6.11 Explaining Success and Failure in Settlement of the Great Plains: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. You are advised to spend about 10 minutes on this pack.

1 Give the phrase used for the large open grazing system used by cattle ranchers on the Plains in the decades after the Civil War.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 State two features of the Mormon community organisation that helped make Salt Lake settlements successful.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 State one environmental challenge that homesteaders on the Plains faced.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Explain two reasons why some homesteads failed despite the offer of free land under the Homestead Act.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.11 Explaining Success and Failure in Settlement of the Great Plains: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

the open range **B1**

Answer: The open range

Question 2

cooperative labour for building irrigation canals and farms **B1**

central leadership that organised land allocation and migration **B1**

Answer: Cooperative labour to build and maintain irrigation, and central leadership organising land and migration.

Question 3

any one valid environmental challenge, e.g. droughts, extreme winters or blizzards, lack of timber or water, grasshopper plagues, prairie fires, hard sod **B1**

supporting detail, e.g. droughts reduced crop yields, causing poor harvests and livestock losses during dry years **B1**

Answer: Droughts that reduced crop yields, causing poor harvests and livestock losses.

Question 4

any one valid reason explained, e.g. severe weather, including drought and dust storms, caused crop failure and soil exhaustion **B2**

a second, different valid reason explained (e.g. 160 acres too small for the dry Plains, lack of money for machinery, lack of water or timber), or: pests and soil conditions such as insect outbreaks and the difficulty of breaking sod made farming unprofitable for some settlers **B2**

Answer: Severe weather like droughts and dust storms caused crop failure, and pests plus tough sod and poor soils made farming unprofitable for many homesteads.

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