

Unit 4: 1800-1848

Questions 1-3 refer to the excerpt below.

We never had an interior trade of any importance. During this time we have manufactured within our families the most necessary articles of clothing . . . very coarse, unsightly, and unpleasant: and such is our attachment to agriculture and such our preference for foreign manufactures, that be it wise or unwise, our people will certainly return as they can, to the raising [of] raw materials, and exchanging them for finer manufactures than they are able to execute themselves . . .

While we have land to labor, let us never wish to see our citizens occupied at a work-bench , or twirling a distaff*. Carpenters, masons, smiths, are wanting in husbandry*; but, for the general operations in manufacture, let our work-shops remain in Europe.

**tool used for spinning fibers into yarn for the manufacture of textiles*

**agriculture*

Source: Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*, 1781

1. Which of the following people would most agree with the view expressed in the excerpt?

- a. Alexander Hamilton
- b. Henry Clay
- c. Andrew Jackson
- d. John Quincy Adams

Explanations:

- a. **Incorrect:** Hamilton was a proponent of a strong central government with expanded economic powers. He envisioned a national economy built on trade and industry.
- b. **Incorrect:** Clay supported the use of protective tariffs to promote domestic production of manufactured goods.
- c. **Correct:** A fellow slave-holder, Jackson supported westward expansion for the purposes of agricultural production.
- d. **Incorrect:** John Quincy Adams was a National Republican who, following the Era of Good Feelings, supported economic growth through funding transportation projects.

2. Which of the following did not result from the debate over America's economic future in the excerpt?
- American System
 - Missouri Compromise
 - Louisiana Purchase
 - Second Great Awakening

Explanations:

- Incorrect:** The American System prescribed protective tariffs, renewing the national bank, and federal funding for internal improvements and saw pushback from generally agrarian Jacksonian Democrats.
 - Incorrect:** The Missouri Compromise attempted to settle the debate over the expansion of slavery in 1820. Slavery was the driving force behind American agricultural production.
 - Incorrect:** The Jefferson administration's decision to purchase the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803 aligned with the president's agrarian vision for the country as it would provide seemingly endless land for self-sufficient yeoman farmers to settle.
 - Correct:** The Second Great Awakening was a Protestant religious movement that saw parallels with contemporary political developments, such as Jacksonian democracy, but was largely void of economic factors.
3. All of the following actions taken by the Jefferson administration directly contradicted his desire for an agrarian nation with a limited government except
- Declaring war on the Barbary pirates
 - Purchasing the Louisiana Territory from France
 - Refusal to allow Federalist-appointed judges to take office
 - Cutting off all trade with Europe

Explanations:

- Incorrect:** The Barbary Wars saw the first official declaration of war by the new constitutional government. It was also one of the first attempts by the United States to exert military force and political influence abroad, somewhat contradicting Jefferson's notions of a small, limited government.
- Correct:** While the Constitution did not explicitly award the power to purchase foreign land to the federal government, the addition of the Louisiana Territory did align with Jefferson's agrarian view as this acquisition provided millions of acres of fertile, resource-rich land to be settled by Americans.
- Incorrect:** Jefferson's role in the *Marbury v. Madison* case allowed for the expansion of federal power, namely through the Supreme Court's precedential power of judicial review.
- Incorrect:** Not only was it considered unconstitutional by opponents, the Embargo Act of 1807 also indirectly promoted American industry and manufacturing, thus contradicting Jefferson's vision for an agriculturally-based economy.

Questions 4-7 refer to the excerpt below.

There are few things which present greater obstacles to the improvement and elevation of woman to her appropriate sphere of usefulness and duty, than the laws which have been enacted to destroy her independence and crush here individuality; laws which, although they are framed for her government, she has had no voice in establishing, to which rob her of some of her essential rights. . . . [I]f not actually so in representative governments, she is only counted . . . to swell the numbers of law-makers who form decrees for her government, with little reference to her benefit, except so far as her good may promote their own.

And farther, all the avails of her labor are absolutely in the power of her husband. All that she acquires by her industry is his; so that she cannot, with her own honest earnings, become the legal purchaser of any property.

And this taxation, without representation, . . . a grievance so heavy, that it was thought necessary to purchase exemption from it at an immense expense of blood and treasure . . .

Source: Sarah Grimké, *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Woman*, 1837

4. The ideas expressed in the excerpt most directly challenged the prevailing ideal in the early nineteenth century that
- women should pride themselves solely on their work in the home
 - women should be considered equal to men in every way
 - women's role in society was to educate their children on their civic duty
 - women were making a newfound positive impact on the national economy

Explanations

- Correct:** *The cult of domesticity maintained that women's role in the home should be revered and idealized. Public life, marriage and property rights, and economic opportunity were considered unnecessary or corrupting for women.*
- Incorrect:** *While Grimké advocated for complete equality, this sentiment was not a prevailing ideal at the time.*
- Incorrect:** *Republican motherhood was a prevailing ideal but was not entirely discounted by Grimké.*
- Incorrect:** *Women's contribution to the factory system workforce was welcomed, though it was still on an unequal basis.*

5. Which of the following would the author most strongly support?

- a. cult of domesticity
- b. republican motherhood
- c. women's suffrage
- d. utopian societies

Explanations:

- a. **Incorrect:** *The cult of domesticity refers to the separate spheres of life that men and women operated in: men in the public sphere (business, politics, etc.) and women in the private sphere (wives, mothers, and homemakers).*
- b. **Incorrect:** *Women's idealized role as mothers was still a form of oppression.*
- c. **Correct:** *Stating that women "had no voice in establishing" laws concerning their lives, Grimké definitely supported granting women the right to vote.*
- d. **Incorrect:** *Many utopian societies, whether religiously or politically motivated, supported equality on the basis of sex. The right to vote, however, was a more practical goal in order to improve the lives of women in America.*

6. Which of the following developments in the early and mid-19th Century best reflects the concerns expressed in the excerpt?

- a. The abolitionist movement's calls for ending slavery
- b. Jacksonian Democrats' appeal to the "common man"
- c. Nativist resentment towards European immigrants
- d. The expulsion of Native Americans to beyond the Mississippi River

Explanations:

- a. **Correct:** *Women's rights and abolitionism were two movements that overlapped significantly until the Civil War as they were both striving for equality for different groups.*
- b. **Incorrect:** *Democratization during the "Age of Jackson" largely focused on the promotion of political equality for all white men, irrespective of economic status.*
- c. **Incorrect:** *Nativists were not proponents of equality. They attempted to curtail immigration and imposed laws that restricted the political and economic rights of certain groups, including Irish-Americans.*
- d. **Incorrect:** *The Jackson administration enacted the Indian Removal Act in order to open land up to white Americans for the sake of agriculture and mining.*

- 7. The author of the excerpt draws a direct comparison between the mistreatment of women in the 19th Century and**
- The encroachment by European colonists onto Native American land
 - The burden of Parliamentary legislation on colonists leading to the American Revolution
 - The growing slave population in the Deep South due to the cotton industry
 - The inequalities that existed between urban, East Coast elites and agrarian settlers on the Western frontier.

Explanations:

- Incorrect:*** The excerpt does not mention the mistreatment of Native Americans.
- Correct:*** Grimké specifically cites "this taxation, without representation" as a significant economic grievance for women. This is a reference to the primary cause for the American Revolution just half a century earlier.
- Incorrect:*** While the full transcript of *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Woman* does compare women's plight to that of the enslaved, there is no mention of slavery in this excerpt.
- Incorrect:*** The excerpt does not mention socioeconomic and regional inequalities.

Questions 8-10 refer to

About two years since leisure afforded opportunity and duty prompted me to visit several prisons and almshouses* in the vicinity of this metropolis. I found, near Boston, in the jails and asylums for the poor, a numerous class brought into unsuitable connection with criminals and the general mass of paupers. I refer to idiots and insane persons, dwelling in circumstances not only adverse to their own physical and moral improvement, but productive of extreme disadvantages to all other persons brought into association with them. . . I tell what I have seen -- painful and shocking as the details often are -- that from them you may feel more deeply the imperative obligation which lies upon you to prevent the possibility of a repetition or continuance of such outrages upon humanity. If I inflict pain upon you, and move you to horror, it is to acquaint you with sufferings which you have the power to alleviate, and make you hasten to the relief of the victims of legalized barbarity.

**a house built originally by a charitable person or organization for poor people to live in*

Source: Dorothea Dix, *Memorial To The Legislature of Massachusetts*, 1843

8. All of the following developments in the mid-19th Century reflect the ideas expressed in the excerpt above except
- The desire to establish a national system of public education
 - A growing movement to make alcohol manufacture, sale and consumption illegal
 - Attempts at forming utopian communities outside of urban and mainstream society
 - Southern churches splitting with their abolitionist counterparts in the North

Explanations:

- Incorrect:** Public education was a significant reform akin to calls for asylum reform.
- Incorrect:** The temperance movement saw women take the lead in calls for social reform, paralleling Dix's leadership.
- Incorrect:** Utopian societies often established egalitarian and communal systems in response to inequalities in mainstream American society.
- Correct:** The Southern Baptist denomination emerged in the 1840s in response to northern calls for abolition. This was in opposition to a push for equality.

9. Which of the following groups would most likely agree with the ideas expressed in the excerpt?
- Transcendentalists
 - Jacksonian Democrats
 - Nativists
 - Revivalists

Explanations:

- Correct:** *Transcendentalists challenged the economic and religious motives of mainstream American society that often led to inequalities. The transcendentalist movement was largely supportive of many reform movements.*
- Incorrect:** *The Democratic Party of the mid-19th Century was generally supportive of slavery, which was seen as an affront to human rights and social equality by opponents.*
- Incorrect:** *Nativists opposed immigration and affording opportunities to new immigrants.*
- Incorrect:** *The Second Great Awakening, while democratizing in essence through its regional particularity, was not fundamentally focused on the rights of the oppressed.*

10. Social reform efforts consistent with the ideas expressed in the excerpt were most common in which of the following regions?
- The Deep South
 - The North
 - rural communities
 - Western territories

Explanations:

- Incorrect:** *The Deep South lacked the urban centers and general socioeconomic diversity that existed in the more populous North. Therefore, Southern calls for social reform were less substantial.*
- Correct:** *Most reform movements originated and/or flourished in the North. This was due to many reasons, not insignificantly the increased role of women in the public sphere there.*
- Incorrect:** *Rural communities did not contribute a significant voice to most widespread reform movements at this time due to their agricultural society and less diverse composition.*
- Incorrect:** *Communities in western territories during the mid-1800s were relatively absent from the social debates going on east of the Mississippi River.*