



EDX.ASU3 The American West, c1835-c1895: Conflict and Tension, c1835-1854

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 US government policy, established from the 1830s, that set aside land west of the Mississippi River as territory for Indigenous nations to live in.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

- 2** State one reason why the Permanent Indian Frontier policy came under growing pressure during the 1840s.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

- 3** Name three ways in which increased wagon-train traffic on the trails affected the Plains Indians in the 1840s and 1850s.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

- 4** Give the year of the Fort Laramie Treaty in which the US government and several Plains nations agreed on tribal boundaries and safe passage for migrants along the trails.

(Total for Question 4 is 1 mark)

5 State one term agreed under the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

6 State one way in which the terms of the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851) were not fully respected in the years that followed.

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

7 Name the incident in 1854, near Fort Laramie, in which a dispute over a stray cow led to the deaths of a Lakota leader and, shortly after, of a US army lieutenant and his men.

(Total for Question 7 is 1 mark)

8 State what happened during the Grattan Fight of 1854.

(Total for Question 8 is 2 marks)

9 State one long-term effect of the Grattan Fight (1854) on relations between the US government and the Plains Indians.

(Total for Question 9 is 2 marks)

10 Name one Plains Indian nation that signed the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851.

(Total for Question 10 is 1 mark)

- 11** State one reason why the US government wanted an agreement such as the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851) with the Plains nations.

(Total for Question 11 is 2 marks)

- 12** Give the term used for a large-scale outbreak of disease, which spread rapidly along the trails in the early 1850s and caused many deaths among Plains Indian nations.

(Total for Question 12 is 1 mark)

- 13** Explain two reasons why tension grew between white migrants and Plains Indian nations during the 1840s and early 1850s.

(Total for Question 13 is 4 marks)

- 14** Describe two ways in which the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 attempted to reduce conflict between migrants and Plains Indian nations.

(Total for Question 14 is 4 marks)

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

(Total for Question 15 is 8 marks)

16 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 16 is 8 marks)

17 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 17 is 16 marks)

Mark scheme · EDX.ASU3 The American West, c1835-c1895: Conflict and Tension, c1835-1854

Question 1

- **B1** the Permanent Indian Frontier
- **Answer: The Permanent Indian Frontier**

Question 2

- **B1** identifies a reason, e.g. increasing numbers of migrants began crossing the Plains on trails such as the Oregon Trail
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. this brought settlers directly through land that had been designated for Plains nations, straining the idea of a fixed, permanent frontier
- **Answer: Growing numbers of migrants crossing the Plains on trails such as the Oregon Trail travelled directly through designated Indian Territory.**

Question 3

- **B1** disturbance of buffalo migration routes
- **B1** damage to grazing land used to feed horses
- **B1** the spread of diseases, such as cholera, to which Plains Indians had little immunity
- **Answer: E.g. disturbance to buffalo migration, damage to grazing land, and the spread of diseases such as cholera.**

Question 4

- **B1** 1851
- **Answer: 1851**

Question 5

- **B1** identifies a term, e.g. Plains nations agreed to allow migrants safe passage along established trails, and to permit the building of roads and forts
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. in return, the US government agreed to recognise defined tribal territories and to pay annual compensation to the signatory nations
- **Answer: Plains nations allowed safe passage for migrants and the building of roads/forts, and the US government recognised tribal territories and agreed to pay annual compensation.**

Question 6

- **B1** identifies a way, e.g. the US government did not always deliver the promised annual payments in full or on time
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. growing numbers of migrants and settlers continued to move through and settle on land recognised as tribal territory, straining the boundaries the treaty had set
- **Answer: Promised annual payments were not always delivered in full, and migrants/settlers continued to move onto recognised tribal territory.**

Question 7

- **B1** the Grattan Fight (Grattan Massacre)
- **Answer: The Grattan Fight**

Question 8

- **B1** identifies the outcome, e.g. Lieutenant Grattan led soldiers into a Lakota camp to arrest a man over the killing of a stray cow
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. fighting broke out, the Lakota leader Conquering Bear was killed, and Grattan and nearly all of his 29 soldiers were then killed by Lakota warriors
- **Answer: Lieutenant Grattan led soldiers to arrest a man over a killed cow; fighting broke out, the Lakota leader Conquering Bear was killed, and then Grattan and nearly all his men were killed.**

Question 9

- **B1** identifies an effect, e.g. the US army responded with greater force against Plains nations in the following years
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. this cycle of retaliation increased distrust on both sides and made further violent clashes more likely through the rest of the 1850s
- **Answer: The US army responded with greater force, increasing distrust and making further clashes more likely.**

Question 10

- **B1** e.g. the Lakota (Sioux), the Cheyenne or the Arapaho (any one)
- **Answer: E.g. the Lakota (Sioux)**

Question 11

- **B1** identifies a reason, e.g. it wanted to reduce the risk of conflict along the increasingly busy overland trails
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. protecting migrant traffic and enabling the building of forts and roads mattered more to the government than maintaining a strict, unbroken frontier
- **Answer: It wanted to reduce conflict along the busy trails and to secure safe passage and the right to build forts and roads.**

Question 12

- **B1** cholera
- **Answer: Cholera**

Question 13

- **B2** rapidly increasing numbers of migrants travelling the Oregon Trail and other routes disturbed buffalo migration and damaged grazing land, threatening the resource Plains nations depended on for survival
- **B2** trail traffic also spread diseases such as cholera to which Plains Indians had little immunity, causing serious loss of life and further straining relations between migrants and the nations whose land the trails crossed
- **Answer: Increasing trail traffic disturbed buffalo migration and grazing land, and also spread diseases such as cholera among Plains nations.**

Question 14

- **B2** the treaty set out defined territories for the signatory nations and promised the US government would pay annual compensation, intended to give each side clearer expectations about land use
- **B2** in return, signatory nations agreed to allow migrants safe passage along established trails and to permit the building of roads and forts, aiming to reduce the everyday friction of unregulated travel through their territory
- **Answer: The treaty set defined tribal territories with promised annual payments, and Plains nations agreed to allow safe passage and the building of roads/forts in return.**

Question 15

- **Level 1** (1-2): Identifies one or two general consequences of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, 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 Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, 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:**
 - 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 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:**
 - 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.

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) 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.