6.7 Exam Skills: Explaining Consequences in the American West: 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 First Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 for Plains Indian nations.

(Total for Question 1 is 8 marks)

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2 Write a narrative account analysing how the Pacific Railroad Act of 1862 and the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad in 1869 affected settlement and economy on the Plains.

You may use the following information in your answer:
- the Pacific Railroad Act provided land grants and loans to railroad companies
- the completion of the transcontinental railroad linked eastern markets to the West in 1869

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 Homestead Act of 1862 for westward settlement

(b) the importance of the destruction of the buffalo herds for Plains Indian society

(c) the importance of the Dawes Act of 1887 for the ownership of land on the Plains

You must answer on TWO parts.

(Total for Question 3 is 16 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.7 Exam Skills: Explaining Consequences in the American West: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 1 Identifies one or two simple consequences with little or no supporting detail or explanation. **1-2**

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

Level 3 Explains two consequences, each supported by accurate and relevant detail. **5-6**

Level 4 Explains two consequences in a well-developed way, showing clear links between the treaty terms and their effects, with precise and accurate supporting detail. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- One consequence was the formal recognition of tribal territories, which on paper reduced violent conflict between some groups and settlers, but in practice fixed boundaries that limited tribes' seasonal movement and control of hunting grounds.
- A second consequence was increased US government involvement in Plains affairs, since the treaty established the principle of federal negotiation and payments, creating expectations of annuities and agents whose failure to deliver on promises later caused mistrust and instability.
- Good answers will distinguish consequence from mere description by explaining how treaty terms produced political limitations, altered traditional mobility and brought new administrative control that changed tribal autonomy.

Question 2

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

Level 2 Some accurate knowledge is used, with limited organisation; may be more a list of consequences than an organised narrative. **3-4**

Level 3 Organised account showing how events are linked, with relevant supporting detail and some analysis of change over time. **5-6**

Level 4 A coherent, well-organised narrative that analyses connections between events across the period, showing clearly how the Act and the railroad completion changed settlement patterns and the Plains economy, fully supported by precise and accurate detail. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- The Pacific Railroad Act of 1862 gave land grants and government loans to the Union Pacific and Central Pacific, encouraging rapid railway construction across the Plains and reducing the financial risk to private companies.
- Completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad in 1869 created faster, cheaper transport for people, goods and agricultural produce, linking eastern markets to western farms and encouraging large scale migration and settlement on the Plains.
- Railway construction also opened access to remote regions, stimulated towns and trading posts along the route, and supported industries such as cattle ranching and wheat farming by providing markets and bringing in equipment and settlers.
- A strong narrative explains the sequence from legislation to construction to market integration, and analyses how this sequence shifted the Plains from a sparsely settled region into one connected to national economic networks.

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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 development mattered for the outcome named. **13-16**

Indicative content:

- (a) The Homestead Act was important because it provided cheap or free land to millions of settlers, accelerating migration, encouraging family farming and creating a legal route for occupation that transformed patterns of settlement across the Plains.
- (a) The Act also encouraged government-backed population growth which increased demand for infrastructure, markets and law and order, making permanent settlement more viable.
- (b) The destruction of the buffalo herds was important because it removed the main food and material base of Plains societies, forcing many tribes into famine, dependence on US government supplies and surrender of autonomy.
- (b) It also undermined economic and social structures built around buffalo hunting, accelerating cultural disruption and making it easier for the US state and settlers to occupy traditional Plains lands.
- (c) The Dawes Act was important because it broke up communal landholding and imposed the idea of individual private ownership, weakening tribal structures and making it easier for non-Native buyers to acquire 'surplus' land.
- (c) The Act also aimed at assimilation by promoting private farming but in practice led to significant loss of Native-held land and long term changes in land tenure patterns across the Plains.
- A high-quality answer addresses two options, explains why each development mattered for the specified outcome, and supports points with precise factual detail and analysis of short and longer term effects.

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