

# Examiners' Report

## June 2013

### GCSE History 5HB02 2B

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## Introduction

For all three Depth Studies in this Unit there were some impressive responses which focused clearly on the set question with specific and accurate details to support the response. Often these candidates also demonstrated a clear understanding of the historical context such as the extremes of wealth and poverty in early 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain, the nature and geography of conflict in the American West or the fragile nature of democracy in Weimar Germany and the consequent lives of Germans under the Nazi dictatorship.

There was little evidence of candidates running out of time and therefore having insufficient time to respond to all questions required by the rubric of the examination. Most candidates were also able to gain at least half of the SPaG marks for this unit although the absence of capital letters even for individual names and specific events were noticeable as well as the almost constant use of “would of” and so on.

The lower scoring responses were often statements that were not specific to the period or location such as “posters were put up to support the government”, “people moved for a better life”, or “the Chartists wanted to make things better”. There were occasional scripts that were very hard to read, showed a complete misunderstanding of the subject material or were learnt responses to previously set examination paper questions for this unit. There were also candidates that lost marks by writing outside the time period of the set question such as detailing the Final Solution on question 3 of the Life in Germany paper or writing about poor relief before 1834 on question 4 on the Transformation of Britain paper.

## Question 1

Most students made valid inferences that were supported by the source and were awarded Level 2. Most responses at this level included the isolation during the journey, and the difficult terrain that wagon trains had to cross. Candidates awarded Level 1 either failed to refer to the source at all or stated a piece of information from the source and made no valid inference. There was still the occasional student who wrote long and detailed answers about wagon trains rather than using the source as historical evidence. This question covers Assessment Objective 3 which means that no marks at all can be awarded for responses based on recall rather than the source.

In the picture there are many mountains and dangerous ~~areas~~ conditions for the wagons to pass through. From this I can infer that the wagon trains had to be sturdy to be able to withstand the rocky roads. Also, it shows that the wagon trains were often filled with many people that wished to travel west. This means that there were many wagons that made up the wagon trains, which is why they often needed supervision from captains and lieutenants.



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Examiner Comments

This response is full marks with a valid supported inference about wagon trains needing to be "sturdy" and it is supported from Source A.

## Question 2

Candidates who chose the effects of the railroads on Homesteaders often reached level 3 by explaining how their lives improved with the transportation of manufactured equipment (such as barbed wire, wind pumps and sodbusters) from the East to the West, that homesteaders could sell goods as well as the overall benefits of less social isolation and the benefits of increased communication. Some candidates also linked the coming of the railroads to increased agricultural productivity, US government legislation to encourage White settlement on the Plains and improvements in the US government's ability to maintain law and order. The occasional student included some aspects of homesteaders' lives that did not improve with the coming of the railroads such as the decline in stage-coach services, and the abandoning of towns and the collapse of some businesses that were a long way from the new railroads. At level 2 many candidates described the lives of homesteaders and lost sight of the focus question.

In contrast other candidates explained the negative effects of the railroads on the lives of the Plains Indians such as the restrictions it placed on their nomadic lifestyle, the destruction of large buffalo herds, and the increased conflict between White settlers and the Plains Indians. Some candidates lost or failed to notice the focus of the question and scored Level 2 by explaining how the coming of the Whites affected the Indians without directly linking this knowledge to the railroads.

The plains Indians were affected badly by the railroads. It mainly affected their way of life and their home. In my opinion the plains Indians were affected most by the railroads connecting east to west.

One of the ways it affected them was by destroying their ~~land~~ <sup>land</sup>. This was because ~~they used this land to hunt~~ the rail way had to pass through the land disrupting anything in its way. This affected the wildlife and mainly Buffalo that the Indians used to hunt for food and resources.

Another way was their homes had to be moved and they had to obey the law. This meant that their religion and way of life wasn't allowed and this led to many battles by government and the natives. The battles meant that ~~people~~ the natives would have been pushed back because the government had ~~the~~ artillery and the natives would of been outnumbered.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is a mid Level 2 response. There is not sufficient focus on the set question or links made to the coming of the railroads.

### Question 3

The highest scoring responses firmly kept to explaining a range of reasons why Brigham Young's leadership of the Mormons was so important. These candidates often explained how Young saved the Mormons after the death of Joseph Smith, the significance of Brigham Young in the organisation of the Mormon's journey West and then gave a range of supported reasons for the successful development of the Mormon settlement at the Great Salt Lake. Most students included the encouraging of further settlers to Utah in their answers and some included Young becoming the first Governor of the new state.

Level 2 responses were normally descriptions or autobiographical accounts of Brigham Young without focusing on his importance to the Mormon movement, or were a narrative account of the Mormons' journey West. Weak Level 2 responses sometimes included a long narrative account of the Mormons under Joseph Smith and lost valuable time by detailing events in Ohio and Missouri. A few candidates also wasted time by describing at length the Mormons' religious beliefs. Responses awarded Level 1 were often general comments that could apply to many leaders such as "people believed him", "he was good at getting things done."

In 1844 Joseph Smith was killed. Brigham Young took over this post because, he was a very influential person at the time. He would think of tactics that had no laws in it and ~~was~~ this made people believe in him.

Brigham Young ordered some people to go ahead and plant crops on the path for Salt Lake valley. This ensured that ~~people~~ the mormons did not starve on the way to Salt Lake valley. This showed his organizational skills.

Brigham Young persevered to find a city for the mormons to live in. They went from New York to Ohio. They then went to Missouri to Illinois and they finally found salt lake valley. However people had said the the mormons would not survive there because the water had too much salt in it. Brigham Young said to them that wherever

god tells him to go, will be where the mormons live. He ~~believe~~ believed that this was the city for the mormons. His perseverance paid off.

The perpetual immigration fund was set up in order to help mormons move to salt lake city. This was an investment that the mormons paid ~~back~~ back. This enabled income to the mormons.

Also Brigham Young ~~was~~ made sure that ~~a~~ land was given out equally to the mormons, so that no fights would arise between them. This showed that he was a just and fair leader to his religion.

He also made people make irrigation ditches to make the land fertile enough to grow crops. This showed the ideas that he had which was not just business, but he had ideas that would help all the mormons in salt lake city. This showed that he was a good leader and no-one would question the way he worked because he was very powerful.

He also made the mormon temple out of stone. This shows that he thought about the future of the mormons. Stone lasts for a long time. This means that he expected mormons and the mormon religion to go on even after he died.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

There is a sustained focus on Brigham Young's leadership from the first paragraph onwards. More than one point is explained and developed. This is a mid level 3 response.



## Question 4

Level 3 responses had a clear focus on a range of ways in which the mountain men and trappers contributed to the development of the American West.

There were some excellent answers that focused on the impact of the mountain men in terms of mapping, charting, guiding, spreading stories, establishing a basic economy in the West, and the concept of trailblazing. At Level 3 many candidates also provided specific and accurate examples of individual mountain men such as Bridger and Smith as well as details on the Oregon Trail to support points made. Level 2 was normally always given to those accounts which described the lives of mountain men and trappers but which failed to make explicit reference to their role in the development of the West. Level 1 responses tended to give comments such as "they showed people the way."

Trappers and Mountain Men were valuable in assisting the development of the American West in many ways.

One way they helped was by trading with the companies who built trading stations. This helped because companies were able to get skin and fur from animals and didn't have to do it themselves. This also meant that the trappers and mountain men and the companies were able to get more friendly and trust each other more assisting in other things.

Another way trappers and mountain men helped was because they lived with plains Indians. This was important as without them the government wouldn't know where the plains Indians were located. This would mean that they could disobey the law and still live free and America would be a white society.

Trappers and mountain men also helped by developing trails across the great plains. In order to build the train track they needed a route to pass through that would be suitable for the train. They used trappers and mountain men because they knew the area and everywhere around it so they assisted in a suitable route.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response is almost entirely reliant on the stimulus material provided. There is very little recall by the candidate and so low Level 1 awarded.

## Question 5

At level 3, responses showed an understanding of the religious beliefs underlying the two groups' attitudes and used this to explain their treatment of land and property. These responses often included specific examples, such as the Black Hills, to illustrate the different attitudes and beliefs between White settlers and the Plains Indians. Level 2 responses often focused far more on describing the different use of land by Plains Indians and White settlers. Some candidates scored low Level 2 by not recognising the set question and writing instead about the Plains Indians' nomadic lifestyle and their reliance on the buffalo. Level 1 responses consisted mainly of simple statements such as "Indians did not buy land," "The White settlers built houses."

Q5b Level 4 responses had an accurate and detailed understanding of developments in the cattle industry and analysed how accurate it is to claim that ranching made the lives and work of cowboys far easier. The highest scoring responses used differences from areas such as open and closed ranching, new technology (such as barbed wire and refrigerated railcars), the rise and fall of the cattle industry (beef bonanza and downturn) and conflict between homesteaders and cowboys to weigh up the extent to which the lives and work of cowboys became easier. Level 3 responses explained whether the life and work of cowboys did or did not become easier or used a mixture of the two. Level 2 responses were much more generalised descriptions of cowboys' lives and ranching. Some were clearly confused and thought that ranching was a development before the Long Drives. Level 1 responses were mainly simple comments about the life and work of cowboys or life on ranches.

(a) White settlers and plains Indians both had different views on land and property.

The use of land for the plains Indians was ~~the~~ very important. They used this land to hunt and live off. This was because their way of life meant that they had to respect nature and if they killed a buffalo, they would bury the heart as a sign of respect. However, the white settlers also lived off the land by trying to grow food but had no respect for nature and the Buffalo they killed. They would kill them in their thousands and this meant their numbers were dangerously low.

~~Another way~~ The plains Indians had adapted their homes so that they could consistently be on the move. An example of this was the tipi made from Buffalo skin and this enabled them to pack up and move easily. The reason for this is because Buffalo herds were moving constantly and them being the main source of food and materials, they had to move with them.

However, the white settlers used ~~the~~<sup>to</sup> their home out of mud and soil. They done this because resources were low and the only thing they could use was mud. They called this the Sack house. The Sack house was very beneficial because rain would get through and bacteria would grow making people ill.

(b) The development of ranching did help the cowboys in many ways.

One way this helped was by building cow towns so that cowboys didn't have to travel that far ~~to~~ without them the cowboys would have to travel long distances to sell their cattle. A risk of this would of been attacked by bandits, losing cattle or getting lost in the terrain.

However, ranch bosses often made rules to keep control of the ranches but sometimes this affected the cowboys. One thing they would do is keep a set price on the cattle. <sup>This meant that</sup> ~~each~~ cowboys wouldn't make as much profit for their hard work.

All in all I do believe ranches did help cowboys for the better. The use of cow towns cut weights the bosses making rules and I feel that without the ranches, cowboys wouldn't be as successful.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Part a) focuses on "use" of land rather than "attitudes". The response is mainly implicit and is therefore mid Level 2. Part b) is a few general comments and is high Level 1. 3 marks were awarded for SPaG.

## Question 6

Level 3 answers wrote clearly about problems of law and order in the American West as well as aspects of lawlessness that were specific to mining towns. The sheer speed with which the towns grew, the disappointments about the lack of gold discoveries, claim-jumping were often mentioned with other issues such as alcohol, saloons, racial tensions, language barriers, prostitution and many men being away from home and family. The problems of vigilantism, Miners' Courts, the sheer remoteness of the towns and the lack of government law enforcement officers were also frequently mentioned. Answers were generally awarded mid Level 2 when there was no content specific to mining towns. There were also some candidates who had clearly confused mining towns and cow towns.

Q6b: Some candidates reached the higher levels by clearly outlining various factors such as different cultures, Manifest Destiny, broken treaties and the refusal of Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse to move onto reservations as causes of the Great Sioux War. At Level 4 there were some excellent detailed analyses and judgements offered on the extent to which the discovery of gold in the Black Hills led to the Sioux War. At Level 3 most candidates took one of two approaches. Some used specific support for the role of gold and other factors as an explanation for the Great Sioux War. Others reached Level 3 by identifying and explaining longer term causes of the conflict and explained the discovery of gold as a short-term and more immediate cause. These answers showed a good understanding of long and short term causation and the responses often had good specific support. Most level 2 responses had good knowledge of the topic but were narrative or descriptive accounts of the discovery of gold in the Black Hills and the Great Sioux War.

(a) Law and order wasn't exactly preserved in mining town (if they can even be referred to as towns).

Most people who were mining at these places had just heard a rumour that there was great fortune to be made at these places and just simply set off there; this was not the case.

The average miner earned around \$20 a day through mining when the average cost to just simply live each day was around \$18 dollars; that's a mere \$2 profit for all that hard labour! This led to a rise in crime as obviously people wanted and needed more

money to survive. Assault, robbery and theft were common.

The problem was that majority of individuals didn't find/discover large quantities of gold, due to the fact

((a) continued) majority of Gold was buried deep under ground, and such individuals didn't have the resources to discover it.

So the only people that actually made a fortune were large mining companies.

Due to these towns being basically in the middle of nowhere there was an absence in strong law enforcement. Many people probably believed they came there to make money and they was going to get it through any means possible. Some people were murdered for money; and prosecution, and identifying the ~~extrajurisdictional~~ offender was difficult.

((b) I agree to some extent this was the reason, though the ~~Siox~~ Sioux tribe were already becoming restless due to them ~~be~~ being placed in reservations and many indians were starving.

However war didn't breakout till

almost immediately after the 'white man' broke the second Fort Laramie Treaty. The white people were the ones who were constantly breaking the treaties, and the Indians were the ones suffering for it! Maybe that time they had just had enough of the constant rule breaking, and decided war was now the option.

Another reason I agree is due to the fact that the 'white man' now wanted to take more away from them by placing them in smaller reservations (though the ones they were in weren't sufficient enough for their survival anyway), just so they could mine for more Gold; except this time they

((b) continued) were going into Indian territory to dig up sacred land. This was very disrespectful and <sup>dreadful</sup> wrong doing to the obeying Plains Indians. This was another cause for the war, as over 1000 miners being in the Black Hill gave them a clear understanding that their obeying the 'white man's' wishes, wasn't going to make anything better for them; and that the 'white man' had no respect or understanding of their beliefs. They tried being

fairly peaceful and 'now it's time  
for a more violent approach.

They wished to humiliate (scalp) and  
make the 'white man' suffer for what  
they did in the name of the spirits  
for their sacred land.



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#### Examiner Comments

Although the absence of law enforcement is mentioned on a question with no stimulus material there is no development or sufficient detail for more than Low Level 2 to be awarded. Part b) is general description and is mid Level 2. 2 marks for SPaG were awarded.



## Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Candidates should always focus on the set question rather than providing a response to a question from a previous examination paper;
- Specific, relevant and accurate details are needed to access Level 3 of the mark-scheme;
- Some candidates lose SPaG marks through basic errors;
- Centres should familiarise themselves with the changes in the content and assessment of the Depth Studies for the 2015 examination onwards.

## **Grade Boundaries**

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