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Examiners' Report
June 2011

GCSE History 5HB02 2B

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Introduction

Nearly all candidates completed all the necessary questions and were within the rubric of this examination paper. There were very few blank spaces, and responses were frequently directed to the actual focus and thrust of the set question. There were some very strong and detailed responses which showed clear skills of selection and deployment of relevant knowledge. Many candidates also clearly demonstrated the ability to write a sustained analysis and reach a judgement in the 5b and 6b questions. Further, there seemed to be a noticeable reduction in the number of candidates who had failed to attempt the final (and highest scoring) question which would indicate that candidates timed themselves better to complete the entire examination paper, or as seems to be increasingly common, beginning with the highest marked answer at the start of their examination.

The following has been mentioned in previous reports but it is a worthwhile reminder to centres and also for schools new to this specification. Stimulus material is always provided for questions 3, 4, 5b and 6b. In this particular examination paper bullet points were used. Centres should note that in some examination series the stimulus material may take the form of stimulus such as a map, poster, picture, graph, or a short piece of continuous prose. There are examples of questions with stimulus other than bullet points in the second set of Specimen Assessment Materials which are on the main Edexcel website for GCSE History B. The stimulus material is always offered as a prompt to students of some of the main issues and the chronological time span for the particular question set. The stimulus material does not have to be used at all and this is often the case with the highest scoring responses. Conversely students should not rely on the stimulus material alone or simply rewrite or describe the provided material in their own words – both of which will invariably give a low scoring response.

Question 1

Question 1. Most candidates reached Level 2 by making a valid supported inference from the source about the isolation, living or farming conditions facing homesteaders. A number of responses did not use the source and instead wrote often lengthy and detailed answers all about the life and work of homesteaders.

This knowledge was often very good with specific and accurate details but centres are reminded that the assessment objective on question 1 does require students to make direct use of the source provided to make a supported inference.

1 What can you learn from Source A about the lives of homesteaders on the Plains?

(4)

From Source A we can learn that the life of a homesteader on the plains was ~~it~~ isolated we can see this because there are no other houses or farms nearby.

From source A we can learn that life on the plains was hard work we can know this because there was a lot of land given out in the 1880's (640 acres) and not many people on the farms.



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Examiner Comments

This example of a candidate's work is an example of a supported inference from the source and is high Level 2.

Question 2

Question 2. The "attitudes to the land and nature" option proved much more popular than "the social structure of tribes." There were very few blank scripts and few answers were in level 1. There were very few candidates who ignored the rubric and wrote on both choices. When this did happen, examiners were instructed to mark both options and then award the higher mark of two. On the "attitudes to land and nature" option candidates reached level 3 by recognising the focus of the question and explaining how beliefs helped the Plains Indians to live successfully on the Plains. Most answers remained in level 2 and were descriptions about non-ownership of land, extensive use of the buffalo and the nomadic lifestyle. There were more level 3 responses for the second option with explanations such as "the old taking themselves off to die meant they would not slow the tribe down," as well as other aspects explained such as the different roles of men, women, chiefs and medicine men.

2 The boxes below show aspects of the culture of the Plains Indians.

Choose **one** and explain how it helped the Plains Indians to live successfully on the Great Plains.

Attitudes to land and nature

The social structure of tribes

The social structure of tribes was a key aspect ^{of} in the survival ^{role} of the Great Plains because it ensured everyone had a ~~part~~ specific ~~role~~ to play. This helped them survive because it was essential to have skilled hunters however without the women it would be impossible to eat and make use of the buffalo and without medicine men the tribe would be wiped out.

The social structure would also help them survive the great plains as each tribe would have an allocated medicine man. This ~~is~~ is significant in the survival of the plain Indians as the medicine man would not only maintain the tribes health but he was also able to communicate with their great spirit Wakan Tanka which helped keep law & order as no

The social structure of the tribe ~~was~~ Indian would want to go against Wakan Tankas rules of respecting all living things, in fear of banishment and public shame.

The women were also one of the most important factors in the Plain Indians living successfully on the plains because they were the ones who packed away the tipis, prepared & made food & brought up the

children. This was essential because without the women they would not be able to follow the buffalo

herds ~~to~~ ~~not~~ with such speed. ~~and~~ They would not be able to store food through the winter months, for example pemmican which the women prepared.

Social structure also was a main factor to their success on the plains because ~~when~~ when you got old they believed in banishment. This helped the Indians to succeed on the great plains as they were not held back by old people walking & travelling slower than the rest of the tribe so banishment was significant because it helped the tribe move faster & follow their nomadic traditions.



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Examiner Comments

This is an example of a high level 3 answer which has a clear focus on the set question with supporting detail.

Question 3

This question was chosen by approximately two thirds of candidates. Level 3 answers explained a range of reasons for conflict between cattle ranchers and homesteaders with some examining the conflict changed over time. Level 2 answers described examples of conflict such as cattle drives, the destruction of homesteaders' crops, the use of barbed wire, the end of the open range and tensions created by the increase in sheep farming. Some candidates lost focus of the set question and wrote detailed narrative accounts of the Johnson County War. Level 1 answers gave simple statements such as "they both wanted the same land." There were a number of candidates who seemed convinced that Texas Fever was transmitted from humans to cattle.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box.
If you change your mind, put a line through the box
and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number: Question 3 Question 4

Cattle ranchers and homesteaders really did not get on, on the great open Plains of west America. The homesteaders wanted to settle down on the plains and make them home, whereas the cattle ranchers just wanted to drive cattle through farms and towards the cattle towns and the railway.

Homesteaders were quite displeased that so many cows were being driven across their land for many reasons. The most prominent one being the spread of Texas fever through ticks. The Texas longhorn was a sturdy and rough cow immune to Texas fever but the ticks living on them could still carry it.

When the Texas longhorn cows came into contact with the common Homesteaders cow ticks would be passed on and the non-immune homesteaders cow would become ill with the disease. Another reason for the dispute between homesteaders and the cattle ranchers was the destroying of the homesteaders crops as cattle were driven through their land.

Cattle ranchers became very annoyed when homesteaders 'moved in' onto the land that they were ranching on.

They could do this through the 1862 homestead act passed by government to try and fulfil Manifest Destiny. Cattle ranchers believed homesteaders were taking the best bits of land and especially after the invention of barbed wire in 1874 were able to fence off the cattle's

access to water. An example of this was the 1892, Johnson's county war where the Wyoming stock growers association hired the 'Regulators' to try and 'deal with' the Homesteaders they believed were cattle rustling. The theft of cows "rustling" was another common area for dispute between the homesteaders and the ranchers. The Johnson county war led to the stand off between the regulators and the ordinary homesteaders who had been joined by the sheriff and other law enforcers to go and arrest them. After three days the Government intervention with the Army led to the surrender of the regulators and the situation cooled down. Many similar events like this happened like the Lincoln County War. Conflict was common between homesteaders and ranchers, as well as many other people who came to the great plains.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a clear level 3 answer with details to support a response with a clear focus on the set question.

Question 4

Level 3 answers explained with supporting details how the work of cowboys changed as a result of the development of ranching and the end of the Long Drives. These answers often explained how their work had changed to "riding the line" and had become more routine, comfortable and less wild. Level 2 answers often lost sight of the focus of the question and often described the lives of cowboys, the problems in cow towns or gave

an answer to changes in the cattle industry. There were very few Level 1 answers but these were often simple statements like "they looked after cattle", "mended fences," or "did the round-up."

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box.
If you change your mind, put a line through the box
and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number: Question 3 Question 4

The cowboys way of life changed from period 1865-95 because of the
climb and de-climb of the open range.

In 1866 ~~was~~ Goodnight and Loving drove their cattle 1000 km north
of Texas, to a cattle market in Chicago. They were making the first
steps and showed others of how to make a success with their cattle in
the East. The trail which Goodnight and Loving used was later known
as the Goodnight-Loving trail.

Soon after people started to copy and tried to make a success of
cattle going to public in the East because in Texas they were
only getting \$5 a cow, but outside of Texas they got \$50 per
cow. However the people which drove some of these cattle to the
cattle markets were the cowboys. It was their job to drive cattle,
but they ~~had~~ ^{also had} important jobs on the ranch too.

However McCoy a Chicago cattle dealer decided to create Abilene
which was a ~~new~~ cattle town. The cowboys were the people which
took the cattle to Abilene, and then returned to the ranch after
the cattle had been sold.

On the ranch the cowboys jobs were to do line-riding

branding, and cattle driving. Hire-riding was a one man job, and was a lonely job too. They would stay on the lining of the ranch and make sure no ~~one~~ cattle escaped. They would also push away stray cows from other ranches as it was seen as a criminal offence if you took someone ~~else's~~ ^{else's} cattle. They would brand cattle in the spring and ~~then~~ rounded them up to.

However the cowboys did have problems like dust, extreme weather, raw hands, Indians, cattle rustling, fights, ~~and~~ sore saddle. They overcame these problems ~~the~~ by their equipment; bandana for dust, hat for extreme weather, gloves to stop raw hands, gun to shoot Indians, but they couldn't over come cattle rustling, fights and sore saddle.

However the cattle industry started to decline which led to the work of the cowboys declining. In 1883 the Texas long horn were over grazing, and meat less food was available. Then droughts, harsh winters, falling beef prices soon followed and the jobs of the cowboys were ending.

In conclusion the cowboys work from 1865 to 1895 ~~ended~~ ^{changed}. ~~The~~ ^{They} cowboys in the late 1860's were having the best work of ^{their} time, but they didn't realize that in the 1890's it was going to be a big disaster because of the cattle were over grazing and unknown circumstances occurred, which led to the open range ending and cowboys work ending too.



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Examiner Comments

This answer is clear level 3 with details to support a response with a clear focus on the set question.

Question 5

For question 5a students were clearly familiar with the range of difficulties facing people migrating West in the 1840s. In Level 3 most students used relevant details from examples such as the Donner Party to consider the dangers and problems facing wagon trains and therefore were specific to the 1840s. Level 2 answers were generally a generic list of problems. There were very few Level 1 answers although some candidates confused wagon trains with railroads or described problems facing those trying to settle in the West. In part 5b those students that achieved Level 4 had a clear focus on the statement in the question and wrote a sustained argument. These responses weighed up the destruction of the buffalo against other factors such as the impact of US government policy, the actions of the army, the impact of the railroads and the discovery of gold in the Black Hills to reach a judgement on the end of the Plains Indians' traditional way of life. Level 3 answers explained the role of the destruction of the buffalo and/or other factors as reasons for the end of the Plains Indians' traditional way of life. Level 2 answers were often long descriptions of the Plains Indians extensive use of the buffalo or described their traditional way of life. There were very few Level 1 responses to this question. One TL commented that he particularly enjoyed a set of candidates' responses which made the very apt and appropriate reference to the buffalo as a 'supermarket' for Native Americans.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box.
If you change your mind, put a line through the box
and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number: Question 5 Question 6

(a) 1840's people started to cross the west along trails. preparation for this was difficult. people had to go to ~~independent~~ stores to buy very expensive wagons and they couldn't take many things. The ground on the plains was very hard and uneven. Also when traveling in wagons disease could spread quickly and without efficient medication many people died. Food was in short supply and killing buffalo for it was dangerous, not only because of stampedes but also because Indians would attack groups that disturbed their hunt. Following the California and Oregon trails meant crossing the mississippi river if a wagon wasn't properly waterproofed they could tip and sink resulting in the passengers drowning. Wagons could break down on the way and there were no stores to buy spare wheels so people were left behind. Then after the plains wagons would have to cross the Rockies. This

was only possible without snow. So groups had to plan the journey so that they could lift the wagons over the Rockies in around about August. The Donner party got stuck on the Rockies in 1846 and most died.

(a) continued ~~In conclusion~~ Mormons migrated west in 1847 lead by Brigham Young. Because he sent out an advance party in 1846 to set up winter quarters and stores on the way they made a more safe journey. In conclusion, the vastness of the plains and ~~the~~ because there where no stops ~~where~~ is one of the biggest difficulties because if something went wrong you would not have a chance of survival.

(b) Destruction of the Native American way of life was down to more than one factor. Killing the buffalo meant that Indians ~~had~~ no longer had a food supply and couldn't use the buffalo for their life. The way of life for Indians was based around the buffalo, they where nomadic hunters for this reason. Other factors which ended the Indian way of life where the reservations. They where pushed onto reservations after treaties such as the medicine lodge treaty 1867. The reservations where ~~is~~ supposed to feed the Indians with hand outs, but the Indian agents often starved the Indians. After red clouds war 1866-8 the Indians where pushed onto smaller reservations. After the 2nd fort Laramie treaty ~~the~~ the reservations stopped Indians from living a nomadic lifestyle when they where ~~not~~ not allowed to hunt. During the wars in 1869 the ~~route~~ railway had been built across the

west which also disturbed buffalo herds. The most devastating act was the Dawes allotment act (1887). This act forced Indian tribes to be broken up into families and they were no longer allowed to practice their religion. In the Indian children were re-educated in English schools, and

((b) continued) In conclusion Although killing the ~~by~~ buffalo made living very hard on the Indians, their way of life was actually destroyed by the reservations. In the reservations Indians were re-educated and their religion was banned. Slowly the tribal organisation was broken up and because Indians didn't believe in land ownership, their land was sold to homesteaders. All this pressure on the Indians caused an uprising ~~at~~ ^{the} wounded knee ~~was~~ 1890 was the end to hope of a new life for the Indians and later that year the frontier was announced to be closed. So I disagree with the statement that "the destruction of the buffalo ended the plains Indians way of life."



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Examiner Comments

This answer is level 3 and level 4 for questions 5a and 5b respectively with a clear focus on both set questions.

Question 6

Those awarded Level 3 for part 6a recognised the focus of the question and showed how railroads overcame many of the problems that earlier settlers had faced such as law and order and isolation. Many candidates explained that railroad companies sold nearby land cheaply, and the economic advantages to settlers of the creation of markets and the transportation of goods. Level 2 answers tended to lose sight of the focus on "people settling" and instead described the growth of railroads, the problems of construction, how railroads improved travelling to and from the West or described the benefits of travelling by rail over wagon trains. Level 1 answers tended to be simple statements such as "they were faster" and "it was safer." In part 6b those students that achieved Level 4 had a clear focus on the statement in the question and wrote a sustained argument. These responses weighed up the role of broken treaties against other factors such as the different attitudes to land, the concept of "Manifest Destiny", the US government's use of reservations and the discovery of gold to reach a judgement on the reasons for the Sioux Wars in the 1860s and 1870s. Level 3 answers explained the role of broken treaties or other factors in leading to the Sioux Wars. Level 2 answers were often narrative accounts of the discovery of gold in the Black Hills, "told the story" of the Sioux Wars, or wrote a very long description of the Battle of Little Big Horn.

free land.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box.
If you change your mind, put a line through the box
and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number: Question 5 Question 6

(a) Railroads had a huge impact on the number of people settling West in the West after the completion in 1869. This was because the railroads ~~gave~~ ^{provided} a much safer way of travelling, ~~subsequent~~ to the railroads steamboats and wagon trails ~~were~~ ~~also~~ were examples of ~~to~~ methods of transport, these were dangerous and slow, but the introduction of the railroads was a much safer, quick option. ~~so~~ people As a result of this people felt they could get West and start new lives, without sacrificing as much as using wagon trains, for example, costed lives in many cases.

Furthermore the US government gave the railroad companies, Union Pacific and Central Pacific, ~~for~~ land, which the railroad companies ~~gave~~ to

time, when one ~~company~~ offered to settlers for free which of course encouraged many to go West as the price of getting there was cheap, which was of great importance as they had to the settlers, due to the financial crisis in 1837 and the upcoming crisis of 1874.

(a) continued) The railroad companies also advertised, along with the government, all around America and abroad, which attracted many to the American West, as the adverts told of brilliant free lands and gold rich hills.

What further more the railroads split the Indians and, prevented their nomadic lifestyle, following the coming to buffalo, which ~~me~~ supported the destruction of the Indians ~~and~~ as their way of life was being destroyed and they were being pushed onto reservations. As a result of this there was much more land available for homesteaders and it was free more free from conflict with the Indians. Also the government encouraged the shooting of buffalo ~~of the~~ from the trains as a sport, which of course led to the decline in buffalo and again the destruction of the Indians, what this helped with the encouragement of settlers as there was more land and less danger of conflict with the Indians it also helped Manifest Destiny ~~so these so~~ this was ~~highly~~ + hugely supported and by the 1880s there was ~~only~~ only 200 buffalo left on the Plains. The destruction of buffalo also meant, less danger of them crossing homesteaders land ~~and destroying their crops~~ so many were ~~encouraged~~ encouraged.

(b) I do agree with this statement as the broken treaties of course made the Indians distraught. For example when the US government broke the 1851 Fort Laramie treaty, in 1860 by deciding ^{to} build ^{on} the Indians land, and whilst in a meeting, with Red Cloud with the white Americans, Red Cloud discovered they were planning on building these forts, therefore he stormed out and started a war, which was the Red Cloud War of 1867. So broken treaties caused many wars again like ~~the~~ Battle of Little Bighorn, where Custer took his army into the Black hills of Dakota after the discovery of Gold, in spite of the the 1868 Fort Laramie treaty which promised the holy land of the Black hills to the Indians.

The Indians were antagonised by this so started to fight back, many in battles however some showed their hatred of the reservations in a different way; Sitting Bull refused to stay on any reservation from 1863 onwards. Which shows that it was the idea of ~~the~~ the reservations that ~~angered~~ angered him.

However there was one major reason why the

((b) continued) Indians were being put on the reservations, this was Manifest Destiny. To achieve Manifest Destiny the Indian culture and way of life must have been destroyed. Which meant stopping their nomadic lifestyle by putting them on reservations, and,

jobs' such as the Dawes Act of 1887 forced them to live like homesteaders as they were allowed to have the land and be supported under the conditions that they farm the land ~~which~~ also their children were being sent to ~~reservations~~ to schools to learn 'how to live in the whitesman's world' also Christian teachers taught in the reservations, which took away the Indian beliefs and religion, which the ~~Indian~~ whites didn't understand and thought it was savage. So whilst the ~~reservations were causing~~ broken treaties were causing the wars these treaties were only broken for the reaching of Manifest Destiny, ~~the~~ like Fort Laramie ~~1868~~ 1868 was broken when Gold was discovered in Dakota in 1874 and due to the financial crisis it was imperative, to keep the white men strong and in power, that the whites had the gold so that

((b) continued) meant broken treaties, which was Manifest Destiny's causing. The Indians could see their culture was being stripped from them and fought for what their Indian life and culture. Inventions such as barbed wire also ~~caused~~ caused the ~~de~~ destruction of the Indians as barbed wire was invented 1874 which again stopped the buffalo roaming and the ~~the~~ kept the Indians of the land so, ~~the~~ ~~as~~ once again, restricting ~~the~~ their nomadic way of life. Furthermore Acts such as the Timber Culture Act of 1873 and the Desert Land Act of 1877

Caused the ~~anger~~ hostility to the Indians as more land was being taken for farming, again taking the Indian land.

In conclusion I disagree with the statement as whilst the Indians did become hostile because of broken treaties I feel that the treaties were only broken because of new discoveries and the need of the ^{the} whites felt to achieve Manifest Destiny, so they destroyed the Indians. Also the white Americans only put the treaties there so they knew the Indians didn't have full understanding of the treaties, and in my opinion they had the intention of breaking the treaties all along to destroy Indian life.

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS



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Examiner Comments

This candidate achieves full marks for both parts of this question with clear focus and supporting details to answer both parts 6a and 6b.

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