

Examiners' Report

June 2014

GCSE History 5HB02 2B

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June 2014

Publications Code UG039140

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Introduction

It was evident that the vast majority of students were well prepared; both in terms of historical understanding and skills as well as in terms of sitting the actual examination. Nearly all candidates completed the required number of questions in the time allowed, plans were frequently used for the higher mark questions, and there was a virtual absence of any blank pages. Very few candidates committed rubric offences such as answering both questions 3 and 4 or combining a) and b) sections for questions 5 and 6. Nearly all candidates appeared to have made a considered choice from the optional questions. Overall literacy levels were at least good with clear written communication and good spelling, punctuation and grammar. There was frequent use of specialist terms, less direct copying of stimulus material and very few responses were impossible to read.

Question 1

Most students gained Level 2 by making valid supported inferences about the quality of land shown and described in the source as encouraging migration West. Some also commented that the existence of the railroads by the 1870s was also beneficial to migrants. At Level 1 most candidates made statements about the content of the source rather without making links about migrating West. There were very few candidates who wrote at length without any reference to the source at all and only the occasional candidate discussed irrelevant issues for this question on the reliability or value of the source.

1 What can you learn from Source A about reasons for migrating West?

(4)

They were trying to promote Kansas by showing you what you could have after working on it for a few years. In the middle is a picture of a train, this shows that transport there was easy and the rewards when you get there were amazing. It says "LANDS" in bold to make it stand out from the rest of the words. It also says good soil to grow corn, and wheat and fruit as many people would want this as its part of the American dream.



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Examiner Comments

This response makes inferences which are valid and are clearly supported from the source. It is therefore full marks.

Question 2

Level 3 answers were able to give specific and accurate details on the role of the US government in encouraging migration West by reference to various legislation, the promotion of 'Manifest Destiny' and the encouragement of railroad construction. Those candidates that chose Mountain men normally gave details on individuals such as Bridger as well as specific details of trails and trailblazing; explaining how this helped migration West. Level 2 responses were normally much more generalised and lacked specific and accurate details. At Level 1 simple statements were made such as 'made it safer' and 'gave people land.' There were a significant number of students who confused the Mountain Men or the US government in discovering gold.

2 The boxes below show two groups.

Choose **one** and explain how that group encouraged people to migrate West.

would have been
the first

Stories

Knowledgeable

Acts e.g. Homestead Act
Dodge Desert Land Act
Small Cattle Act

Manifest destiny

(9)

Mountain men

The US government

Mountain Men were men who went out in the mountains to trap animals for fur. They lived out in the west for long periods of time so they often saw a lot of the west. When they got back to a ~~land~~ they would often talk to the person buying the fur about the west. They told them about the rich, fertile lands. The person who brought the fur would then travel back and sell the fur to someone. They spread the tales about the west to people. This would make a person want to travel west.

When the Mountain Men stopped to
When there wasn't ~~much~~ many animals left to
trap, the Mountain Men needed a job. They became
the people who would lead migrants west. Migrants
would prefer to travel west with a Mountain
Man because they ~~new~~ knew he ~~is~~ ~~was~~ ~~help~~
~~has~~ know a lot ~~also~~ about the west. They
all travelled in wagon trains. There were

lots of people along a Mountain train so this
would make people feel more safe because there
were lots of people.



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Examiner Comments

This response is low Level 3. It has specific links to the set question for level and gives some support about the spreading of tales, role of guides and making wagon trains safer are all valid but generalised support. More specific details such as the role of Jim Bridger would have secured a higher mark within Level 3.

Question 3

Level 3 candidates clearly recognised the focus of the question and gave details on the contribution made by women to the homesteading communities as school teachers, in providing health care and establishing church groups. A few candidates made references to women owning land in their own right and gaining the franchise. Many responses remained in Level 2 by purely focusing on their domestic roles of women homesteaders and describe their contribution entirely as cooking, cleaning and raising children. Level 1 comments were simple statements that could apply to many points and places in History such as "they looked after the children" and "they kept the house clean."

Question 4

The highest scoring candidates had a clear overarching understanding of the clash between Christianity and the culture of the Plains Indians. A lot of Level 3 responses confidently discussed a wide range of areas where these cultures clashed such as attitudes towards land, property, nature, marriage, the family and warfare. Level 2 answers were mainly descriptions of differences in beliefs and lifestyle between the Plains Indians and white settlers without an explicit explanation of how this created tension.

Chosen Question Number: Question 3

Question 4

There was a clash of cultures between white settlers and Plains Indians mainly because their cultures were so different and sometimes misunderstood by the two groups of people.

One reason why there was a clash of cultures ~~settlers~~ was because the Plains Indians were solely reliant on the buffalo. As more and more white settlers joined the Plains due to the attraction of a new life it led to people disrupting the buffalo's natural migration and where they ~~roamed~~ ^{roamed}. The Plains Indians relied on the buffalo ~~from~~ for everything from food to clothes to their ~~one~~ housing. So as they had to be able to find and kill the buffalo if their normal migration was disrupted it would be harder to do this. ~~The white settlers would~~

The white settlers would also have scared off the buffalo which would have created tension between the ~~two~~^{two} groups.

people such as homesteaders, their lifestyle

would've clashed with the Indians as they had very different methods of how they lived. The Indians were nomadic meaning they moved around (following the buffalo), whereas the homesteaders stayed and farmed in one place to make a living. The homesteaders relied on their farms to survive and earn money so therefore when the buffalo came through and trampled their crops they were not too pleased. So when the invention of barbed wire came about they fenced off their land to keep their crops protected. Whilst doing this however they fenced off grass and fresh water that the buffalo were sometimes reliant on. This would've caused a clash as it would lead to a decline in buffalo therefore affecting the Indians way of life. Therefore they would clash.

As the Plains Indians were of the belief that no single man could own land they found it strange when the white settlers would come in and fence land off or sell land as if it was theirs. This would've affected where they could settle therefore causing a clash.

Another reason for a clash in cultures between the white settlers and the Indians was for their different views on warfare. The white settlers were of the belief that stealing another's horse was a crime however this was seen as a great show of bravery in the Plains Indians culture. As was performing a counting coup towards an enemy which involved touching an enemy with a stick and escaping. This was seen as brave by the Indians and cowardly by the white settlers. Also the Indians were considered savage by the white settlers. During warfare ~~the~~ an Indian may scalp an enemy, this was to prevent them from going to the afterlife (The Happy Hunting Ground) ^{of spiritual meaning} however was only seen as savage by the settlers.

Another reason for a clash in cultures was that the Indians practised polygamy this was thought to be wrong by settlers and was banned in many states. However Indians only practised it so every woman was accounted and provided for.

In conclusion there mainly was a clash between the two groups due to the misunderstanding of each other's culture.



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Examiner Comments

This is a high level 3 response. It is clearly focused on the set question and supports a range of reasons to explain why there was a clash of culture between the Plains Indians and white settlers.

Question 5

Part a) Level 3 responses were clear about Joseph Smith's role in the early years of the Mormons and showed both his setting up of the Church as well as later divisions in the movement and his eventual imprisonment. Level 2 responses were general narrative accounts of Smith with details on his finding of the golden plates, guidance from Moroni, the various early moves by Smith and his followers to his imprisonment. Level 1 statements were general comments that could be applied to many leaders such as 'people followed him' or 'he gave leadership'. Some candidates confused Smith with Brigham Young and consequently attributed Smith with the Mormons' migration West and the establishment of a permanent settlement at the Great Salt Lake.

Part b) Level 4 responses weighed up the extent to which the US government could deal with problems of law and order in the American West. These answers had an excellent understanding of the context; such as the sheer physical scale of the US and the consequences of rapidly growing settlements that were often isolated. Candidates at this level used specific and accurate details on law and order such as vigilantism, cow towns and miners' courts as well as efforts by the US government to set up a system of law enforcement. Level 3 answers tended to be a one-sided explanation that either argued that the US government was trying to maintain law and order or that it was incompetent at dealing with lawlessness. Level 2 answers tended to describe various problems of law and order in the West or were prompted by the bullet point to give a narrative account of the Johnson County War. There were very few Level 1 responses for this question.

Question 6

Part a) High scoring Level 3 responses explicitly linked a range of factors to explain mistakes made by at the Battle of Little Big Horn such as Custer's arrogance, exhausted troops, lack of communication, ignoring of warnings and his willingness to attack ahead of plan. Level 2 responses tended to be narrative accounts of the Battle of Little Big Horn and/or a description of Custer but without an explicit focus on his mistakes. There were very few Level 1 responses to this question.

Part b) Level 4 responses weighed up the extent to which cattle drives was a factor in the rise of the cattle industry. These responses often had a sound grasp of the context and analysed the varying role of contributing factors at different stages of the cattle industry. Most Level 3 responses explained a list of factors such as the coming of railroads and the role of individuals such as Iliff and McCoy as contributing to the rise of the cattle industry. Level 2 responses tended to be descriptions of cattle drives and cow towns with only implicit links on the industry's growth. There were very few Level 1 response to the question.

Chosen Question Number: Question 5 Question 6

(a) General Custer made many mistakes in the battle of Little Big Horn in 1876. The battle of the Little Big Horn was one of the biggest battles between the Indians and white settlers and due to the discovery of gold in the most sacred land, the black hills, the white settlers wanted this land very badly but there was no way the Indians were going to just give them the land.

General Custer set out with another 7000 men to try and capture the black hills and the idea was that all ranks would attack the Indians at the same time making it impossible for the Indians to resist however Custer wanted to take ~~glory~~ all the glory and defeat the Indians single handedly so he ordered his 7th and his division to take on a shortcut and attack the Indians with ~~to~~ less men which is a

huge mistake as it makes it easier to kill the attacking force more quickly and easily.
Custer also went in to the battle of

((a) continued) Little Bighorn thinking that the ~~over~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Indians~~ was going to be easy so they didn't bring rifles with them. Without rifles it ~~was~~ made it extremely difficult to kill the Indians from a distance and in hindsight every single one of Custer's men, including himself died.

However, Custer and his men dying made the American public feel more hatred towards the Indians and this meant ~~effectively~~ effectively that bigger numbers of men and resources were going to come back stronger at the Indians. So in ~~was~~ a way it ~~wasn't~~ was a mistake worth making.

Overall Custer thought that the battle of Little Bighorn would be an easy battle to win and it wasn't so that was ~~his~~ his mistake, just being too ~~confident~~ ^{confident} about the result of the battle and just wanting to take the glory of winning for himself.

(b) Cattle drives were extremely important in the growth of the cattle industry however I do not believe it was the most important.

In 1866 the first cattle drive was created, the goodnight long trail which meant that big herds of cattle could be taken from Texas, where they were very cheap and popular, north where they could be sold for more as they were rarer. The trails were very important in increasing profits of cattle however ~~they were~~ the drives were long and difficult to overcome.

However there were other ways in which the cattle industry boomed. The Civil War in 1861-1865 enabled cattle herds to increase hugely and by the time people soldiers returned they realised all this meat could be sold for huge amounts of cash.

The invention of cow towns by J. McCoy in 1867 in Abilene meant the cattle could be sold at fairs and organised events which also allowed cowboys, who transported the cattle to let of steam and therefore transport more cow cattle and get

((b) continued) More money.

Also the creation of open range ranches in the 1870's by John King meant cattle could be bred more centrally in America, meaning they didn't have to be transported from Texas and that they could breed in bigger numbers with less hassle.

~~possibly~~ the most important factor ~~is~~ Another factor is that the demand for beef grew in the east and also from the Indians as well. In 1872 John Dill won a contract to supply beef to Indians which meant more beef literally had to be produced.

Finally ~~the~~ one of the most important factors was the completion of the railroad in 1869. The completion of the railroad meant cattle could be transported across the country and in bigger numbers, however in the 1870's the rise in transportation of beef rose dramatically as ~~ref~~ refrigerators were implanted into the trains, meaning cut up beef could be transported across the country in fresh condition. The invention of refrigerators on trains purely meant an increase in mass of beef transported, rather than cattles dying on

((b) continued) trails, meaning an increase in profit and also a better quality product being transported meaning an increase in profit being re-invested back into buying more cattle increasing the size of the cattle industry.

Overall I believe the completion of the railroad in 1869 was the main factor in the rise of the cattle industry as it meant more meat could be transported east and west to increase demand and growth industry, meanwhile cattle drives helped to build profits as they

Could be sold in places so river places and did really give a starting point for ~~both~~ cattle to be sold however it didn't increase growth ~~and~~ demand for and the availability of meat like the creation of the railway and refrigerators did.



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Examiner Comments

Part a) is low Level 3. Although there is focus on the set question the details are general and overall there is a lack of specific support for a higher mark within Level 3. Part b) is high level 3. It deals with a range of factors to explain the ability of the US government to deal with law and order. A more sustained focus and a weighing up of the factors against each other would have resulted in a Level 4 mark.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice;

1. To use specific details such as key terms, names of individuals, events, locations and government legislation to support responses that can then frequently be awarded Level 3 marks.
2. To spend a few minutes preparing responses particularly for question 5b and 6b. This invariably leads to a much more focused and structured response and can often result in a more coherent and sustained argument.

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