**Founders & Slavery**

***Readings Questions***

**60pts**

**A READINGS**

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| **Questions** | **Answers** |
| In his Summary View of the Rights of British America, what does Thomas Jefferson say the king must do before slavery can be abolished in America? |  |
| In his draft of the Declaration of Independence, why does Jefferson accuse King George III of waging “cruel war against human nature”? |  |
| In his letter of 5 April 1783, what “laudable work” does George Washington tell Lafayette he would be happy to join him with? |  |
| In his letter to R. Lushington, why does John Jay say slavery is an “inconsistency not to be excused? |  |
| In his letter to Robert Morris, what does George Washington say is the proper means of abolishing slavery? |  |
| In his letter to Francis Mercer, how does Washington say he would like to see slavery abolished? |  |
| According to Jefferson in his Notes on the State of Virginia, what are the effects of slavery on slave owners and their children? |  |
| In his “Reflection on Slavery,” what does Washington say he has done to try to make up for the “only unavoidable subject of regret” in his life? |  |

**B READINGS**

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| **Questions** | **Answers** |
| In his letter to John Jay, why does Hamilton believe slaves will make good soldiers during the Revolutionary War? |  |
| Why does Hamilton say some people will oppose the plan to enlist slaves as soldiers? |  |
| Why does Hamilton insist that freedom be an essential part of the plan to enlist slaves as soldiers? |  |
| In his Notes on the State of Virginia, what reasons does Jefferson give to explain the apparent inferiority of imagination and reason on the part of slaves? |  |
| In his “Last Will and Testament,” what is George Washington’s opinion of his slave William? |  |
| In his letter to Henri Gregoire, what reasons does Jefferson give for previously doubting the natural abilities of slaves? |  |
| In his letter to Gregoire, what does Jefferson hope will happen to the slaves in the future? |  |
| What example to Jefferson give to Gregoire to show that those who are less intelligent cannot be justly deprived of their liberty and property? |  |

**C READINGS**

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| **Questions** | **Answers** |
| In his letter to Lafayette, why does Washington despair of seeing the emancipation of slaves and their colonization in Africa? |  |
| In his Notes on the State of Virginia, what does Jefferson say are the obstacles to incorporating freed slaves into society peacefully? |  |
| In his Notes on the State of Virginia, is Jefferson hopeful or doubtful that the evil of slavery will be peacefully resolved? |  |
| According to Oliver Ellsworth, what was the “only possible step” that the Constitutional Convention could take regarding slavery, and why? |  |
| According to Benjamin Franklin, why might immediate emancipation prove to be a “misfortune” to both free citizens and former slaves? |  |
| What is the “serious duty” incumbent on free citizens toward slaves, according to Franklin? |  |
| In his “Last Will and Testament,” what difficulties prevented Washington from freeing his slaves before his wife’s death? |  |
| In his “Last Will and Testament,” what does Washington insist to be done to promote the future welfare and happiness of his slaves? |  |
| According to Jefferson in his letter to Holmes, what is the great dilemma that Americans faced regarding slavery? |  |

**D READINGS**

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| **Questions** | **Answers** |
| On August 21, why does Luther Martin of Maryland want to give Congress the power to tax or prohibit the importation of slaves? |  |
| On August 21, what is the “true question at present” according to John Rutledge of South Carolina? |  |
| On August 21, what does Mr. Charles Pinckney of South Carolina say might happen if “the states be all left at liberty on this subject”? |  |
| On August 22, what reasons does Roger Sherman of Connecticut offer against giving Congress the authority to tax or prohibit the importation of slaves? |  |
| On August 22, what reasons does George Mason of Virginia give to condemn slavery as harmful and dangerous? |  |
| On August 22, why does Oliver Ellsworth of Connecticut believe slavery will eventually die out in America? |  |
| On August 22, what does Mr. Charles Pinckney say justifies slavery in the minds of many people? What does Mr. Pinckney say he personally would do with regard to the importation of slaves? |  |
| On August 22, why does General Charles Cotesworth Pinckney say South Carolinians and Georgians would never be persuaded to give Congress the power to prohibit the importation of slaves? |  |
| On August 22, why does John Rutledge say the Convention should not give Congress the power to prohibit or tax the importation of slaves? |  |

**E READINGS**

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| **Questions** | **Answers** |
| 1. What was the approximate total number of slaves in the United States in 1790? |  |
| 2. What Southern state had the largest slave population in 1790, 1800 and 1810? |  |
| 3. What Northern state had the largest slave population in 1790, 1800 and 1810? |  |
| 4. What percentage of the total U.S. black population were slaves in 1790? |  |
| 5. What percentage of the total U.S. black population were slaves in 1810? |  |
| 6. What was the first state to claim no slaves on a U.S. Census? |  |
| 7. In what Northern state did the number of slaves increase between 1790 and 1800? |  |
| 8. What was the first state to establish laws for the gradual emancipation of slaves? |  |
| 9. What state legislature in 1776 resolved that slavery is “utterly inconsistent with the avowed principles in which this and other states have carried on their struggle for liberty”? |  |
| 10. What Southern state passed a law in 1791 making the killing of a slave murder? |  |
| 11. What Southern state renewed the slave trade in 1803? |  |
| 12. In what year did the Congressional prohibition of the slave trade go into effect? |  |