

History Assessment: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Fight for Abolition

Learning objective: To evaluate understanding of the causes, experiences, and social changes surrounding the Transatlantic slave trade and the movement towards abolition.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Ensure your spelling and grammar are accurate. You have 45 minutes to complete this assessment.

In the 18th century, the British economy was heavily influenced by the Triangular Trade. Ships sailed from Britain to West Africa, carrying manufactured goods. From Africa, they transported enslaved people across the Atlantic to the Americas, where they were forced to work on sugar, cotton, and tobacco plantations. Finally, the ships returned to Britain loaded with these raw materials, which were sold for significant profit. This system caused immense suffering and sparked a long campaign by activists to change the law.

Word bank: Abolitionist · Plantation · Triangular Trade · Equiano · Human Rights · Emancipation · Parliament · Legislation

1. Identify the three continents involved in the 'Triangular Trade' and briefly explain the role of one in this system. (2 marks)

2. Define the term 'abolitionist' and name one person or group who campaigned against the slave trade. (2 marks)

3. Explain why the conditions on the 'Middle Passage' are described by historians as inhumane. (3 marks)

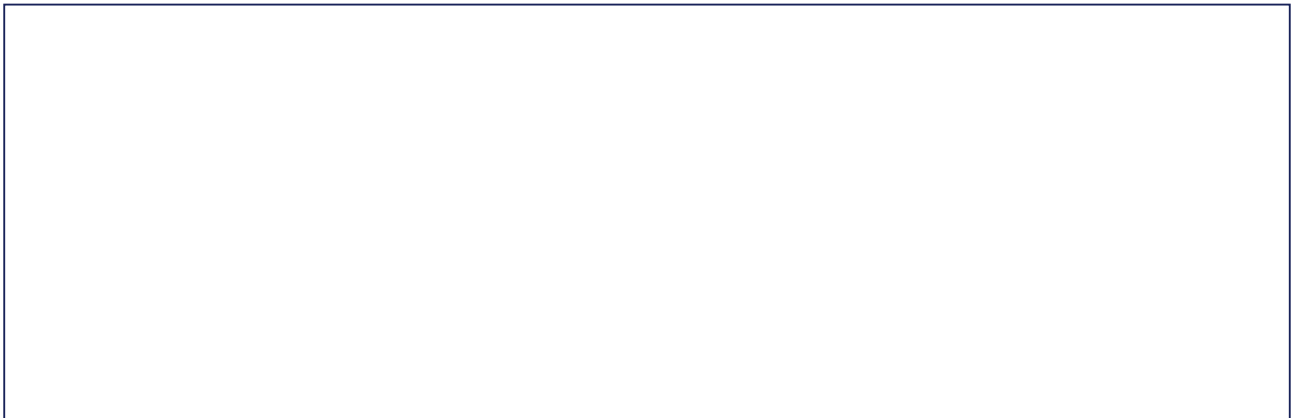
4. Compare and contrast the life of an enslaved person on a plantation with the life of a merchant in 18th-century Britain. Consider both their daily activities and their personal freedoms. (4 marks)

5. Justify why the 1807 Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade was a significant turning point in British history. (4 marks)

6. What might happen if the abolitionist movement had failed to gain public support? Explain the potential long-term consequences for British society. (5 marks)

7. If a merchant in 1780 sold sugar bought from a plantation for £50, but the cost of the voyage was £35, calculate the profit. Why were these high profits a barrier to ending the slave trade? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a symbolic representation of the movement towards freedom, such as a broken chain or a scene depicting the gathering of abolitionist campaigners.



Extension challenge: Research a primary source, such as a petition or a diary entry from the 18th century. Write a short paragraph explaining how this source helps historians understand the emotional impact of the campaign. Total: /25