Question 3

Explain why and how the role of the federal government changed as a result of the Civil War with respect to TWO of the following during the period 1861–1877:

- Race relations
- Economic development
- Westward expansion

The 8–9 Essay

- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that explains why and how the Civil War changed the role of the federal government in TWO aspects of society from 1861–1877.
- Develops the thesis with considerable specific and relevant historical information.
- Covers both the why and how; coverage may be somewhat uneven.
- Provides effective analysis of TWO topics.
- May contain minor errors.
- Is well organized and well written.

The 5–7 Essay

- Contains a thesis that partially explains why and how the Civil War changed the role of the federal government in TWO aspects of society from 1861–1877.
- Supports the thesis with some specific and relevant historical information.
- Covers both the why and how; coverage may be significantly uneven.
- Provides some analysis of TWO topics; treatment may be unbalanced.
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.
- Has acceptable organization and writing.

The 2–4 Essay

- Contains a confused or unfocused thesis or simply paraphrases the question without explaining why and how.
- Provides minimal relevant information or lists facts with little or no application to the question.
- Covers only the why or how or makes general statements for both.
- Describes only ONE topic or addresses TWO topics in a general way.
- May contain major errors.
- May be poorly organized and/or poorly written.

The 0–1 Essay

- Lacks a thesis or simply restates the question.
- Demonstrates an incompetent or inappropriate response.
- Has little or no understanding of the question.
- Contains substantial errors.

The — Essay

- Is blank or completely off task.
Race Relations

Why
Lincoln and the secession issue
Role of the border states
Lincoln’s changing view of war
Lincoln’s chance to implement a Republican agenda
Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction
Radical Republicanism in Congress (1867–1877)

How
Emancipation Proclamation (1863)
Lincoln’s 10 percent Plan (1863)
Wade–Davis Bill (1864)
Black soldiers in the Union Army (1862)
Sherman’s March
Sherman’s /Special Field Order #15 (1865)
13th Amendment (1865)
Freedmen’s Bureau (1865) (Oliver O. Howard)
Radical Republicans dominate Congress
Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner
Black Codes (1865–1866)
Civil Rights Act (1866)
14th Amendment (1868)
Andrew Johnson and impeachment
Reconstruction Plans (beginning in 1863)
Ku Klux Klan 1866/groups of terror
Ex Parte Milligan (1866)
15th Amendment
The Enforcement Acts (1870–1871)
Ulysses Grant
Civil Rights Act (1875)
Redemption (1870’s)
Slaughterhouse Cases (1873)
U.S. v. Cruikshank (1876)
U.S. v. Reese (1876)
Election of 1876 (Hayes vs. Tilden)
Compromise of 1877
Economic Development

Why
Federal government’s consolidation of power
Consequences of *laissez-faire* capitalism
Fulfillment of Republican Agenda—economic
Railroad unifying America

How
Monetary issues: “Greenbacks,” income tax, etc.
Increase in iron and steel production—Birmingham, Alabama
Southern Homestead Act (1866)
Morrill Tariff Act (1861, 1862, 1864)
National Banking Act (1863–1864)
Pacific Railway Act (1862, 1864)
Homestead Act (1862)
First Transcontinental Railroad (1869)
Union Pacific Railroad
Central Pacific Railroad
Public land to the railroads—100 million acres of public lands and $64 million in loans and tax incentives
Coinage Act (1873)/“Crime of ’73”
Use of federal troops to break up Great Railroad Strike (1877)
Compromise of 1877—aid to the South

Westward Expansion

Why
Transcontinental Railroad
Various economic impulses creating unified national markets
Dealings with Native Americans

How:
Homestead Act (1862)
Morrill Land Grant Act (1862)
Congress charters railroads
Pacific Railway Act (1862, 1864)
First Transcontinental Railroad (1869)
Union Pacific Railroad
Central Pacific Railroad
New states in the union—Kansas, Nevada, Nebraska, Colorado
Alaska “Seward’s Folly” (1867)
The Mining Frontier
Indian wars/treaties
Buffalo Soldiers
Since the time of British colonization in the New World, sectionalism had played a major role in American politics. Differing geographies and climates had lent to development of varying types of economies. While the North dominated shipbuilding and trade, the South became dependent on the export of cotton, rice, tobacco, and indigo for revenue. Such contrasting economies ultimately led to different attitudes towards the welfare of the nation, particularly those which involved slavery, and views most often fell along sectional lines. Individuals such as Crawford, Calhoun, Clay, and Webster advocated for their individual regions, while still hoping to advance the national goal. However, by the early 1860s, it became clear that compromise was no longer a viable solution. Sectional tensions mounted in the Civil War, the role of the federal government would greatly change in terms of race relations and economic development during the period between 1861 and 1877.

While President Lincoln entered the Civil War along the premise of preserving the Union, the abolition of slavery was an underlying added to the turmoil of the conflict. Prior to the Civil War, race relations had mostly been
left under the jurisdiction of states. Individuals, such as Jefferson and Madison, advocated the importance of states rights and introduced the concept of nullification in their Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions. Such ideas were later embraced by Calhoun in response to the Tariff of Abominations in 1828, and the idea of possible secession became a true threat in the Nullification Crisis of 1832. However, the balance between free and slave states in Congress brought slavery to the national forefront, and number of compromises, including that of 1850, required the cooperation of varying regions.

However, the federal government passed a number of Revolutionary amendments during the Reconstruction Era. Governor had become overly centralized during the war, and exercise of increased executive power, especially in ex parte manner, and ex parte milligan, emboldened the government to enact a number of bold acts of legislation. First of all, the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were all ratified in the Reconstruction Era. Following, Congress passed the abolition of slavery as stipulated by the 13th...
Amendment, Freedmen were also ensured a number of rights and granted suffrage. Even among the Radical Republicans, including Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner, there was a lack of consensus on the constitutionality of the 14th and 15th amendments. Both granted more power to the federal government than ever before. In addition, during the Reconstruction Era, the Federal government also successfully repressed groups such as the Ku Klux Klan with military presence in the South; Federal legislation was enforced. Additionally, support for the Freedmen's Bureau and other programs was widespread amongst Northerners and effectively traded in the South for a longer period. It was not until after military reconstruction in 1877 after the Election of Hayes, that federal policies regarding race relations became ineffective.

In terms of economic development, the Civil War and Reconstruction Era was a boon for industry in the North. New industrial innovations continued to be made and factories became prolific in cities in the North. Since progressive reforms were yet to be made, factory owners were able to exploit their workforce, which has become primarily immigrant by
the 1870s, and yield the greatest profit. In addition, better communication systems in the North had helped in securing a Union victory. Railroads, canals, and Turnpikes connected various parts of the Northern to Western regions. This period of time would open the door to nearly half a century of unlawful practices by railroad owners, including posting rebates, and monopolies. The federal government took a larger role in terms of economic development, and the Supreme Court began to weave in favor of big business. The Civil War Era and Reconstruction period set the stage for private industry to thrive and the development of industries. Further stratification amongst American classes. Additionally, the Federal Government played a role in economics by advocating a new central currency system, which would provide a sound monetary banking system behind which the United Era could unfold.
The civil war created a big rift between the North and the South that was not easily mended. After the decisive Union victory, the government had to create an ingenious plan for reconstruction. After Lincoln's assassination, Johnson tried to carry out many of the former's plans. Race relations and western expansions were handled quite differently before and after the civil war.

The post-civil-war role of the federal government concerning race relations seemed solely to be the assurance of the freedom of slaves. The government followed through with this action despite the large blow to the Southern economy. To support slaves, the federal government passed three pro-African American Reconstruction amendments. The 13th abolished slavery, the 14th gave slaves the right to be citizens, and the 15th gave African Americans the right to vote. The government had completely changed since before the civil war and during the reconstruction period, was very anti-slavery. However, Southerners soon found ways to skate around these amendments. Yes, slavery was abolished, but soon after, the sharecropping system was
established, providing African Americans with a semblance of freedom. However, even after the 15th Amendment was passed, African Americans were still denied the right to vote by such state laws as poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses (only applying to blacks). The federal government simply chose to ignore these actions. This ignorance simply shaved a limited amount of power.

In the post-Civil War era, the federal government's role in westward expansion was greatly changed. Prior to the Civil War, all issues of expansion became federal government issues. The Missouri Compromise and later the Kansas-Nebraska Compromise both required federal government aid to help determine expansion based on slavery. After the abolition of slavery, the western frontier was not so severely disputed. The role of the federal government became the promotion of expansion into the "New Frontier." The federal government almost lost power in determining westward expansion because it was not necessary to be so closely involved. The new role was only to divide the lands and set prices for each acre. Such a role is quite different from the peacemaking, compromising, pre-Civil War
wear government.

During the time after the Civil War, commonly known as Reconstruction, the government was most concerned with the peaceful integration of the South back into the Union. Race relations involving the federal government were more prominent much later in history when equal rights and desegregation would become an ever increasing problem. For the moment many African Americans were content with the view to "cast down the bucket," and be patient in waiting for equality. Western expansion was only a limited problem since not too long after the Civil War, there will be no more frontier left. To future presidents such as expansionist Theodore Roosevelt with his "big stick" policy, expansion would lie beyond the borders of the United States.
In an attempt to further the country's expansion westwardly and civilly, the US government increased its power by encouraging westward settlement and the Union Pacific railroad, and by enacting a reconstruction plan for the war-torn South. The government grew in the respect of compensating for new policies after the Civil War.

The government had been encouraging westward expansion all through the Civil War with the Homestead Act, and by removing Native Americans with the Dawes Act to provide more land to settlers. The Union-Pacific Railroad was financed by the US government to increase migration to the west and to keep close ties as well. By passing these laws, the government increased its role in the lives of the American people.

In hopes of restoring and reinventing the South, the federal government was very apparent. Each state that had been in the Confederacy was required to rewrite their constitution to include the new federal laws pertaining to slavery and Civil Rights. To ensure the compliance of the southern people to these laws, federal troops were sent down to oversee the towns. The government's power in the South was strong while ex-Confederates were barred out of office. When they were re-admitted, however, the federal government's influence faded away.
In the years following the Civil War, the US government took this time to increase its power. It influenced people to move west and to accept civil rights. While its efforts for civil rights seemed ineffective some years after that, the government laid the basis on which it would expand again almost a century later for the Progressive and civil rights movements.
Question 3

Overview

The clear intent of this question was to have students address changes in the federal government that came about as a result of the Civil War in two of the three specific areas cited (race relations, economic development, westward expansion).

Sample: 3A
Score: 9

The thesis (which appears at the end of the introductory paragraph) is clear and well developed throughout the essay. There is substantial and relevant information, especially in the race relations discussion, although there is general balance between the two topics. It nicely integrates past events into the years 1861–1877 (i.e., failure of past compromises in earlier years). The essay fades somewhat with economic development and lacks the same level of specific information found in the discussion of race. It is nevertheless an outstanding essay.

Sample: 3B
Score: 5

This essay’s thesis maintains that “Race relations and western expansions [sic] were issues handled quite differently before and after the Civil War.” There is minimal relevant information (the Amendments and poll taxes, for example), but the analysis on both topics is solid in showing changes and limits in the government’s role. The essay is acceptably written and organized.

Sample: 3C
Score: 3

This essay has a largely confused and unfocused thesis. The discussion contains minimal relevant information; the one specific measure cited lies outside the chronological period and is unconnected to it. The two topics are addressed in a general and superficial manner.