GCSE HISTORY
Specification A          Unit 2 Option A: The American West, 1840–1895

Sources Booklet

Sources A to E for use in answering Question 1
Source F for use in answering Question 2
Source G for use in answering Question 3
A view of the Plains Indians

Source A  An account by the journalist, Horace Greeley, who travelled across the Plains from New York to San Francisco in 1859.

The Indian of the Plains does little credit to human nature. As I travelled across these magnificent plains of Kansas – the best corn lands in the world – I saw the Indians sitting around at the height of planting season. I could not help saying, "These people must die out – there is no help for them. God has given this earth to those who will tame and cultivate it."

Source B  An engraving of Plains Indians raiding a homesteader’s farm, 1851.
A different view of the Plains Indians

Source C
A photograph of Plains Indians visiting the official residence of the American President, the White House, in 1863.

The woman on the far right is the President’s wife. The Indian Chief has been awarded the Indian Peace Medal, a token of friendship given by American Presidents to Indians.

Source D
From an account by Henry Whipple, the Bishop of Minnesota, written in November 1880.

The Plains Indians have no telegraph or reporters to tell their side of the story so it is unknown to our people. Promises made to the Indians have been shamelessly broken. Our Indian wars are unnecessary and evil. The Plains Indian is the noblest type of godless man on earth. The Indians have no land rights or laws to protect them. The Indians were given the Indian Territory as compensation for wrongs done to them, but greedy eyes now want that land. However, dark as their history is, there is a brighter side. Thousands who were once wild, painted savages will find their greatest joy in the Bible, which will civilise our Red brothers.
Source E

A cartoon commenting on the treatment of the Indians by the American government.

The cartoon was published in the East Coast weekly magazine, ‘Judge’, on 20 June 1885. It had a circulation of over 100,000 copies.

The cartoon shows the Indians as a great snake which is being fed with a spoon by Uncle Sam. The books and papers in the bottom right of the cartoon refer to the education provided by the government for Native Americans.

Uncle Sam = the American Government
Turn over for Source F for use in answering Question 2 and Source G for use in answering Question 3
Source F  (for use in answering Question 2)

A photograph of a woman homesteader.

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Source G  (for use in answering Question 3)

A drawing of Mormon pioneers building a dam on City Creek, Utah, to create irrigation channels, 23 July 1847.

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