

POSSIBLE ESSAY TOPICS FOR UNIT 8 EXAM

In the early nineteenth century, Americans sought to resolve their political disputes through compromise, yet by 1860 this no longer seemed possible. Analyze the reasons for this change during the period 1820-1860.

- Discuss how each of the following was significant in bringing about conflict between the North and South:
 - Missouri statehood (and Compromise of 1820)
 - Nullification Crisis of 1832
 - Gag resolution and banning abolitionist literature from the Southern mails
 - Wilmot Proviso
 - California statehood (and Compromise of 1850)
 - Fugitive Slave Law
 - Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - “Bloody Kansas”
 - Dred Scott decision
 - John Brown at Harper’s Ferry
 - Election of 1860
- Discuss how Constitutional issues drove a wedge between the North and South between 1820 and 1860.
 - Supreme Court cases
 - Laws passed by Congress
 - Presidential enforcement of Congressional laws and judicial decisions.
 - State defiance of federal laws, Supreme Court decisions, or the Constitution