

# Examiners' Report January 2013

## GCSE History 5HB02 2B

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## Introduction

The entry reflected the full range of ability expected for this examination. There were some highly focused responses with specific details to support explanations for Q1–Q4, Q5(a) and Q6(a) as well as high-quality analyses with precise support and sustained judgements for Q5(b) and Q6(b).

It was noticeable, particularly on the high-tariff Q5(b) and Q6(b) (20 marks including SPaG), that the highest-scoring candidates almost always made a rough plan before beginning their response. This means that a particular line of argument is invariably put forward at the outset and is then coherent and sustained throughout the response.

It was also noticeable that some candidates were producing learnt responses to previously set questions on the same area of content but without marshalling their knowledge to the actual set question in this particular examination. Such answers will almost always be awarded low to mid Level 2 as they will not be focused on the set question.

There were almost no blank pages, suggesting that candidates are being well prepared by covering the entire specification.

## Question 1

Level 2 answers made valid and supported inferences about the size of the work gang, the supervision of work, the hard physical work, the isolation and the sheer scale of the task of constructing railroads.

Level 1 comments were often descriptions of the source itself or unsupported inferences.

Unfortunately, some candidates made no reference to the source at all and wrote detailed descriptions of the construction of railroads. These responses were often very accurate but candidates' responses can only be credited if Assessment Objective 3(a) (comprehension and inference from the source) is met.

1 What can you learn from Source A about the building of railroads across America?

(4)

From source A, I can infer that the building of the railroad would have <sup>taken a</sup> ~~been~~ a long time. I can infer this because ~~very~~ <sup>long time</sup> difficult. I can infer this because of the vast space shown in the source. Trees would have also <sup>had</sup> ~~made~~ an effect on time. I can further infer that building the railroads would have been very labourous. I can infer this because there are many people working. This would have been to spread out the labour over more people. Making labour on ~~one~~ individuals less.

(Total for Question 1 = 4 marks)



**ResultsPlus**  
examiner comment

This response makes two valid inferences – 'vast' and 'laborious' – and was awarded full marks. Just one of these would have been sufficient for full marks.

## **Question 2**

Level 3 answers clearly explained the beneficial contributions made by various developments such as railroads, wind pumps, barbed wire, sod busters, Turkey Red Wheat and dry farming in helping homesteaders to live on the Plains.

Level 2 answers were less focused on the set question and were more likely to be descriptions of homesteaders' lives without an explicit explanation on how changes helped their lives. Some candidates also included irrelevant material about the role of the US government in passing the Homestead Act and Timber and Culture Act. For some candidates this was possibly a learnt response to a previous set question on the role of government in changing homesteaders' lives.

Some candidates wrote about the lives of cowboys or Plains Indians; in these instances no marks were awarded.

2 The boxes below show two ways in which homesteaders were helped.

Choose **one** and explain its importance in helping homesteaders to live on the Plains.

(9)

New farming methods

Technology

New farming methods were very important to homesteaders as living on the plains was a very harsh environment, and there were a lot of lions than prior to living on there. The homesteaders faced many problems in farming on the plains for example the ground was very hard and dry, not really able to grow much vegetation on, so the invention of the sodbuster solved that problem as it was a device that ploughed up the land which made it softer and easier to grow vegetation on like food, crops.

Also the homesteaders faced a plague of grasshoppers that ate and destroyed their crops, so there was this new insecticide which they put on their crops and killed off the grasshoppers and made them didn't want to eat the homesteaders' crops. Also because of the plains harsh unpredictable weather the homesteaders faced drought in the summers, which dried out all the land. So when it rained the farmers put down some powder that soaked up the rain and kept the land moist and fertile for vegetation to grow.

The invention of the barbed wire helped the homesteaders tremendously as many of times they got buffalo herds trampling

down their crops, so when the barbed wire was invented that fenced off their land and their crops and kept them safe. Barbed wire also helped because the homesteaders horses got stolen, so that kept their horses safe and crops too.



**ResultsPlus**  
examiner comment

This response was awarded mid Level 3 for giving an explanation of how two aspects were dealt with by the introduction of the sod buster and the use of barbed wire. It is clearly linked to the beneficial impact these had on the lives of homesteaders.

### **Question 3**

Level 3 responses clearly explained how a number of aspects of the Plains Indians' culture helped them to live successfully on the Plains, such as the consequences of their respect for nature, their nomadic lifestyle and the use of tipis, the benefits of the structure of the tribe, their use of horses, and leaving members behind in order to survive.

Level 2 responses were often lengthy descriptions of the lives and beliefs of the Plains Indians without an explicit link to how this led to living successfully on the Plains.

The lower end of Level 2 often included long explanations on the Plains Indians' use of buffalo or at Level 1 a list of buffalo parts and how they were used.



Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross .  
If you change your mind, put a line through the box   
and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number: **Question 3**  **Question 4**

The culture of the plains Indians helped them live very successfully on the plains for example, they believed that land is sacred and to plough the land would be like ripping out a mother's breast. So this meant they kept the land that they lived on untouched and kept it how it was this meant that when that tribe moved on, and another one came along it would be easy for them to settle on their because its untouched land.

Also it helped them live successfully as they believed that no one could own land so that made it easier for all the other tribes of Indians because they shared it, although this did have its limitations when the pioneers and settlers came west and wanted to settle on their land they believed to be sacred. This resulted in the Indians happily living their nomadic lifestyle and successfully. Because of their nomadic lifestyle this means that the Indians had to be fit and healthy to be moving around all the time, and if anyone fell ill then that would hold them back and cost them the buffalo herd that they were following so when ever someone did fall ill or an elderly person was becoming a hold up for the tribe, they knew that they had to leave them behind, this resulted in the tribe being able to move quickly and efficiently without having to wait for no one. By doing this, it meant that they lived successfully.

Also the indians believed in the great spirit warrior wakan Takan, they called out to him by doing special dances or ceremonies when they needed guidance or luck. For example before they went out to hunt the buffalo they did the Buffalo dance, which was them calling out for luck and asking for it to be a successful hunt. Also they did the sun dance which is a man waiting a vision, maybe because he wants to enter adulthood or become a warrior. This made the plains indians live successful because it gave them a meaning of life a purpose.

The plains indians were also successful because tribes included medicine men, these men were usually elderly men with a great knowledge of the way of life and people looked to him for advice. The medicine men looked out for the tribe and were very respected and honoured. This contributed to the plains indians being successful as they all had great respect for each other especially their elders and looked out for each other.



**ResultsPlus**  
examiner comment

This response was given high Level 3. The attitudes to land, being able to move quickly and Great Spirit giving purpose to life are all aspects of the culture of the Plains Indians and these are related to successful living on the Plains.

## **Question 4**

There were some very impressive high-scoring responses, which gave a clear explanation about the problems faced by the US government in solving problems of law and order. These responses included specific details about methods used to try to deal with lawlessness, such as sheriffs and marshals, as well as explaining the problems facing the government, such as geography, the implications of the very rapid growth of settlement and vigilantism, as well as the nature of crimes, such as claim-jumping, rustling and corruption. Some candidates included details of individuals such as Jesse James, Wyatt Earp and Billy the Kid.

Level 2 responses were more general accounts of life in mining towns and often included lengthy descriptions of drunkenness, gambling and prostitution.

Weak responses described the lives of cowboys.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒.  
If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒  
and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen Question Number: Question 3 ☒ Question 4 ☒

It was very difficult for the US government to solve problems of law and order in the American West.

One reason for this was that mining took place in remote areas which is where mining towns would also have been situated. This meant there was no way of law enforcement to get to the mining towns in enough numbers to have any effect. Also, as mining towns consisted of just men who were all filled with greed at the prospect of gold, there were too many fights or 'outbursts' for the officers of the law to deal with.

Another reason for this was that vigilantes would sometimes lynch their suspects. This was a problem, as what some vigilantes see to be a crime and what is a crime to the law could be very different. This meant they would often murder innocent people. Furthermore, vigilante groups would

(due to human nature) look out for their own interests or be susceptible to corruption, and there was not enough law enforcement to compete with vigilante groups.

A final reason for this was the number of saloons. For instance, by 1855 there were more than 500 saloons in San Francisco alone. The reason this was a problem is because saloons were occupied by men. This meant that they were full of drunk men who were not in control (fully) of their actions. Due to this, there were often fights if not murders in saloons. Any women who were in saloons were often prostitutes, which, again, caused obvious problems.

To conclude, it was the fact law enforcement could not keep up with the rapid movement westwards of the people that caused the problems of law and order in the American West.



**ResultsPlus**  
examiner comment

This response has a good explanation of the effects of isolation linked to problems of law enforcement as well as a good explanation of the effects of vigilantism. It was awarded mid Level 3. Treatment of a wider range of problems would have led to full marks.

### **Question 5 (a)**

Level 3 responses showed the importance of issues such as the allocation of land, the Perpetual Emigration Fund, water supplies, religious beliefs such as polygamy, and the role of Brigham Young in ensuring the Mormons' successful settlement at Salt Lake City.

Many Level 2 responses described the city or did not recognise the set question and instead described or narrated the Mormons' journey west, which then left only a brief section on the actual settlement at Salt Lake City. Many of these responses were probably a learnt response to a past paper question.

A surprisingly high proportion of candidates suggested that Salt Lake City was a mining town, wrote about the Mormons under Joseph Smith, or cited Jim Bridger as leader of the Mormons.

### **Question 5 (b)**

Level 4 answers kept to a consistent line of argument to reach a judgement on the extent to which the Battle of Little Big Horn was a victory for the Plains Indians. Invariably, the short-term nature of the Plains Indians' military victory was set against the repercussions on the Plains Indians of US government policy after the battle. The actions of the US government were seen as a direct outcome of the Battle of Little Big Horn, leading to the demise of the culture of the Plains Indians. These responses often gave details on how reactions such as increased fortifications, the forced selling of the Black Hills and the killing of Crazy Horse led to the end of any meaningful resistance by the Plains Indians to the US government.

Level 3 answers were often accounts of why the Plains Indians won and why Custer lost the battle and consequently argued that it was a victory for the Plains Indians.

Level 2 responses tended to narrate the events or rewrote an answer to a previously set question on the mistakes made by Custer or the extent to which he should be blamed for the US army's military failure.

Some of the lowest-scoring responses clearly misunderstood aspects of this topic and some argued that the use of reservations was a favourable outcome for the Plains Indians.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box .  
If you change your mind, put a line through the box   
and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number: Question 5  Question 6

(a) The Mormons settlement at Salt Lake City was so successful because of a number of factors such as individuals, religion, money and more.

One very important factor was of course the individual, Brigham Young. His decisions were very significant, firstly, because of the fact that he chose to settle at Salt Lake City, despite people's doubts. This is because no one else wanted the land, so no one there would want to make them leave. This had happened countless times previously in places such as Missouri due to religious persecution. Also, the land was outside of America which meant that they could practice their religion and polygamy.

Another important factor was religion. Everyone at Salt Lake City believed that all of Young's decisions were inspired by God so would do anything he said. Due to the fact that Brigham Young was so organised, and gave each family a certain amount of land depending on how many people there were, this was a good thing. However, if they had a bad leader, this would have been bad. Therefore, the factors religion and individuals link. Young also dug irrigation ditches to get sweet water from streams so that they could farm the land.



((a) continued) and make their settlement wealthy. He also built Las Vegas as a border to protect the city.

Another important factor was money. ~~Many~~ Many people in the East were bankrupt because of economic depression. Young decided to set up the ~~Perpetual~~ Perpetual Emigration fund. This gave people from the East or Europe, money to travel to Salt Lake City. They would later have to repay this debt. However, this meant that Salt Lake City was now even stronger, with even more people farming the land and making it prosper.

To conclude, the Mormons were so successful at Salt Lake City, mainly because of individualism.

(b) ~~The Battle of the Little Bighorn~~ I disagree that the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876 was a great victory for the Plains Indians' because although it was a short-term victory, in the long term it was clearly a loss.

Although ~~the Plains Indians~~ however, it was a small victory for them as it was estimated that only 58 Plains Indians were killed. They had outnumbered the Whites at the battle, and had better weapons. The main reason they had ~~lost~~ was because of Custer's arrogance as he hadn't listened to ~~the~~ instructions. In this way, it was a victory for the Indians.

Having said that, it was soon clear that this would eventually be a loss. This is because by the end of 1876, most Plains Indians had returned to their reservations showing that they had given up.

On top of that, shortly after in 1877, Crazy Horse was captured by the US Army. There were no great tribe leaders left to lead a rebellion. Therefore, the army had really already claimed a victory.

~~the~~ <sup>In addition</sup> ~~the~~ the government now had the Dawes Act in place. Tribes had been split <sup>apart</sup> ~~into families~~ and children now went to military style boarding schools where they would learn the way of the Whites ~~and~~ Christianity. Now that tribes were split, the chance of a rebellion was

((b) continued) small.

Also, Manifest Destiny was always going to get them in the end, as whites were persistent that they were going to stamp out ~~the~~ the Plains Indians. And now that the American civil ~~war~~ ~~was over~~, the tribes were split, the ~~war~~ ~~was over~~ war was over, there was no distraction from the 'Indian problem'. The public opinion was also now against ~~the~~ ~~tribes~~ ~~were~~ ~~split~~ ~~and~~ ~~many~~ ~~leaders~~ ~~were~~ ~~all~~ ~~dead~~. ~~This~~ ~~battle~~ ~~could~~ ~~have~~ ~~really~~ ~~been~~ ~~seen~~ ~~as~~ ~~a~~ ~~real~~ ~~victory~~ ~~as~~ ~~straight~~ ~~away~~ ~~the~~ ~~consequences~~ ~~were~~ ~~clearly~~ ~~shown~~ ~~that~~ ~~they~~ ~~had~~ ~~lost~~ in the war.

To conclude, the tribes were split and ~~many~~ ~~leaders~~ ~~were~~ ~~all~~ ~~dead~~. This battle could have really be seen as a real victory as straight away the consequences clearly showed that they had lost.



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examiner comment

Q5(a) was given mid Level 3 for explanations of how polygamy and the Perpetual Emigration Fund contributed to the Mormons' successful settlement at Salt Lake City.

Q5(b) was given a low Level 3 for its focus, specific details and range of material covered.

### **Question 6 (a)**

Level 3 answers gave well-supported responses that clearly dealt with Iliff's role in the growth of the cattle industry around factors such as the development of new markets, experiments in breeding, the use of refrigerated railroad cars and how his innovations were used by others to expand ranching further.

The weakest responses often confused Iliff with Goodnight, Loving or McCoy and there were several candidates who believed that refrigerated railcars meant more comfort for cattle, which could now arrive at their destination without being too hot.

### **Question 6 (b)**

Level 4 answers kept to a consistent line of argument to reach a judgement on the extent to which the cattlemen were to blame for the Johnson County War, which was weighed up against the role played by the homesteaders. Such responses often showed a wider context of how in the late 1880s homesteaders were taking over more land and included specific details about the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, the killing of ranchers and immediate events leading up to the outbreak of the war.

Level 3 answers tended to explain the motives of both groups and showed how the actions of the two sides led to the war.

Level 2 responses tended to narrate the events of the Johnson County War and frequently told the story of Averill and Watson.

Some of the lowest-scoring responses misunderstood aspects of this topic and some wrote about various conflicts between the white settlers and the Plains Indians.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒.  
If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒  
and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen Question Number: Question 5 ☒ Question 6 ☒

(a) John Illiff had a big role in the development of the Cattle Industry.

Fromy, John Illiff realised that Cattle could survive harsh weather conditions on the plains. This led to the creation of the open range. The open range meant the cattle trails were no longer necessary. The cattle trails were dangerous and cattle was often lost. The open range meant that cowboys only had to 'ride the wire' which created better kept cattle. These cattle wouldn't have to go far to be sold increasing the price that they sold for therefore developing the Cattle Industry.

John Illiff also made a deal with the US Government to sell cattle to them. The US government would then use the cattle to

((a) continued)

feed Indians on reservations and to feed the US Army. This was important in developing the cattle industry as this was a big source of cattle. It was a constant customer so there was always a profit made. This created more money and therefore the cattle industry developed.

Overall, John Illiff helped the Cattle Industry develop as he found mines which would create more money.

(b)

I do believe that the cattlemen were partly to blame for the Johnson County war, but I think the Homesteaders were ~~not~~ nearly equally as ~~bad~~ had a part to play as well.

In the Johnson County war, the cattlemen were angry with the Homesteaders for a number of reasons. The Homesteaders were taking over land from bankrupt cattlemen and were fencing it off. They were especially fencing off water supplies which meant the cattlemen's cattle didn't have as many places to drink. It also meant that the cattlemen's land could not be watered to preserve the grass. The cattlemen believed they were losing their power that they once had in Wyoming. The cattlemen also believed that the Homesteaders were rustling cattle from them which caused great anger amongst the cattlemen.



(b) continued) The Homesteaders were angry with the cattlemen ~~as they~~ believed that they were more powerful just because they had been there longer; the Homesteaders wanted to be treated equally. The Cattlemen had formed 'The Wyoming stock growers association' which segregated them as being higher. Also, the Cattlemen believed they were killing cattle when they had no real evidence of this. For example, Jim Averil and Ella Watson. Ella was a prostitute and cowboy who couldn't afford to pay her, gave her cattle instead. As Jim lived with her, he was suspected as well. Jim and Ella were lynched in 1889 without any trial. This angered the Homesteaders as they hadn't been given a fair chance.

In the actual war, the Regulators (a group of skilled gunmen) and 22 more cattlemen invaded Johnson County. They cut telephone wires to isolate

((b) continued) the people. Their aim was to kill the suspected cattle rustlers. They were going to invade Buffalo (the town) but stopped to kill Nate Champion, the leading Homesteader. Nate champion was killed. The Sheriff Red Angus, took the Homesteaders side and surrounded the Cattlemen. The US Army then stepped in to restore law and order. There was no victory for either side; the invaders were not punished but the Homesteaders stayed where they were.

In conclusion, I do believe that the Cattlemen played a massive role in the Johnson County war. They were instantly very hostile towards the Homesteaders and treated them very unfairly. <sup>They were the ones who invaded the area.</sup> If they didn't decide to take the law into their own hands then the war would not have happened. Although saying this, I ~~do~~ think the Homesteaders did aggravate them such as fencing off water supplies and land. So overall, it was mainly the Cattlemen's fault but the Homesteaders were no blame a little also.

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 54 MARKS



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**examiner comment**

For Q6(a), this response was awarded mid Level 3 for the explanations of the open range and new markets.

Q6(b) has good supporting detail and shows both sides of the argument to give a high Level 3.

## Summary

- The source provided must be explicitly referred to in Q1 for marks to be awarded.
- Candidates should look at the focus of the set question rather than providing a learnt response to a previous examination question. This seems to be a particular issue with Q2 where candidates often write 'all I know' about the item chosen in the box and lose sight of the focus given in the text above the two boxes.
- Encourage candidates to spend some time on a plan, particularly for Q5(b) and Q6(b).

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