

Selected Response (SR) Sample Items MS/HS
Social Studies

Sample 1

At the beginning of the Civil War, the North had a larger population, more functioning railroads, and more industrial production than the South.

Which of the statements is the **MOST LIKELY** reason why Northern advantages failed to translate into a quick and easy victory for the North?

- A. The Northern troops had no training at the beginning of the war.
- B. The South did not have to create lengthy supply lines.
- C. The North did not know the terrain of the South well.
- D. The South had very strong military leadership.

Answer Key	
Answer Choice	Rationale
A.	The student may not understand that both sides had to train troops to fight the war.
B.	The student may not understand that the transportation and distribution of supplies in the absence of well-developed infrastructure was a factor in the South's defeat.
C.	The student may not understand that this weakness of the North's only carried significant benefits for the South in a few instances.
D.	<i>Correct Answer</i> ; The student has correctly identified efficient and strategically skilled military leadership as the factor which allowed the South to extend the war.



Sample 2

Results of the 1860 Election			
Candidate	Party	Popular Vote	% of Popular Vote
Abraham Lincoln	Republican	1,865,593	39.79
Stephen Douglas	Northern Democrat	1,382,356	29.40
John Breckinridge	Southern Democrat	846,356	18.20
John Bell	Constitutional Union	592,906	12.61

According to the chart, which factors contributed **MOST** to the popular vote of the 1860 election?

- A. The Republican Party's popularity among voters across the nation.
- B. The Democratic Party's division into Northern and Southern Democrats.
- C. The votes the Constitutional Union Party took from the Northern Democrats.
- D. The votes the Constitutional Union Party took from the Southern Democrats.



Answer Key	
Answer Choice	Rationale
A.	The student may not understand the data in the chart or the importance of the sectionalist division of the Democratic Party in determining the outcome of the election of 1860.
B.	<i>Correct Answer</i> ; The student correctly interpreted the chart and understands that a unified Democratic Party would have had a higher percentage of the popular vote than the Republican Party.
C.	The student may understand that the number of candidates affected the outcome of the popular vote, but may not understand that the Constitutional Union Party was not the most significant contributor to the results.
D.	The student may understand that the number of candidates affected the outcome of the popular vote, but the Constitutional Union Party was not the most significant contributor to the results.

