



EDX.ASU2 The American West, c1835-c1895: Migration and Early Settlement

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · Calculators not allowed · about 65 minutes

Total Marks

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Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Answer ALL questions. Write in full sentences for Questions 15, 16 and 17. You are advised to spend about 65 minutes on this pack.

- 1** Name the long overland route, roughly 2,000 miles, followed by many migrants travelling west from Missouri from the early 1840s.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

- 2** State one reason why migrants chose to travel west along trails such as the Oregon Trail in the 1840s.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

- 3** Name three difficulties migrants commonly faced on the overland trails west.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

- 4** State one reason why the Mormons (the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) decided to migrate west in 1846.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

5 Name the leader of the Mormon migration to the Salt Lake Valley.

(Total for Question 5 is 1 mark)

6 Give the year in which the Mormons reached and began to settle the Salt Lake Valley.

(Total for Question 6 is 1 mark)

7 State one way in which the Mormons made farming possible in the dry Salt Lake Valley.

(Total for Question 7 is 2 marks)

8 Name the group of migrants who became trapped by heavy snow in the Sierra Nevada mountains during the winter of 1846-47.

(Total for Question 8 is 1 mark)

9 State one reason why the Donner Party became trapped by snow in the Sierra Nevada.

(Total for Question 9 is 2 marks)

10 State one consequence for the members of the Donner Party of becoming trapped in the Sierra Nevada.

(Total for Question 10 is 2 marks)

- 11** Name the type of vehicle in which most migrant families carried their belongings on the overland trails.

(Total for Question 11 is 1 mark)

- 12** State one difficulty faced by early farming families who settled on the Plains before large-scale settlement began.

(Total for Question 12 is 2 marks)

- 13** Explain two reasons why migrants decided to travel west along trails such as the Oregon Trail in the 1840s.

(Total for Question 13 is 4 marks)

- 14** Describe two ways in which the experience of the Donner Party differed from the experience of the Mormon migration to Salt Lake.

(Total for Question 14 is 4 marks)

- 15** Explain two consequences of the Donner Party's disaster in the Sierra Nevada during the winter of 1846-47.

(Total for Question 15 is 8 marks)

- 16** Write a narrative account analysing how the experience of migrants travelling west changed between the start of large-scale trail migration on the Oregon Trail (early 1840s) and the Mormon migration to Salt Lake (1846-47).

You may use the following information in your answer:

- the early years of Oregon Trail migration in the 1840s
- the planning and leadership of the Mormon migration under Brigham Young

You should also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 16 is 8 marks)

17 Explain two of the following:

- (a) the importance of Brigham Young's leadership for the success of the Mormon migration
- (b) the importance of the Donner Party's fate for later migrants travelling west
- (c) the importance of the Oregon Trail for early migration to the West

You must answer on TWO parts.

(Total for Question 17 is 16 marks)

Mark scheme · EDX.ASU2 The American West, c1835-c1895: Migration and Early Settlement

Question 1

- **B1** the Oregon Trail
- **Answer: The Oregon Trail**

Question 2

- **B1** identifies a reason, e.g. the hope of owning good farmland
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. reports of fertile land in Oregon's Willamette Valley attracted families seeking a better living than they could find in the East
- **Answer: E.g. the hope of owning fertile farmland, such as in Oregon's Willamette Valley.**

Question 3

- **B1** disease, e.g. cholera
- **B1** difficult river crossings
- **B1** harsh weather (accept also wagon breakdowns, shortage of food/water, or the risk of getting lost)
- **Answer: E.g. disease (such as cholera), difficult river crossings and harsh weather.**

Question 4

- **B1** identifies a reason, e.g. they faced persecution and violence in Illinois
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. their leader Joseph Smith had been murdered by a mob in 1844, and Brigham Young led the decision to leave for a place where they could practise their religion without persecution
- **Answer: They faced persecution in Illinois, including the murder of their leader Joseph Smith in 1844, and sought a place to practise their religion freely.**

Question 5

- **B1** Brigham Young
- **Answer: Brigham Young**

Question 6

- **B1** 1847
- **Answer: 1847**

Question 7

- **B1** identifies a method, e.g. they built an irrigation system
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. they dug canals and ditches to channel water from mountain streams to their fields, and organised land and water use co-operatively rather than through individual ownership alone
- **Answer: They built an irrigation system, digging canals to channel water from mountain streams, organised co-operatively.**

Question 8

- **B1** the Donner Party
- **Answer: The Donner Party**

Question 9

- **B1** identifies a reason, e.g. they took an unproven shortcut, the Hastings Cutoff
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. the route proved far slower and harder than promised, delaying the party until heavy snow closed the mountain pass ahead of them
- **Answer: They took the unproven Hastings Cutoff, which delayed them until snow closed the mountain pass.**

Question 10

- **B1** identifies a consequence, e.g. many of the party died of starvation and cold over the winter
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. of the roughly 87 members of the party, about half died before rescue parties were able to reach the survivors in the following spring
- **Answer: About half the party died of starvation and cold before rescuers reached the survivors.**

Question 11

- **B1** the covered wagon
- **Answer: The covered wagon**

Question 12

- **B1** identifies a difficulty, e.g. a shortage of timber for building and fuel
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. the open grassland had few trees, so early settlers often built homes from blocks of turf (sod) instead of wood
- **Answer: A shortage of timber, so some early settlers built homes from blocks of turf (sod) instead.**

Question 13

- **B2** many migrants were attracted by reports of fertile, available farmland further west, such as Oregon's Willamette Valley, at a time when good land in the East was becoming harder and more expensive to obtain
- **B2** some migrants, including the Mormons, were seeking freedom from religious persecution or discrimination they had experienced in the East, and hoped to build a community where they could practise their beliefs without interference
- **Answer: The hope of fertile, available farmland further west, and, for some groups such as the Mormons, the wish to escape religious persecution.**

Question 14

- **B2** the Donner Party followed an unproven shortcut, the Hastings Cutoff, without reliable local knowledge, whereas the Mormon migration was carefully organised and led by Brigham Young, who sent scouts ahead and planned staged settlements along the route
- **B2** the Donner Party's journey ended in disaster, trapped by snow with roughly half its members dying before rescue, whereas the Mormon migration succeeded in reaching and establishing a permanent, growing settlement in the Salt Lake Valley from July 1847
- **Answer: The Donner Party took an unproven, poorly planned shortcut and suffered disaster, while the well-organised, carefully led Mormon migration reached Salt Lake and founded a lasting settlement.**

Question 15

- **Level 1** (1-2): Identifies one or two general consequences of the Donner Party's disaster, with little or no supporting detail or explanation.
- **Level 2** (3-4): Identifies and begins to explain one consequence, supported by accurate detail.
- **Level 3** (5-6): Explains two consequences of the Donner Party's disaster, each supported by accurate and relevant detail.
- **Level 4** (7-8): Explains two consequences in a well-developed, logically structured way, supported throughout by precise and accurate detail, showing how the consequences connect.
- **Indicative content:**
 - News of the Donner Party's fate spread widely once survivors were rescued in early 1847, and became a widely told cautionary tale about the dangers of unproven shortcuts and starting the trail too late in the season.
 - Later migrant guidebooks and organisers placed much greater emphasis on sticking to well-tested routes and keeping to a strict travel schedule, so as to clear mountain passes such as those in the Sierra Nevada well before the first winter snowfall.
 - The disaster reinforced the value of experienced, well-informed leadership on the trail, encouraging later migrant parties, including Mormon groups, to plan more carefully and to rely on scouts and accurate information rather than unproven advice.
 - The tragedy became, and has remained, one of the best-known individual episodes of the westward migration, shaping how later generations remembered the human cost and risk involved in travelling the overland trails.

Question 16

- **Level 1** (1-2): Simple, generalised statements, with little organisation or sense of change over time.
- **Level 2** (3-4): Some accurate knowledge is deployed, with limited organisation into a sequence; the account may be more a list of events than a developed narrative.
- **Level 3** (5-6): The account is organised and mostly coherent, and shows some analysis of how the situation changed, with accurate supporting detail.
- **Level 4** (7-8): 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.
- **Indicative content:**
 - From the early 1840s, migrant families began travelling the roughly 2,000-mile Oregon Trail in covered wagons, often with limited experience of the route and relying on incomplete or sometimes unreliable advice about shortcuts and conditions.
 - Difficulties such as disease (especially cholera), river crossings, harsh weather and wagon breakdowns were common on the early trail, and the risks of poor planning were shown starkly by the Donner Party's disaster in the winter of 1846-47, after the party took an unproven shortcut and was trapped by early snow.
 - In 1846, facing persecution in Illinois after the murder of Joseph Smith in 1844, the Mormons under Brigham Young began their own westward migration, but organised it far more carefully than many earlier parties, sending scouts ahead and planning staged winter camps along the way.
 - By the time the Mormon advance party reached the Salt Lake Valley in July 1847, migration west had become better understood: routes, hazards and timings were more widely known, and organised, well-led groups such as the Mormons were able to plan around lessons learned from earlier, harder journeys.
 - Overall, the narrative moves from early, sometimes poorly informed migration in the first half of the 1840s, through the stark warning of the Donner Party's fate in 1846-47, to the more disciplined and successful Mormon migration that founded a lasting settlement at Salt Lake in 1847.

Question 17

- **Level 1** (1-4): For each part answered: identifies a general point of importance, with little or no supporting detail or explanation.
- **Level 2** (5-8): For each part answered: begins to explain importance, supported by some accurate detail.
- **Level 3** (9-12): For each part answered: explains importance clearly, supported by accurate and relevant detail, with some analysis of consequences.
- **Level 4** (13-16): For each part answered: explains importance in a well-developed, analytical way, fully supported by precise and accurate detail, showing clearly why the event or development mattered for the outcome named.
- **Indicative content:**
 - (a) Brigham Young's leadership was important because his careful planning, use of scouts and staged organisation of the journey helped the Mormon migration avoid the kind of disaster that struck poorly planned parties, allowing thousands of migrants to reach and successfully settle the Salt Lake Valley from 1847.
 - (b) The Donner Party's fate was important because it became a widely known warning about the dangers of unproven shortcuts and late starts, encouraging later migrants and guidebook writers to plan routes and timings more carefully to avoid being trapped by winter snow in mountain ranges such as the Sierra Nevada.
 - (c) The Oregon Trail was important because it was the main route by which large numbers of migrants travelled west from the early 1840s, carrying reports of available farmland that encouraged further migration and beginning the large-scale movement of settlers that would reshape the West over the following decades.
 - A strong answer on any two parts explains a clear causal link between the person, event or route named and its stated importance, using precise dates and detail rather than general description.