



Introduction

“With malice towards none, and charity for all”, Lincoln promised Americans a new hope and vision for America in his second inauguration speech. In a little more than a month from that day, the War Between the States would be over and the Union would be victorious. Lincoln’s hopes of mending the war-torn country with as little suffering as possible was brought to a swift and bloody conclusion when a bullet stifled the last remaining hopes of the South returning to the Republic with dignity and honor. Andrew Johnson tried in vain to sew the tattered threads of disunion back together, but in the end, Radical Republicans controlled the process and the South was punished for its choice to secede to preserve its peculiar institution, known as slavery. Through Reconstruction, Radical Republicans attempted to change the South politically, economically, and socially.

Choice A: Looking back, Reconstruction can be considered a success for many reasons.

Choice B: Looking back, Reconstruction can be considered a failure for many reasons.

Task: Chose either A or B and use arguments to back up your thesis by explaining why Reconstruction was either a success or failure. You may bullet your answers. They cannot be one word answers. Use sentences only to describe the reasons for the choices you have made.

1. What was the failure or success?
2. Why was it a failure or success (cause & effect)?
3. From who’s perspective was it a failure or success?
4. How did it change for worse or better the group from whose perspective you chose?

Things to consider:

Freedman’s Bureau	Black Codes
Radical Republican Plan	Jim Crow
Lincoln/Johnson Plan	Ku Klux Klan
Segregation	Plessy v. Ferguson
13 th Amendment	14 th Amendment
15 th Amendment	Civil Rights Cases of 1883
Education	Democrats

You may use any outside information to back up the thesis statement chosen.

U.S. History & Government

Reconstruction 1865-1877

Success	Failure