6.3 The American West, c1835-c1895: Conflict and Tension, c1835-1854: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Write in full sentences for Questions 1, 2 and 3. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

1 Explain two consequences of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851.

(Total for Question 1 is 8 marks)

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2 Write a narrative account analysing how tension between Plains Indian nations and white settlers/the US government developed between the introduction of the Permanent Indian Frontier policy (1830s) and the Grattan Fight (1854).

You may use the following information in your answer:
- the growth of migrant traffic on trails such as the Oregon Trail during the 1840s
- the terms and aftermath of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851

You should also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)

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3 Explain two of the following:

(a) the importance of the Permanent Indian Frontier policy for relations between settlers and Plains Indian nations

(b) the importance of increased wagon-train traffic on the Oregon Trail for tension with Plains Indian nations

(c) the importance of the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851) for relations between the US government and the Plains Indians

You must answer on TWO parts.

(Total for Question 3 is 16 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.3 The American West, c1835-c1895: Conflict and Tension, c1835-1854: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 1 Identifies one or two general consequences of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, with little or no supporting detail or explanation. **1-2**

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

Level 3 Explains two consequences of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, 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, showing how the consequences connect. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- The treaty gave the US government a formal basis to claim that Plains nations had agreed to allow migrant traffic and the building of forts and roads through their territory, which the government used to justify continued and growing use of the trails in the years that followed.
- Because the promised annual payments were not always delivered in full or on time, and because settlers and migrants continued to move through recognised tribal land, many Plains Indians came to see the treaty as broken, which increased distrust of US government promises.
- The defined boundaries the treaty set out for different nations sometimes cut across traditional hunting grounds shared or contested between neighbouring nations, which could create new sources of friction between Plains nations themselves as well as with the US government.
- The treaty did not stop the underlying pressures of increasing migration and disease, so tension continued to build through the 1850s, culminating in violent clashes such as the Grattan Fight of 1854.

Question 2

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

Level 2 Some accurate knowledge is deployed, with limited organisation into a sequence; the account may be more a list of events than a developed narrative. **3-4**

Level 3 The account is organised and mostly coherent, and shows some 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:

- In the 1830s the US government's Permanent Indian Frontier policy set aside land west of the Mississippi for Indigenous nations, intending to separate them from areas of white settlement further east.
- Through the 1840s, however, growing numbers of migrants began crossing the Plains along trails such as the Oregon Trail, disturbing buffalo migration, damaging grazing land and spreading disease, including a serious cholera epidemic, which put the idea of a fixed, permanent frontier under increasing strain.
- In 1851 the US government negotiated the Fort Laramie Treaty with several Plains nations, defining tribal territories and promising annual payments in exchange for safe passage for migrants and the right to build roads and forts.
- In the years after 1851, however, promised payments were not always delivered in full, and settlers continued to move through recognised tribal land, so many Plains Indians increasingly distrusted US government promises even as trail traffic kept growing.
- This accumulating tension came to a head in August 1854 at the Grattan Fight, when a dispute over a single stray cow escalated into the deaths of the Lakota leader Conquering Bear and, shortly after, of Lieutenant Grattan and nearly all of his soldiers, showing how far relations had deteriorated since the 1830s.

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Question 3

Level 1 For each part answered: identifies a general point of importance, with little or no supporting detail or explanation. **1-4**

Level 2 For each part answered: begins to explain importance, supported by some accurate detail. **5-8**

Level 3 For each part answered: explains importance clearly, supported by accurate and relevant detail, with some analysis of consequences. **9-12**

Level 4 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. **13-16**

Indicative content:

- (a) The Permanent Indian Frontier policy was important because it established the principle that Indigenous nations would be kept separate from white settlement, but the policy proved unable to withstand the scale of migration that followed, so its failure set the pattern for repeated later attempts, and failures, to fix a stable boundary between settlers and Plains nations.
- (b) Increased wagon-train traffic was important because it directly damaged the resources (buffalo grazing land, water) that Plains nations depended on and spread disease such as cholera, turning a policy of separation on paper into a source of real, growing conflict on the ground during the 1840s and 1850s.
- (c) The Fort Laramie Treaty (1851) was important because it was the first major attempt to formally regulate relations between the US government and several Plains nations at once, but its incomplete implementation on both sides meant it ultimately increased distrust rather than securing lasting peace, contributing to the violence of incidents such as the Grattan Fight in 1854.
- A strong answer on any two parts explains a clear causal chain from the policy or event named to its stated importance, using precise dates and detail rather than general description.

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