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History

Paper 2J (AS) Additional Specimen Question

Paper

Question 02 Student 2

Specimen Answer and Commentary

V1.0 26/02/16

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## Specimen Answer plus commentary

The following student response is intended to illustrate approaches to assessment. This response has not been completed under timed examination conditions. It is not intended to be viewed as a 'model' answer and the marking has not been subject to the usual standardisation process.

### Paper 2J (AS): Additional Specimen question paper

**02** 'Economic differences were the major cause of division between the North and South by 1850.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

### Student response

The Northern and Southern states were divided on many issues throughout the 19th Century. Of which caused numerous conflicts and a rivalry between the nation. One of the major causes was arguably the economic differences.

In the antebellum period – between the years of 1820 to 1860; America had been transformed from what was once an underdeveloped nation filled with fairness into an urbanised, economic stronghold. One of the ways in which this occurred was through 'The Blanket Revolution'. This entailed a shift from the agricultural economy – to an economy based around wages and the exchanges of services and gifts. This shift of economics was thanks to the manufacturing boom that the North had. This is shown through Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gun and he then also perfected manufacturing with interchangeable parts. This demonstrated the economic differences that caused a divide between the North and South because as the North progressed into a technological urbanised future. The South remained to have agriculture as their main source of income.

Slavery was also a major cause of division between the North and South. However, slavery also hugely ties into the economic differences that were a cause at the time. Whereas, an influx of immigrants invaded the North and millions began to move into cities; both of which were seeking to find jobs. The Southern states continued to be reliant on black slaves doing the jobs for them in order to support their cotton-based economy. Whilst, Northern states had to pay a higher rate in order to pay their employees, the southern states get away with paying their employees little to almost no money at all. Thus, the Southern actually had an economic advantage because they had spent less money on work force

Thirdly, American society had quite an impact on divisions between the warring North and South. Americas 'middle class' was born in this era meaning another kind of segregation had come into play. The wealth of a man had become his title; and for America, this is the first time a working man had gained a title. However, this new class structure could then cause divides among the whole country. Showing the power money had over all men.

On the other hand, it could be argued that the beliefs of the Northern and Southern states were actually the major cause of division. Whereas, the North saw Slavery as wrong, the South saw it as a necessity to everyday life. And in the end, this is the main reason for the divide. This is mostly evident in the fact that John. C. Calhoun who was the vice president of America went against his own president – Andrew Jackson in order to support slavery. He even supported the secession of South Carolina showing how deeply people cared about their beliefs and how far they would actually go.

In conclusion, I think many factors influenced the division between North and south. Although, slavery and beliefs are perhaps the most evident causes – I believe that economic differences had a part to play. The reason as to why I believe slavery and beliefs to play a larger role is simply because they were obviously what many people cared about. I know this because of the 1850 compromise of which Slavery is the most mentioned cause of conflict.

### **Commentary – Level 3**

This is an answer of mixed quality. There is an adequate and appropriate assessment of economic differences, although the assessment is undermined by asserting that the South 'paid their employees little' referring, it is assumed, to the slave economy. The paragraph on social division lacks any direct link to the question, being general, rather than an issue between the North and the South. The Nullification Crisis is treated in an unconvincing manner and there is some lack of range. The answer is Level 3.