

Georgia Changes Course

Evaluate how postwar economic, political, and civil rights changes shaped Georgia.

SS8H10 "Evaluate key post-World War II developments in Georgia."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three postwar developments in the passage. Next to each one, number a sentence that explains its impact, so you can evaluate how the change shaped Georgia.

A State in Transition

- ① After World War II, Georgia's farms changed quickly. Machines, fertilizers, improved seeds, and larger operations let fewer workers produce more crops. Many small farmers and farm laborers left rural counties for jobs in cities or outside the state. This shift hurt some rural communities, which lost population and local businesses. At the same time, Georgia's economy became less dependent on cotton. Manufacturing, transportation, and service jobs expanded, helping the state gain a more varied economy. The change brought growth, but its benefits were not shared equally across every county.
- ② Atlanta became a powerful center for this new economy. Mayor William B. Hartsfield supported airport expansion and worked to attract businesses, while Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. promoted downtown development and backed public accommodations during the civil rights era. The airport linked Georgia to national and international markets, making Atlanta attractive to companies and conventions. Martin Luther King Jr., an Atlanta-born leader, made the city important to the national civil rights movement. Atlanta's growth created jobs and influence, although unequal access to housing, schools, and employment remained a serious problem.
- ③ Political and civil rights changes also reshaped Georgia. In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court ended the county unit system, which had given rural counties extra power in statewide primary elections. Later reapportionment required voting districts to have more equal populations, increasing the political influence of growing urban areas. Court-ordered integration at the University of Georgia in 1961 and the Albany Movement showed both advances and resistance. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 strengthened legal protections. Together, these changes widened participation, yet discrimination and unequal power did not disappear.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What was one benefit and one harmful effect of the transformation of Georgia agriculture after World War II?

2 How did Hartsfield's airport work and Atlanta's location in markets help the city grow?

3 Why did ending the county unit system and reapportioning districts increase the influence of urban areas?

4 Does the passage show that civil rights changes completely ended inequality in Georgia? Use two details to support your evaluation.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence evaluation of which postwar development in the passage had the greatest long-term effect on Georgia. State a claim, use evidence about that development and one other development, then explain why your choice had the broader effect.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three postwar developments in the passage. Next to each one, number a sentence that explains its impact, so you can evaluate how the change shaped Georgia. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What was one benefit and one harmful effect of the transformation of Georgia agriculture after World War II?	Benefit: manufacturing, transportation, and service jobs helped create a more varied economy. Harmful effect: rural communities lost population and local businesses as farm workers left.
2	How did Hartsfield's airport work and Atlanta's location in markets help the city grow?	Airport expansion linked Georgia to national and international markets. Those links made Atlanta more attractive to companies and conventions.
3	Why did ending the county unit system and reapportioning districts increase the influence of urban areas?	The county unit system had given rural counties extra power in statewide primaries. More equal-population districts gave growing urban areas greater political influence.
4	Does the passage show that civil rights changes completely ended inequality in Georgia? Use two details to support your evaluation.	No. The Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act strengthened legal protections and changes widened participation, but discrimination and unequal power remained.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The end of the county unit system had the greatest long-term effect on Georgia. It reduced the extra power rural counties had held in statewide primaries. Reapportionment then gave growing urban areas more political influence. Atlanta's airport expansion also changed Georgia by attracting companies and conventions. However, fairer representation could affect many state decisions, so the political change had the broader effect.

Accept well-supported evaluations that make a clear claim, accurately use evidence from two postwar developments, and explain a comparison. Students may reasonably select agricultural change, Atlanta's growth, political representation, or civil rights developments.