General Certificate of Secondary Education  
June 2015

History  
(Specification A)

Schools History Project

Unit 2 Option A: The American West, 1840–1895  
Wednesday 10 June 2015 9.00 am to 10.45 am

For this paper you must have:
- a Sources Booklet (enclosed).

Time allowed
- 1 hour 45 minutes

Instructions
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer two questions.
  - You must answer Question 1 in Section A and one question from Section B.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information
- The maximum mark for this paper is 64.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.
- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar will be assessed in Question 2(c) and 3(c) in Section B. The marks for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) are shown below the mark allocation for each question.

Advice
- You are advised to spend about 1 hour 5 minutes on Section A and 40 minutes on Section B.
Section A
You must answer this question.

Question 1
Total marks for this question: 36 marks

The Great Plains

Study Sources A, B, C, D and E in the Sources Booklet and then answer all parts of Question 1 which follow. In your answers you should refer to the sources by their letters.

1 (a) What do Sources A and B suggest about the Great Plains? [4 marks]
1 (b) What different view of the Great Plains is suggested by Sources C and D?

Explain your answer using Sources A, B, C and D. [6 marks]
1 (c) Why do you think Sources A and B give a different view to Sources C and D?

Explain your answer using Sources A, B, C and D and your knowledge.

[8 marks]
1 (d) How useful is Source E for understanding the lives of women on the Great Plains?

Explain your answer using Source E and your knowledge.

[8 marks]
1 (e) Why did homesteaders settle on the Great Plains? [10 marks]

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Section B

Answer either Question 2 or Question 3 which begins on page 18.

Either

Total marks for this question: 28 marks

Question 2

The Plains Indians

2 (a) What was important about the role of women in Plains Indians’ society?

[4 marks]
2 (b) Study Source F in the Sources Booklet.

Using Source F and your knowledge, explain how the Plains Indians' ideas of bravery and warfare were different from those of white people. [8 marks]
‘With their horse-riding skills and the design of the tipi, the Indians were perfectly equipped for life on the Great Plains.’

How far do you agree with this interpretation of why the Indians were successful at living on the Great Plains? Explain your answer.

[12 marks]
[SPaG 4 marks]
Question 3
Cattlemen and cowboys

3 (a) Why was the Texas Longhorn important?

[4 marks]
(b) Study Source G in the Sources Booklet.

Using Source G and your knowledge, explain why the work of cowboys was difficult and dangerous.

[8 marks]
'It was the completion of the railroad that had the biggest influence on the development of cattle ranching.'

How far do you agree with this interpretation of why cattle ranching changed between 1860 and 1895? Explain your answer.

[12 marks]
[SPaG 4 marks]
There are no questions printed on this page