6.6 The American West, c1835-c1895: Conflicts and Conquest of the Later Period, 1876-1895: 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 Battle of the Little Bighorn (1876).

(Total for Question 1 is 8 marks)

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2 Write a narrative account analysing how the position of the Lakota changed between the Battle of the Little Bighorn (1876) and the Wounded Knee Massacre (1890).

You may use the following information in your answer:
- the US military campaign and surrenders that followed the Little Bighorn in 1876-77
- the Dawes Act (1887) and the spread of the Ghost Dance movement (1889-90)

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 Battle of the Little Bighorn (1876) for US government policy towards the Plains Indians

(b) the importance of the Dawes Act (1887) for the Plains Indians' way of life

(c) the importance of the Ghost Dance movement for the events at Wounded Knee (1890)

You must answer on TWO parts.

(Total for Question 3 is 16 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.6 The American West, c1835-c1895: Conflicts and Conquest of the Later Period, 1876-1895: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 1 Identifies one or two general consequences of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 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 Battle of the Little Bighorn, 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 scale of Custer's defeat shocked US public opinion and the US government, which responded by sending a much larger military force to the northern Plains, determined to prevent a similar defeat happening again.
- The sustained military campaign that followed forced most remaining free Lakota and Cheyenne bands to surrender within about a year; Crazy Horse's band surrendered in May 1877, though Sitting Bull and some followers instead crossed into Canada for a time before eventually returning and surrendering in 1881.
- The battle hardened US government policy towards the Plains Indians more generally, contributing to a harder line in later negotiations and to pressure that, within a few years, saw parts of the Great Sioux Reservation, including the Black Hills, taken from Lakota control.
- Even though it was a major Plains Indian victory at the time, the Little Bighorn came to mark, in the longer term, the beginning of the end of large-scale, organised Plains Indian military resistance to the US government.

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 June 1876, a combined Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho force defeated Custer's 7th Cavalry detachment at the Little Bighorn, a major victory that provoked a much larger US military response.
- Through the sustained campaign that followed, most remaining free Lakota and Cheyenne bands surrendered within about a year, including Crazy Horse's band in May 1877, ending large-scale organised Lakota military resistance and placing most Lakota on reservations under closer US government control.
- In 1887 the Dawes Act began dividing reservation land into individual allotments and allowed 'surplus' land to be sold, mostly to white settlers, further reducing Lakota-held land and pursuing a wider policy of assimilation alongside institutions such as boarding schools.
- By the late 1880s, hunger and hardship on reservations, worsened by the loss of the buffalo and unreliable government rations, created conditions in which the Ghost Dance movement, promising spiritual renewal, spread rapidly among Lakota bands from 1889-90, alarming US officials.
- This growing alarm led to an increased military presence, the killing of Sitting Bull during an attempted arrest in December 1890, and, days later, the Wounded Knee Massacre, showing how far the Lakota's position had changed from a major military victory in 1876 to a position of severe hardship and loss of land and life by the end of 1890.

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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 Battle of the Little Bighorn was important because the scale of Custer's defeat provoked a much larger and more determined US military campaign, which within about a year forced the surrender of most remaining free Lakota and Cheyenne bands, marking a decisive turn towards US government control of the northern Plains.
- (b) The Dawes Act was important because it broke up communal reservation landholding into individual allotments and allowed 'surplus' land to be sold off, significantly reducing the total land held by Plains Indian nations over time and pursuing an assimilation policy that undermined traditional social and economic structures.
- (c) The Ghost Dance movement was important because its rapid spread among Lakota bands in 1889-90, offering a message of renewal in response to severe reservation hardship, alarmed US officials into increasing their military presence, a build-up of tension that led directly to the killing of Sitting Bull and, days later, to the Wounded Knee Massacre.
- A strong answer on any two parts explains a clear causal chain from the event or policy named to its stated importance, using precise dates and detail, and presents the events as a matter of historical cause and consequence rather than as a justification for what occurred.

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