6.12 Identifying and Explaining Turning Points in the American West: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

1 Name the final military confrontation between US troops and Sioux that resulted in many Native Americans being killed in 1890.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 State two problems faced by small family farmers on the Plains in the 1870s and 1880s.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 State one effect of the Dawes Act of 1887 on Native American communal landholding.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Give four immediate consequences for Native Americans of the Lakota-led coalition's victory over the US army at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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5 Explain two consequences of the Homestead Act of 1862 for the settlement of the Plains and for Native American tribes.

(Total for Question 5 is 8 marks)

6 Write a narrative account analysing how the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 changed economic and social patterns on the Great Plains between 1869 and the 1880s.

You may use the following information in your answer:
- the arrival of regular rail connections linking eastern markets to the Plains
- the growth of towns and commercial agriculture on the Plains

You should also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 6 is 8 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.12 Identifying and Explaining Turning Points in the American West: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

The Wounded Knee Massacre **B1**

Answer: The Wounded Knee Massacre

Question 2

identifies a problem, e.g. unpredictable weather and drought **B1**

identifies a second problem, e.g. long transport costs or debt from buying equipment and paying high freight charges **B1**

Answer: Unpredictable weather and drought, and heavy transport costs plus debt from buying equipment and paying freight.

Question 3

identifies an effect, e.g. it reduced tribal land by dividing it into individual allotments **B1**

supporting detail, e.g. 'surplus' land not allotted was sold to white settlers, further dispossessing tribes **B1**

Answer: It broke up tribal land into individual allotments, and leftover land was sold to white settlers, reducing the land controlled collectively by tribes.

Question 4

loss of leaders or warriors in subsequent campaigns, where applicable **B1**

increased US military determination leading to larger campaigns against Plains nations **B1**

further pressure on remaining bands to move onto reservations **B1**

a short-term morale boost for Native resistance followed by harsher reprisals and suppression **B1**

Answer: It led to increased US military determination and larger campaigns against Plains nations, greater pressure on remaining bands to move onto reservations, loss of warriors or leaders in later actions, and a short-lived morale boost followed by harsher suppression.

Question 5

Level 1 Identifies one or two simple consequences of the Homestead Act, with little or no supporting detail or explanation. **1-2**

Level 2 Identifies and begins to explain one consequence, supported by some accurate detail. **3-4**

Level 3 Explains two consequences of the Homestead Act, each supported by accurate and relevant detail. **5-6**

Level 4 Explains two consequences in a well-developed, logically structured way, supported throughout by precise and accurate detail, and shows links between the consequences. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- Encouraged mass migration by offering small plots of land, increasing the number of small family farms on the Plains and accelerating white settlement into formerly tribal lands.
- As settlement increased, Native American tribes faced loss of hunting grounds and grazing areas, leading to more conflicts and making it harder for tribes to sustain buffalo-based economies.
- The Act stimulated the establishment of towns, markets and rail connections, making Plains farming more commercially viable but also tying settlers into national markets and freight costs.
- Many homesteaders failed due to difficult environment and costs, producing cycles of debt and farm abandonment, but overall the policy shifted control of land from communal or federal reservation management into individual private ownership aligned with US expansion.

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Question 6

Level 1 Simple, generalised statements with little organisation or sense of change over time. **1-2**

Level 2 Some accurate knowledge is used, with limited organisation into a sequence; the account may list events rather than develop a narrative. **3-4**

Level 3 The account is organised and mostly coherent, and shows analysis of how the situation changed, with accurate supporting detail. **5-6**

Level 4 The answer demonstrates a coherent, well-organised narrative that analyses connections between events across the period, showing clearly how the situation changed, fully supported by precise and accurate detail. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- The railroad made movement of people and goods much faster and cheaper, increasing immigration of settlers and labourers to the Plains and encouraging commercial farming aimed at eastern markets.
- Rail links enabled grain and livestock to be sold nationally, which promoted larger-scale agriculture, the development of grain elevators and stockyards at railheads, and the growth of market towns along rail lines.
- The presence of railheads invited investment, land sales and business services, producing rapid town growth and changing social patterns as small, dispersed frontier communities gave way to more permanent settlements.
- Railway expansion also increased pressure on Native lands, as military and settler movement became easier, contributing to conflicts and the deeper incorporation of the Plains into the US economy and political control.

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