

General Certificate of Secondary Education
June 2008



HISTORY (SPECIFICATION A)
HISTORY (SPECIFICATION A)(SHORT COURSE)
Schools History Project
Paper 2 Option A
The American West, 1840–1895

3041/6/2A

Wednesday 11 June 2008 9.00 am to 10.45 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book
- a Sources Booklet (enclosed).

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is 3041/6/2A.
- Answer **two** questions.
- Answer Question 1 from **Section A**, and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 from **Section B**.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 75.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The sources for use in answering Question 1 are printed in the separate Sources Booklet.
- The sources in this question paper have been simplified to make them easier to understand.
- 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.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 65 minutes on Section A and about 40 minutes on Section B.

SECTION A

You **must** answer Question 1.

You are advised to spend about 65 minutes on this section.

There are 45 marks for this question.

Settling and Farming on the Great Plains

- 1 Study **Sources A to D** 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.
- (a) Read **Source A**.
What does **Source A** suggest about the Great Plains? *(4 marks)*
- (b) Read **Sources A and B**.
What different view of the Great Plains is suggested by **Source B**?
Refer to **both** sources in your answer. *(6 marks)*
- (c) Why do you think **Sources A and B** give different views?
Explain your answer using **Sources A and B and your own knowledge**. *(7 marks)*
- (d) Study **Source C**.
How useful is **Source C** for understanding white people's ideas about their movement westwards onto the Plains?
Explain your answer using **Source C and your own knowledge**. *(8 marks)*
- (e) Read **Source D**.
Source D is an interpretation of the appeal of the Plains.
Do you agree or disagree with this interpretation?
Explain your answer using **Source D and your own knowledge**. *(8 marks)*
- (f) Why were white people able to settle and farm successfully on the Great Plains?
Explain your answer using **the sources and your own knowledge**. *(12 marks)*

SECTION B

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

You are advised to spend about 40 minutes on this section.

There are 30 marks for each question.

EITHER**The Struggle for the Plains**

- 2 (a) How were dances used by the Plains Indians? (6 marks)
- (b) **Source E** Indian fighting tactics
From an account in *Hunting Grounds of the Great West*, by Colonel Dodge, 1877.

Their fights with each other are nearly always surprise attacks. The first impulse of the Indian on being surprised is to do what animals do and run away as fast as possible. However they never stand and fight and rarely face up to a charge. When their greater numbers make them bold enough they form an army of 5 different bands, each under a chief.

Using **Source E and your own knowledge**, explain how the Plains Indians' ideas of bravery and warfare were different from those of white people. (9 marks)

- (c) How important was the US army in the defeat of the Plains Indians? (15 marks)

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ▶

OR

Law and Order

- 3 (a) What were miners' courts? *(6 marks)*
- (b) **Source F** A 'Wanted' poster
Issued by the Governor of New Mexico, 13 December 1880.

Reward ~ \$5000.

For the capture, dead or alive, of William Wright, better known as 'Billy the Kid'.
Age, 18. Height, 5 feet 3 inches. Weight, 125 lbs. Light hair, blue eyes and even
features. He is the leader of the worst band of desperadoes the Territory has ever
had to deal with.

Using **Source F and your own knowledge**, explain how the government tried to create
law and order in the West. *(9 marks)*

- (c) How important was cattle rustling as a cause of lawlessness and violence in the West?
(15 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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SOURCES BOOKLET

Sources A to D for use in answering Question 1

Source A A view about the Great Plains

From an account by Major Stephen Long who led an expedition onto the Plains in 1819–1820.

I am certain this large area is almost completely unfit for cultivation and impossible for farmers to live on. Although large areas of fertile land can be found, the shortage of wood and water will prove an impossible barrier to settling the country. The whole area seems only suited for vast numbers of buffaloes and
5 other wild animals which are able to feed well on it.

Source B Another view about the Great Plains

From an account by Thomas Banning, writing in the 1860s, remembering his family's decision to move from Illinois to Kansas on the Great Plains in 1855.

When I was young my father sold his farm in Illinois and moved to the wilds of Kansas. The older boys were growing up to be big strong lads. Kansas was opening up for people to begin farming; Indians, hunters and trappers were about the only people there. But in the early 1850s men who wanted Kansas to be a
5 slave state and men who wanted it to be free of slavery began to move in. My father wanted it to be free of slavery so he went there to vote to bring it about. Also, my father thought that Illinois was getting pretty well settled because you could often see three or four farmhouses from a single hill top.

Source C A painting called *American Progress*
This painting by John Gast, 1872, was widely copied and circulated in the eastern states of America.



Turn over for Source D

Turn over ▶

Source D An interpretation of the appeal of the Plains
From a book by Walter P Webb, *The Great Plains*, 1931.

A brief text extract from a book by Walter P Webb, *The Great Plains*, 1931. It describes how men loved the Plains, finding them exciting whereas women were not attracted by them, finding them to be too harsh. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

END OF SOURCES

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