

DOCUMENT-BASED ESSAY QUESTION

Directions: The following question requires you to construct a coherent essay that integrates your interpretation of Documents A - Y and your knowledge of the period referred to in the question. The rubric that is attached should serve as a guide for writing this essay.

Although fewer in number than in the South, Negro slavery did exist in the North in the antebellum period (ca. 1820-1860). It might be assumed that because relatively little is written about Northern slavery, the slaves in the North were somehow treated better and/or had greater opportunities for gaining their freedom.

To what extent were slaves in the North in the antebellum period better off than their Southern peers? Your answer to this question should take the following aspects into consideration:

- how prevalent was slavery?
- compare/contrast the views and attitudes of whites in each region toward their slaves and toward slavery
- compare/contrast economic opportunities, conditions, security
- evaluate the connection between religion and slavery in each region
- compare/contrast opportunities for education
- compare/contrast slaves' responses to their condition
- how, when and why did abolition occur in each region?

