

Handouts A–H Answer Keys

Handout A: Case Background – Jim Crow Laws and *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) Answer Key

1. Jim Crow laws were local and state laws, enacted in the Southern (formerly Confederate) states between the 1870s and the 1960s, to establish and maintain racial segregation in public facilities. *Plessy v. Ferguson* challenged Jim Crow laws, and those laws were upheld. In *Brown v. Board of Education*, those laws were declared unconstitutional.
2. In *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), under the “separate but equal” doctrine, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of state laws requiring racial segregation in public facilities.

Handout B: State and Federal Law Answer Key

Virginia Criminal Code, 1847

1. It was against the law in some states to educate African Americans.

Section of the Fourteenth Amendment, 1868

1. It was passed after the Civil War to protect the rights of newly-freed slaves.
2. The states cannot deny citizens the privileges and immunities of citizenship, due process of law, and equal protection of the laws.

Handout E: Images of Segregation Answer Key

Washington, D.C. Public Schools, 1st Div-Class Making Geometric Forms with Paper, 1899

1. Answer should address details in the photograph and be addressed in the DBQ essay.
2. Answer should include three descriptors for the classroom condition and be addressed in the DBQ essay.

Crowded Segregated Classroom, ca. 1940s

1. Answer should address details in the photograph and be addressed in the DBQ essay.
2. Answer should include three descriptors for the classroom condition and be addressed in the DBQ essay.

Handout F: Segregation Laws Map, 1953 Answer Key

1. Many former slave states allowed or required segregation, which was declared to be constitutional in *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

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Handout G: Court Cases: *Brown* and *Brown II* Answer Key

Unanimous Majority Opinion, *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)

1. Segregation was declared unconstitutional.
2. Separation of the races was inherently unequal and violated the Fourteenth Amendment. Segregation creates a feeling of inferiority in black children that would impede their future success.
3. Answers should refer to privileges and immunities, due process, and equal protection.

Majority Opinion, *Brown II* (1955)

1. To integrate schools with all deliberate speed.
2. The Court cannot write or enforce laws. It must rely on state and local executive and legislative bodies for enforcement of its decisions.

Handout H: Supreme Court Decision, 1954 Answer Key

1. The white hands represent the Supreme Court. The black hands represent African Americans shackled by segregation. The Supreme Court, which in 1954 was comprised entirely of white justices, was the force demanding the shackles binding black Americans be broken. The Court was acting as the final force ending the social and legal bindings and effects of slavery on black Americans.