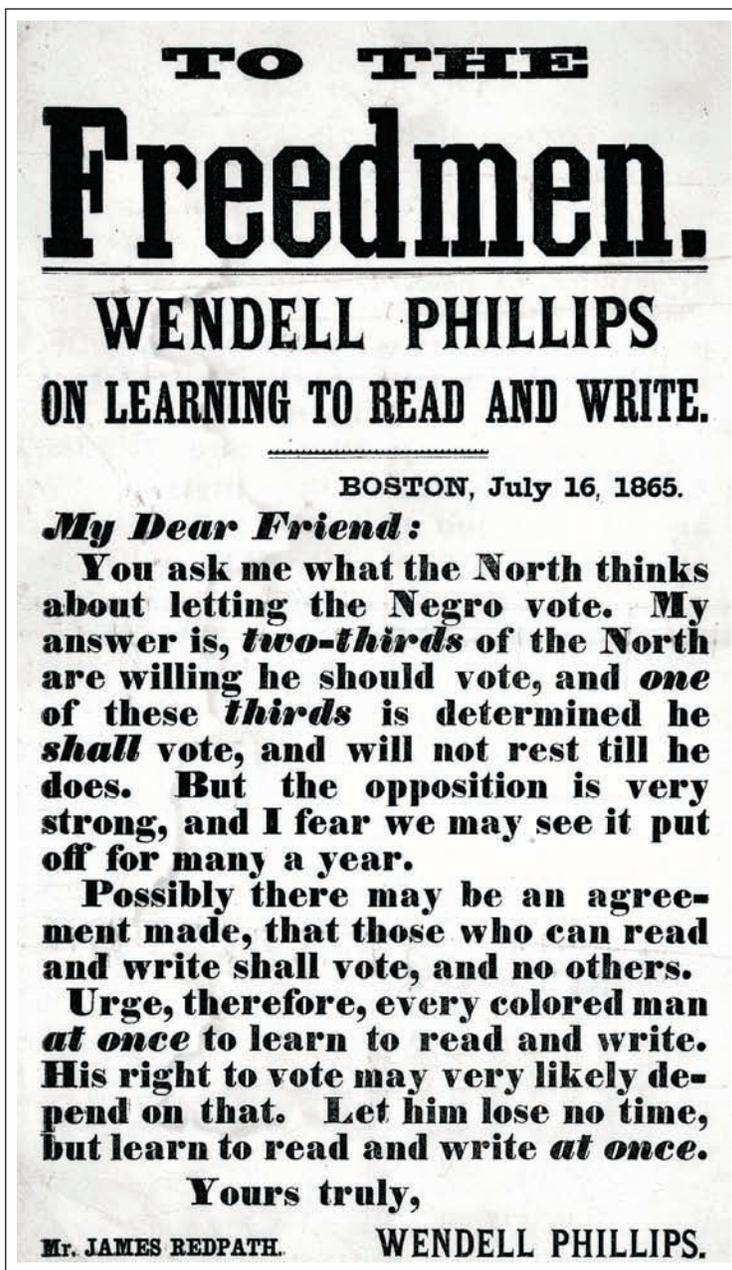
Source: Benjamin Quarles, "Antebellum Free Blacks and the 'Spirit of '76'," *The Journal of Negro History*, July 1976 (adapted)

- 3 According to Benjamin Quarles, what argument did free African Americans in New York use in justifying their right to vote? [1]

Score

Document 4

This letter by abolitionist Wendell Phillips to James Redpath was published in Boston in 1865.



Source: Library of Congress

4 Why did Wendell Phillips think every African American should learn to read and write? [1]

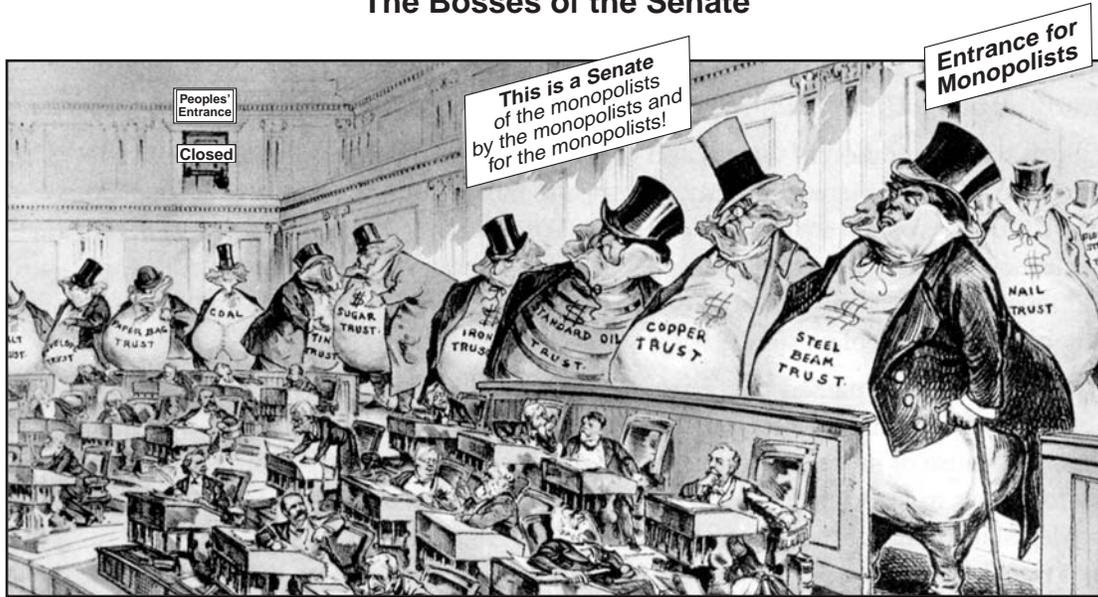
Score

This page left blank intentionally.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE ➡

Document 5a

The Bosses of the Senate



Source: Joseph J. Keppler, *Puck*, 1889 (adapted)

5a According to this cartoonist, what was **one** way the people's control of government in the United States was limited? [1]

Score

Document 5b

... Popular [democratic] government in America has been thwarted and progressive legislation strangled by the special interests, which control caucuses, delegates, conventions, and party organizations; and, through this control of the machinery of government, dictate nominations and platforms, elect administrations, legislatures, representatives in Congress, United States Senators, and control cabinet officers. ...

The Progressive Republican League believes that popular government is fundamental to all other questions. To this end it advocates:

- (1) The election of United State Senators by direct vote of the people.
- (2) Direct primaries for the nomination of elective officials.
- (3) The direct election of delegates to national conventions with opportunity for the voter to express his choice for President and Vice-President.
- (4) Amendment to state constitutions providing for the Initiative, Referendum and Recall. ...

Source: Declaration of Principles of the National Progressive Republican League, January 21, 1911, in Henry Steele Commager, ed., *Documents of American History*, Appleton-Century-Crofts

5b What were **two** proposals made by the Progressive Republican League that would expand the people's control of government? [2]

(1) _____

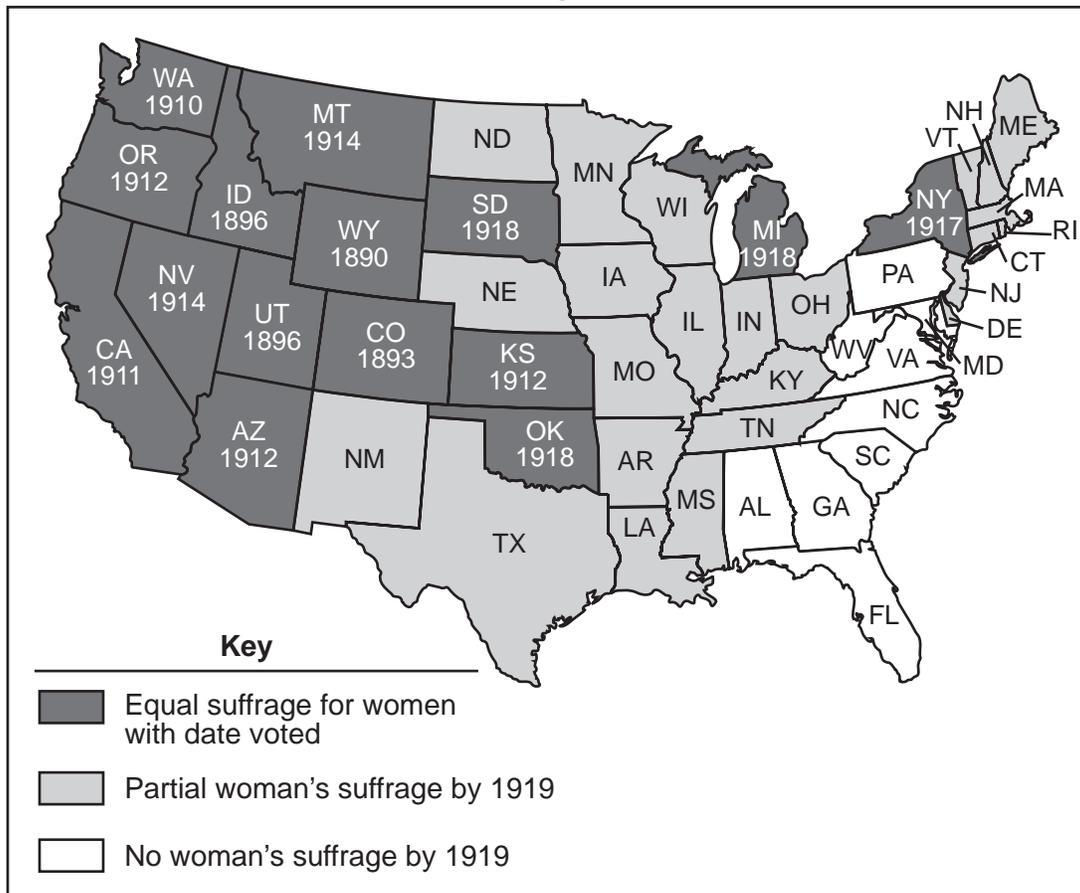
Score

(2) _____

Score

Document 6

Woman's Suffrage Before 1920



Document 7

This is an excerpt from an address by President Lyndon B. Johnson to a joint session of Congress shortly before submitting the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

... THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Our fathers believed that if this noble view of the rights of man was to flourish, it must be rooted in democracy. The most basic right of all was the right to choose your own leaders. The history of this country, in large measure, is the history of the expansion of that right to all of our people.

Many of the issues of civil rights are very complex and most difficult. But about this there can and should be no argument. Every American citizen must have an equal right to vote. There is no reason which can excuse the denial of that right. There is no duty which weighs more heavily on us than the duty we have to ensure that right.

Yet the harsh fact is that in many places in this country men and women are kept from voting simply because they are Negroes [African Americans]....

This bill will strike down restrictions to voting in all elections—Federal, State, and local—which have been used to deny Negroes the right to vote....

To those who seek to avoid action by their National Government in their own communities; who want to and who seek to maintain purely local control over elections, the answer is simple:

Open your polling places to all your people.

Allow men and women to register and vote whatever the color of their skin.

Extend the rights of citizenship to every citizen of this land....

Source: President Lyndon B. Johnson, Special Message to the Congress: The American Promise, March 15, 1965

7 According to President Lyndon B. Johnson, why was the Voting Rights Act necessary in the United States? [1]

Score

Document 8

Tonight Ohio's Legislature ratified the 26th Amendment to the Constitution. This Amendment guarantees the right of 18-year-old persons to vote in State and local, as well as Federal, elections. It appears that 38 States have now ratified the Amendment that will now become a part of the law of the land.

Some 11 million young men and women who have participated in the life of our Nation through their work, their studies, and their sacrifices for its defense, are now to be fully included in the electoral process of our country. For more than 20 years, I have advocated the 18-year-old vote. I heartily congratulate our young citizens on having gained this right.

The ratification of this Amendment has been accomplished in the shortest time of any amendment in American history. This fact affirms our Nation's confidence in its youth and its trust in their responsibility. It also reinforces our young people's dedication to a system of government whose Constitution permits ordered change.

I urge them to honor this right by exercising it—by registering and voting in each election.

Source: President Richard Nixon, Statement About the Ratification of the 26th Amendment to the Constitution, June 30, 1971 (adapted)

- 8 According to President Richard Nixon, what is **one** way that ratification of the 26th amendment expanded democracy in the United States? [1]

Score

Part B

Essay

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from *at least five* documents in your essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

Historical Context:

The United States was established as a democratic republic. However, democracy was limited by various factors and was not equally available to all groups. For more than 200 years, attempts have been made to expand democracy and to increase citizen participation in government.

Task: Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, write an essay in which you

- Discuss the expansion of democracy in United States history

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from *at least five* documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme