

ESSAY QUESTION

Take 20 minutes to answer one of these questions.

1. “The ‘era of the common man’ touted American freedoms for ‘the people.’ There were several groups of Americans, though, that were not included.” In a well-structured essay, explain how it was that blacks, women, and Native Americans were not included in the blessings of Jacksonian democracy.
2. “It was clear to some that America’s manifest destiny was to be the ruling power for the North American continent. Why?” In a well-organized essay, explain and evaluate the reasons that Americans gave to undergird their claim of a divine right to North American lands.

ESSAY QUESTION

Take 20 minutes to answer one of these questions.

1. “James K. Polk was one of the most successful Presidents ever.” Assess the validity of this statement from a political perspective, an ethical perspective, and an eternal perspective.
2. “The Mexican-American War was unjust.” Support or refute this statement according to Aquinas’s three qualifications for a just war (declared by a lawful authority, undertaken to right some wrong, and waged with right intentions) and facts about the Mexican-American War.

SHORT ANSWER

Take 30 minutes to answer these 10 questions. Answers should be 2-6 sentences long, depending on the question.

1. Why did people travel west?
2. What kinds of people traveled west, and what character qualities did they need to have in order to survive?
3. What challenges did pioneers face, and how did they overcome them?
- 4-5. Relate the strengths and weaknesses of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman. How did their strengths and weaknesses affect their missionary efforts?
6. Explain why many Irish immigrated to America and how they related to American society once they arrived.

- 7-8. Choose one of the utopian communities from this week's reading and explain what that community believed. Why were there a number of utopian communities in nineteenth-century America?
- 9-10. Many Americans—including Christians—looked on Native Americans, black men and women, and immigrants (like the Irish) as inferior and either excluded them from mainstream American society or forced them to adopt the American culture and lifestyle. From a biblical perspective, how should Christians deal with their own cultural prejudices?