



EDX.ASU4 The American West, c1835-c1895: Development of Settlement, Ranching and the Cattle Industry

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · Calculators not allowed · about 65 minutes

Total Marks

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** Give the year in which the US government passed the Homestead Act.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

- 2** State one main term of the Homestead Act (1862).

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

- 3** Name three new technologies that helped farmers settle and work land on the Plains from the 1860s and 1870s.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

- 4** State one problem the Plains environment created for farmers settling there.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

5 Name the man usually credited with inventing and patenting a practical form of barbed wire in 1874.

(Total for Question 5 is 1 mark)

6 State one way in which barbed wire changed farming and ranching on the Plains.

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

7 Give the year in which the first transcontinental railroad across the United States was completed.

(Total for Question 7 is 1 mark)

8 State one way in which the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 affected settlement of the Plains.

(Total for Question 8 is 2 marks)

9 Name the trail used from the late 1860s to drive Texas longhorn cattle north to railheads in Kansas.

(Total for Question 9 is 1 mark)

10 State one reason why cattle ranching developed on the open range of the Plains in the years after the American Civil War.

(Total for Question 10 is 2 marks)

- 11** Name a cattle town that grew rapidly in Kansas as a railhead where cattle driven north from Texas were loaded onto trains.

(Total for Question 11 is 1 mark)

- 12** State one way in which the growth of ranching and barbed-wire fencing led to the decline of the open range in the later 1870s and 1880s.

(Total for Question 12 is 2 marks)

- 13** Explain two reasons why the Homestead Act (1862) encouraged settlement of the Plains.

(Total for Question 13 is 4 marks)

- 14** Describe two ways in which new technology helped farmers and ranchers overcome the difficulties of the Plains environment.

(Total for Question 14 is 4 marks)

15 Explain two consequences of the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869.

(Total for Question 15 is 8 marks)

16 Write a narrative account analysing how settlement of the Plains developed between the passing of the Homestead Act (1862) and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (1869).

You may use the following information in your answer:

- the terms of the Homestead Act and who it attracted to the Plains
- the difficulties settlers faced adapting to the Plains environment in these years

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 Homestead Act (1862) for the settlement of the Plains
- (b) the importance of barbed wire for farming and ranching on the Plains
- (c) the importance of the Chisholm Trail for the growth of the cattle industry

You must answer on TWO parts.

(Total for Question 17 is 16 marks)

Mark scheme · EDX.ASU4 The American West, c1835-c1895:

Development of Settlement, Ranching and the Cattle Industry

Question 1

- **B1** 1862
- **Answer:** 1862

Question 2

- **B1** identifies a term, e.g. a settler could claim 160 acres of public land
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. for a small filing fee, on condition that they built a home and farmed the land for five years
- **Answer:** A settler could claim 160 acres of public land for a small fee, on condition they lived on and farmed it for five years.

Question 3

- **B1** barbed wire
- **B1** the windmill (for pumping water)
- **B1** the steel plough (accept also the sod house or dry-farming methods)
- **Answer:** E.g. barbed wire, the windmill and the steel plough.

Question 4

- **B1** identifies a problem, e.g. a shortage of timber for building and fencing
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. the tough, deeply rooted prairie turf was also difficult to plough with ordinary equipment, and low rainfall made crops unreliable in some areas
- **Answer:** A shortage of timber, tough prairie turf that was hard to plough, and low or unreliable rainfall.

Question 5

- **B1** Joseph Glidden
- **Answer:** Joseph Glidden

Question 6

- **B1** identifies a change, e.g. it allowed farmers to fence land cheaply, since timber for fencing was scarce
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. this let farmers protect crops from cattle and increasingly enclosed land that had previously been open range, reducing the land available for free-roaming herds
- **Answer:** It allowed cheap fencing of land, protecting crops and enclosing land that had previously been open range.

Question 7

- **B1** 1869
- **Answer:** 1869

Question 8

- **B1** identifies an effect, e.g. it made travelling west and transporting goods far quicker and cheaper
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. this encouraged many more settlers to move to the Plains and allowed farm produce and cattle to be shipped to markets in the East
- **Answer:** It made westward travel and goods transport far quicker and cheaper, encouraging settlement and allowing produce and cattle to reach eastern markets.

Question 9

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

Question 10

- **B1** identifies a reason, e.g. millions of semi-wild Texas longhorn cattle were available, having bred largely unmanaged during the war
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. cattle could be bought cheaply in Texas and sold at a large profit once driven north to railheads and shipped to growing eastern city markets
- **Answer: Large numbers of cheap Texas longhorn cattle could be driven north to railheads and sold at a big profit in eastern markets.**

Question 11

- **B1** e.g. Abilene, Dodge City or Wichita (any one)
- **Answer: E.g. Abilene**

Question 12

- **B1** identifies a factor, e.g. increasing numbers of ranchers and farmers fenced land with barbed wire
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. this reduced the amount of unfenced grazing land available and increasingly separated ranches from one another, ending the earlier system of unrestricted, shared open-range grazing
- **Answer: Growing use of barbed wire to fence land reduced the unfenced grazing available, ending the earlier open-range system.**

Question 13

- **B2** the Act let a settler claim 160 acres of public land for only a small filing fee, making land ownership possible for families who could not have afforded to buy farmland outright
- **B2** requiring only five years of residence and improvement to gain full title gave settlers a clear, attainable path to secure ownership, encouraging many families to move west and commit to farming the Plains despite its difficulties
- **Answer: Cheap, accessible land (160 acres for a small fee) and a clear, attainable path to ownership after five years both encouraged settlers to move to the Plains.**

Question 14

- **B2** barbed wire, patented by Joseph Glidden in 1874, let farmers fence land cheaply despite the shortage of timber, protecting crops from livestock and allowing ranchers to mark out and control their own grazing land
- **B2** windmills allowed farmers and ranchers to pump groundwater up from deep underground in areas where surface water was scarce, making it possible to provide water for livestock and, in some places, for irrigation, in a region where low rainfall was a constant problem
- **Answer: Barbed wire solved the timber-fencing shortage and let land be enclosed, and windmills solved the water shortage by pumping up groundwater.**

Question 15

- **Level 1** (1-2): Identifies one or two general consequences of the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, 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 completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, 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:**
 - Faster, cheaper travel encouraged a much larger wave of settlers to move onto the Plains than the earlier overland trails had allowed, speeding up the pace at which land claimed under the Homestead Act was actually settled.
 - The railroad let farmers and ranchers ship their produce and cattle to large eastern markets far more cheaply and quickly than driving cattle overland or hauling crops by wagon, making commercial farming and ranching on the Plains far more profitable.
 - Railheads such as Abilene grew rapidly into busy cattle towns almost overnight, as they became the point where cattle driven north on trails such as the Chisholm Trail were loaded onto trains, shaping the pattern of the developing cattle industry.
 - The railroad also made it easier and cheaper for the US government and army to move soldiers and supplies across the

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:**
 - The Homestead Act of 1862 offered 160 acres of public land for a small fee on condition of five years' residence and improvement, attracting many families who could not otherwise have afforded to own farmland.
 - In the years immediately after 1862, settlers arriving on the Plains faced serious practical difficulties: a shortage of timber for building and fencing, tough prairie turf that was hard to plough, and unreliable rainfall, so early settlement was often slow and hard.
 - Through the mid-to-late 1860s, some technological solutions began to appear, such as sod houses built from turf blocks where timber was scarce, though widely available solutions such as effective barbed wire were not yet in use.
 - By 1869 the completion of the transcontinental railroad transformed the pace of settlement, since it made the journey west and the transport of goods far quicker and cheaper, encouraging a much larger wave of settlers than the earlier Homestead Act alone had produced.
 - Overall, the narrative moves from the Homestead Act creating the legal opportunity for settlement in 1862, through several years in which the harsh Plains environment limited how quickly that opportunity could be taken up, to the railroad's completion in 1869 removing a major practical barrier and accelerating settlement significantly.

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 Homestead Act was important because it gave ordinary families a realistic, affordable route to owning Plains farmland, directly driving the wave of settlement that followed 1862 and shaping the pattern of small, family-run farms across much of the Plains.
 - (b) Barbed wire was important because it solved the region's timber shortage for fencing, letting farmers protect crops and ranchers mark out grazing land cheaply, and its spread from 1874 was a key factor in ending the earlier open-range system by enclosing land that had previously been shared.
 - (c) The Chisholm Trail was important because it was the main route by which millions of Texas longhorn cattle were driven north to railheads such as Abilene in the years after the Civil War, making large-scale commercial cattle ranching profitable and shaping the growth of Kansas cattle towns.
 - A strong answer on any two parts explains a clear causal chain from the Act, technology or trail named to its stated importance, using precise dates and detail rather than general description.