

Freedom, Rights, and Limits

Compare political, economic, and social effects before the Civil War.

8.7.B “compare the effects of political, economic, and social factors on slaves and free Blacks;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about enslaved people and circle a matching or contrasting detail about free Black people in each paragraph. Number the paragraphs P, E, and S for political, economic, and social factors.

Two Legal Statutes, Unequal Lives

- ① Before the Civil War, laws created sharply different political lives for enslaved people and free Black people. Enslaved people were legally treated as property in slave states. They could not vote, hold office, serve on juries, or make legal contracts. Free Black people were not enslaved, but their rights varied by state. In many places, they also could not vote or serve on juries. Southern states often required free Black people to carry proof of freedom and restricted where they could travel or live.
- ② Economic rules also shaped daily choices. Enslaved workers produced cotton, sugar, tobacco, and other goods, but they did not receive wages for their labor. Slaveholders controlled their work, movement, and the money earned from crops. Free Black people could earn pay, buy some property, and operate businesses in certain communities. Yet discrimination limited jobs, wages, loans, and property rights. A free Black craft worker might own tools and collect payment, while an enslaved craft worker's skills and earnings belonged to the enslaver.
- ③ Social conditions affected safety, family life, education, and community. Enslaved families faced the constant danger of separation when an enslaver sold a parent or child. Most enslaved people were barred from formal schooling, although some learned secretly or through family and community members. Free Black families had more control over their homes and could build churches, schools, and mutual-aid groups. Still, racism brought segregation, violence, and unequal treatment. Freedom changed important choices, but it did not end discrimination or guarantee equal rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Compare one political right that enslaved people lacked with the political limits many free Black people faced.

- 2** How did economic control differ for an enslaved craft worker and a free Black craft worker?

- 3** Compare the social effects on family life and community for enslaved people and free Black people.

- 4** What two details show that being free did not guarantee equal treatment for Black people? Use one political detail and one social detail.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that compare how one political, one economic, and one social factor affected enslaved people and free Black people. In your third sentence, explain which factor most clearly shows that freedom did not guarantee equality.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about enslaved people and circle a matching or contrasting detail about free Black people in each paragraph. Number the paragraphs P, E, and S for political, economic, and social factors. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare one political right that enslaved people lacked with the political limits many free Black people faced.	Enslaved people could not vote, hold office, serve on juries, or make contracts. In many places, free Black people also could not vote or serve on juries, and some states restricted their travel and residence.
2	How did economic control differ for an enslaved craft worker and a free Black craft worker?	A free Black craft worker might own tools and collect payment. An enslaved craft worker's skills and earnings belonged to the enslaver, and the worker received no wages.
3	Compare the social effects on family life and community for enslaved people and free Black people.	Enslaved families could be separated when a parent or child was sold, and most enslaved people were barred from formal schooling. Free Black families had more control over their homes and could build churches, schools, and mutual-aid groups, though they still faced racism and segregation.
4	What two details show that being free did not guarantee equal treatment for Black people? Use one political detail and one social detail.	Politically, many free Black people could not vote or serve on juries. Socially, they faced segregation, violence, and unequal treatment.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Politically, enslaved people could not vote, and many free Black people were also denied voting rights. Economically, free Black people could earn pay, but enslaved workers received no wages for their labor. Social conditions most clearly show unequal freedom because free Black communities faced segregation and violence while enslaved families could be separated by sale.

Accept accurate comparisons that distinguish enslaved status from free status while recognizing legal and social discrimination against free Black people. For the open response, accept a supported choice of political, economic, or social factors in the final sentence.