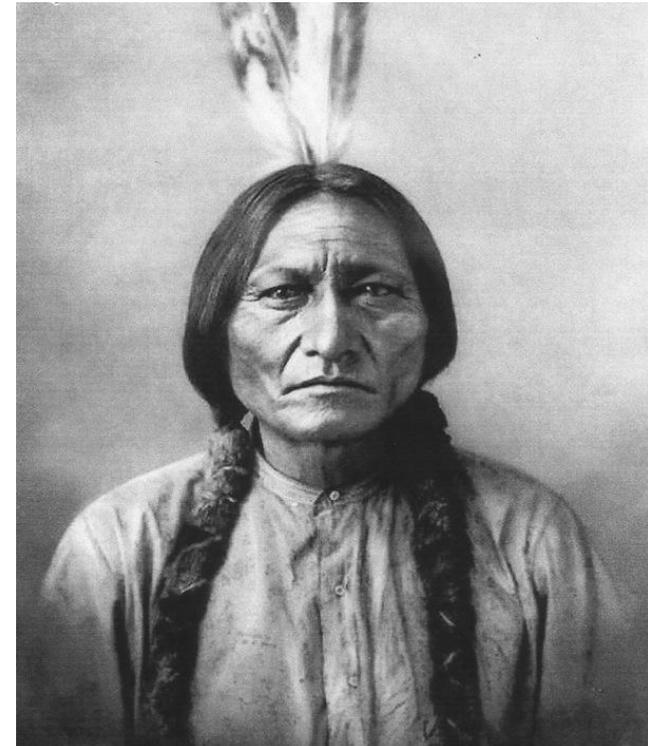


# American West

Pizza revision



## How will you be assessed?

There are three compulsory questions for the period study.

**Question 1 is worth 8 marks. This focuses on consequence.**

**Question 2 is worth 8 marks. This focuses on analytical narrative** - an account that not only describes what happened, but also finds connections and make sense of events and their impact to explain why events unfolded in the way that they did.

**Question 3 is worth 16 marks. You select two from a choice of three parts. Each focuses on the importance of an event/person/development in terms of what difference they made in relation to situations and unfolding developments (i.e. their consequence and significance)**

## What do you need to know?

The development study is testing your knowledge on how the American West develops over time. It covers:-

- **Early settlement of the West (c1835-c1862)** – the many different Indian nations living on the Plains, such as the Sioux, how they survived and their beliefs. The government supported westward expansion, while allowing the Indians to live on the Plains (1840 west of the Permanent Indian Frontier, 1851 the Indian Appropriation Act created reservations, reducing the Indians independence. Factors that encouraged migration West as well as the belief that it was their right to seek out and claim free land, the creation of trails showing the new way for new settlers. The problems of migration that the Donner Party and Mormons experienced. How the growing number of settlers led to conflict and the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851. Difficulties of law and order.

**Development of the Plains (c1862-c1876)** – how the end of the Civil War brought a new wave of settlers helped by government incentives such as the Homestead Act 1862 and the building of the Transcontinental Railroad 1869. The problems that homesteaders faced. The growing population led to continued problems with law and order, roles of law enforcers. As well as growing number of settlers, the cattle industry was growing too, helped by railroads, individuals such as Goodnight and McCoy. Move towards ranching started by Iliff and the changes from open range to the work of cowboys. Continued tensions between settlers and Plains Indians, with the growing cattle industry and gold prospectors, but also some settlers, such as ranchers and homesteads. Expansion of the railroad. Government policy of encouraging Indians onto reservations, 'Peace Policy' of President Grant in 1868 was short-lived and open conflict broke out between US government and Plains Indians.

**Conflict and conquest (c1876-c1895)** - changes in farming as a result of new inventions, solving some of the early problems homesteaders had faced. End of the 'open range', leading to formation of new ranches fenced with barbed wire. Exoduster movement from the South. Oklahoma Land Rush, opening land to settlers promised to the Cherokee Indians. Additional tensions and challenges the growth in settlement brought to law and order – Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp, events at OK Corral. Clashes between cattlemen and homesteaders in range wars, Johnson County War 1892.

US government and US army engaged in conflict with Plains Indians, reaching climax with Battle of Little Bighorn and Wounded Knee, which effectively ended Indian resistance. Destruction of the buffalo and life on the reservations – government policy to remove the Indians – Dawes Act 1887, closure of Indian Frontier.

- 1834** Permanent Indian Frontier set up
- 1843** First settlers arrive in Oregon encouraged by government legislation
- 1844** Mormon persecution in Nauvoo
- 1846** Donner Party head west but meet with disaster and death. Mormons travel to the Great Salt Lake having been driven out of Nauvoo
- 1848** Gold discovered in California
- 1850s** First homesteaders move to the Plains
- 1851** Fort Laramie Treaty (1)
- 1858–59** Gold discovered in the Pikes Peak region of the Rocky Mountains
- 1859** Gold mines opened in Colorado and Nevada
- 1861** Start of the American Civil War between North and South America
- 1862** Homestead Act. Little Crow's War. Pacific Railway Act passed and work begins on the transcontinental railway
- 1864** Sand Creek Massacre
- 1865** End of the American Civil War. Slavery abolished in the US
- 1866** Group of US army soldiers wiped out at Fetterman's Trap by Plains Indians. Red Cloud's War on the US Government in their attempt to build forts in Montana. Goodnight and Loving reach Fort Sumner with 1,700 cattle
- 1867** Medicine Lodge Creek. Abilene becomes the first cow town. 'The Beef Bonanza'
- 1868** 'The Winter Campaign'. Fort Laramie Treaty (2)
- 1869** Transcontinental Railroad completed
- 1870** Cattle Ranching begins on the Plains which led to the 'Open Range'
- 1873** Timber and Culture Act
- 1874** Barbed wire begins to be mass-produced. Wind-powered water pump introduced. Custer leads expedition to the Black Hills ignoring the Treaty of Fort Laramie
- 1876** The Great Sioux War begins between the US Army and the Sioux Indians. Battle of the Little Big Horn
- 1881** Sitting Bull and followers surrender to the American government
- 1885** All Plains Indians are resettled on to reservations. Northern herd of buffalo is completely destroyed
- 1886** Severe winter leads to smaller ranches with barbed fences and wind pumps that eventually lead to the end of the cowboy era
- 1887** Dawes Act
- 1890** Battle of Wounded Knee. US government closes frontier in which the Plains Indians had lost their land
- 1892** Johnson County War

## Plains Indians c1835-c1862

Different Indian tribes existed on the Plains. They had social and tribal structures – chiefs and braves. Indians respected nature, the land and led a nomadic lifestyle, dependent on the buffalo, reliance on horses. Reasons for and importance of war, belief in counting coup.

Government role in dealing with Indian affairs. Introduction of Permanent Indian Frontier (1832) in helping to drive Indians west away from settlers and on to own area. Indian Appropriations Act (1851), allocating funds for Plains Indians to move on to reservations.



Explain **two** consequences of government policy towards the Native Americans. (8 marks)

Explain the importance of the buffalo to the Plains Indians. (8 marks)

# HOW WERE DECISIONS MADE?

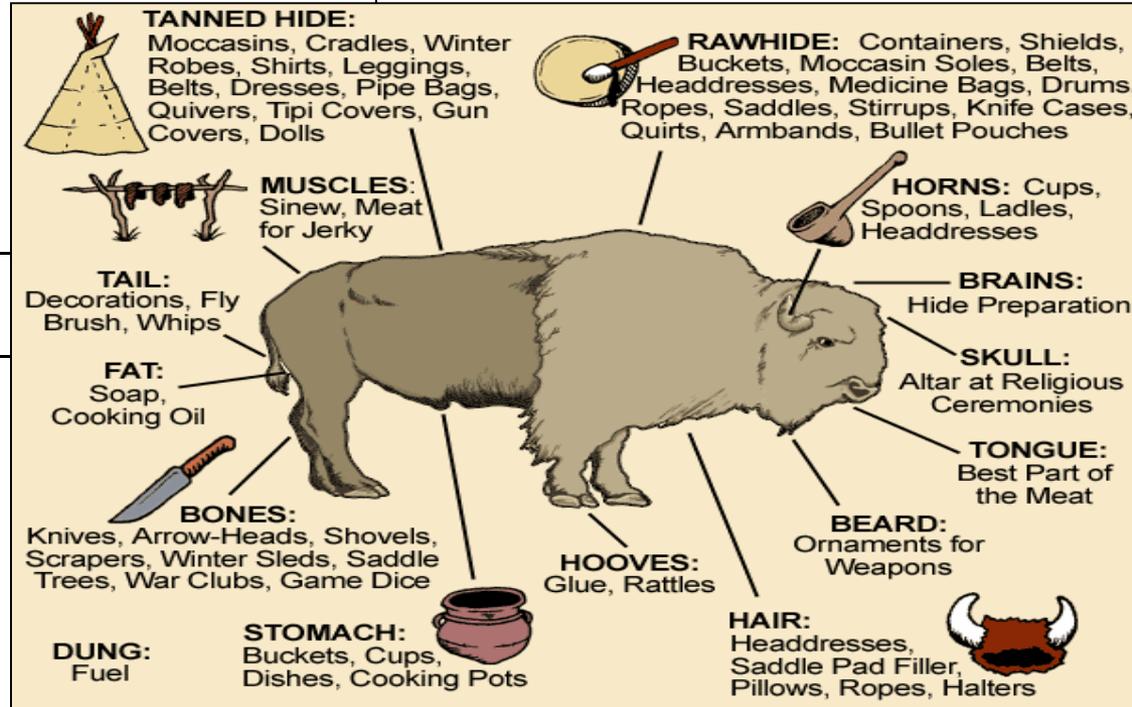
## Sioux Nation

Never led by an individual, although at one time Sitting Bull had enormous influence

CONSISTS OF MANY TRIBES

## Tribes e.g. Oglala and the Hunkpapa

Led by chiefs of bands, such as Crazy Horse, advised by leading councillors from bands.



Tribes were subdivided into many BANDS

**Each Band**

- Is led by a chief
- Is advised by a council of all men
- Is influenced by a warrior society

Exposure  
Sun dance  
Scalping  
Warrior society  
Medicine Man  
Wakan Tanka

# How did US government policy affect the Plains Indians?

c1835-c1862

**Reasons for conflict:** White Americans recognised that the Indians had some rights to American land because they had lived there a long time. However, most White Americans also believed that Indians were savages who did nothing to improve the land: they just lived off the resources the land produced naturally. That meant, they thought, that white Americans had better rights to own land than Indians because they were trying to improve the land: ploughing it for farming, digging up its minerals for manufacturing and developing America into a civilised country. As a result it seemed wrong to most White Americans that the Indians should have good land that they were not doing anything with.

**Government policy:** All through the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the US federal government struggled for a solution to the Indian problem as the number of white Americans grew and conflict between whites and Indians over land increased.

US government policy had two main approaches to tackling this conflict:

- Keep white settlers and Indians apart

- Encourage Indians to become like white settlers.

It was very hard to follow both approaches at the same time, since keeping Indians away from white Americans meant that they continued to follow their traditional ways of life.

## **Permanent Indian Frontier 1832**

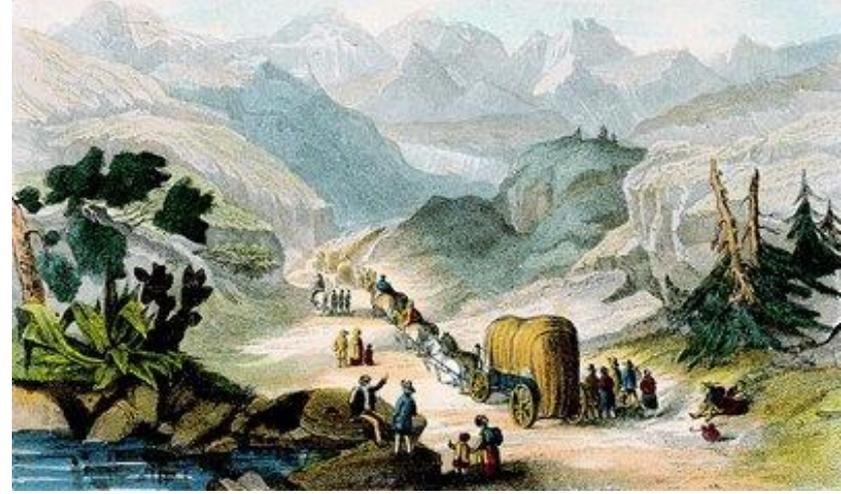
The US Government decreed that the Indian tribes could freely inhabit the Great Plains. A Permanent Indian Frontier was established on the eastern edge of the Great Plains. They were promised it would be theirs to do with as they pleased without interference from the US Government.

## **The Indian Appropriations Act 1851**

The Indian Appropriations Act was passed by the American Government to justify taking away Indian lands (it provided a legal basis for making treaties with Indians,) It also set up the Indian Bureau which was responsible for making payments to the tribes. The Fort Laramie Treaty was the arrangement that the US Government then made with the Indians themselves. This treaty is seen as a stepping stone to reservations as it allocated territories and the annuity started to make them rely on the federal government.

# Migration and early settlement c1835-c1862

There were many different reasons that led to migration West from the 1840s.



There was an economic crisis in the East. Many banks collapsed, people lost their savings, businesses failed and thousands lost their jobs. In some areas, unemployment was as high as 40%.

The Oregon Trail was set up in 1836 with government encouragement. In 1841 the US government provided \$30,000 for an expedition to map the Oregon Trail and publish reports that would help migrants. John Fremont published these and made the journey sound exciting and achievable. By 1869 400,000 people had migrated following the trail.

Mormons, Amish and other religious groups wanted to live their lives free from persecution.

In 1848 and 1849 gold was discovered in the Sierra Nevada and California. Thousands of men travelled to find gold meaning that California's population reached 300,000 by 1855.

The phrase 'Manifest destiny' led to the belief that the white Americans had the right to populate all areas of America as it was fulfilling God's will. This was used to justify removing the Indians from the land as they were 'wasting' it.

Travellers West had different experiences. The Donner Party's trek west had a disastrous outcome. The Mormons experience was driven by persecution.

There were many problems faced by the new settlers attempting to farm on the Plains, for example, the weather and climate, prairie fires, grasshopper plagues, lack of water, few trees, lack of fencing to protect crops.

Gold attracted people from across the world- Europe, China, Mexico - mining towns saw terrible racial riots. 1 in 12 49ers died, as the death and crime rates during the Gold Rush were extraordinarily high. Vigilantism was common - they often lynched those they suspected of committing crimes.

Improved transportation between California and the east led to development of settled communities - cities like San Francisco. Other industries were stimulated like shipbuilding and later railroads.

Many made money out of miners, charging extortionate amounts for equipment and supplies - entrepreneurs like Levi Straus made a fortune from selling denim.

Lawlessness increased as gold attracted the 'dregs of society.' There was no law and order and people has to abide by their own rules. Prostitution and gambling were rife. Claim jumping was a common complaint leading to fights, even murder.

Towns and cities were chartered. California's population reached 300,000 by 1855. New states were created as a result of the expansion of the west caused by gold.

Early miners had a very poor quality of life with people living in dirty conditions.

The Gold rush made the USA a world trader and California a very rich state - it forced the East to forge links with the West.

Explain the importance of the discovery of gold in 1848.

(8 marks)

# Gold

## Joseph Smith

# MORMONS

## Brigham Young

- Founder of the Mormons in 1832 – Moroni, golden plates, true church of Christ.
- Established a Mormon settlement in Kirtland, Ohio, built up thriving businesses, banks, printing press. 1837 economic crisis caused a banking crisis for which the Mormons were blamed.
- Smith moved the community to colonies in Missouri, again creating successful businesses, the Danites, driven out moving to Nauvoo.
- Smith introduced polygamy and wish for presidency. Shot and killed.

- Led the Mormons after the death of Smith
- Chose the Great Salt Lake as it was outside US jurisdiction.
- Organised the journey West, advanced parties to establish stopping off points, winter quarters, divided people into teams of 100 each with a leader.
- Organised establishing Salt Lake city, dividing the area equally between settlers, using irrigation from the Rockies for water, building homes from sand brick, building a temple in the centre, everyone worked together for the good of the community.

Write a narrative account analysing why the Mormons moved West.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Nauvoo, Illinois
- Missouri

third bullet point is your own information...

## Conflict and tension c1835-c1862

The growing number of settlers moving on to the Plains caused conflict and tension. The government response was the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851:

- 17 September 1851 - It stipulated that Plains Indians would stop inter-tribal fighting, let white migrants and railroad surveyors travel safely through their lands, allow the US government to build roads and army posts in their land, and to pay compensation to the US government if their tribe members broke these rules. In return, the US government stated they would protect Plain Indians from any white Americans and pay the tribes a \$50,000 annuity providing they stuck to the treaties terms.

Mass settlement also had an impact on law and order. The lack of any real law and order in the towns led to government and local communities having to tackle lawlessness - vigilante groups such as Miners courts. There were growing ethnic divisions between different settlers. The geography of America made effective law and order difficult to uphold.

# Why did people go West?

## **Reason 1: The actions of the US government**

In 1854 the government created two new territories, Kansas and Nebraska these had previously been behind the permanent Indian frontier. Now they were opened up to white settlers. The Homestead Act was passed in 1862. It was intended to encourage people to settle in the West by allowing each family 160 acres of land. The land was given to them for free provided they lived on it and farmed it for five years.

## **Reason 2- The success of farming in California.**

In California and Oregon farming conditions were good. Thousands of disappointed gold miners found that California's mild climate and fertile soils were excellent for growing spring wheat. By the 1850s, farmers there were producing so much wheat that California began exporting wheat to Europe. There was a lot of money to be made, and farming became big business, with large farms that could afford steam powered farm machinery and large workforce.

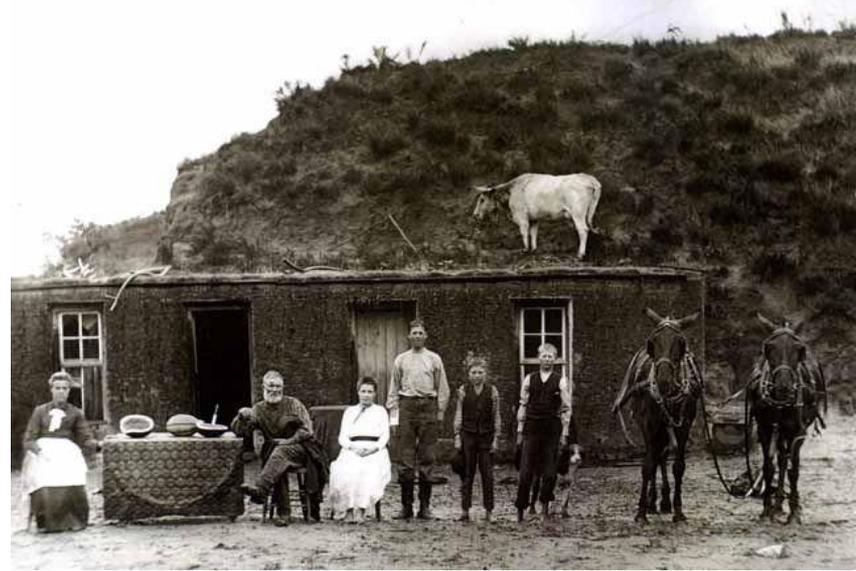
## **Reason 3- The building of the railways**

The US government had long wanted to build a transcontinental railroad to link East and West. In the 1860s, two companies started building, one from the east, the other from the west. Eventually they met in Utah.

This had two main effects. Now it was easy for homesteaders to get to the Plains and it was also cheap to get land as the railroad companies sold off the land at either side of the track at low prices.

# Homesteaders

Ex-slaves, ex-civil war soldiers, adventurers looked for a new life on the Plains. US Government encouraged settlement with the Homestead Act – 150 acres if you



lived on it and farmed it for 5 years. Support from US congress in development of railroad. Difficulties faced farming land – lack of water and wood, buffalo, locusts. Solutions – barbed wire, Turkey Red Wheat, dry farming, John Deere sod buster, sod houses, buffalo chips. Timber Culture Act (1873) encouraged more homesteaders to Plains.

- Explain two consequences of the introduction of barbed wire in the West (1874) (8 marks)
- Explain two consequences of the Homestead Act (1862) (8 marks)
- Explain the importance of the Homestead Act (1862) for the development of the Plains. (8 marks)

# Ranching and the cattle industry

Over-breeding of long-horn cattle during civil war created supply – soldiers, railroad builders, reservations settlement in the East created demand = boom in the cattle industry. Goodnight and Loving trail – cowboys rounded up the cattle from the open range and took them on the ‘long drive’ to railroads. McCoy developed first cow town – Abilene, Dodge City. John Illiff developed ranching from trade store. Bust in cattle industry, harsh winters, demand drops – closed ranch with wind pumps, barbed wire, fewer cowboys needed, role changes. Conflict between homesteaders and ranchers over land – Johnson County War, sheep farming.

Write a narrative account analysing the key stages in the growth of cattle ranching in the years 1861-72.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Joseph McCoy and Abilene
- cattle barons

third bullet point is your own information

- Explain two consequences of the development of ranching on the Plains in the years 1866-76 (8 marks).
- Explain two consequences of the end of the open range (8 marks).
- Explain two consequences of the winter of 1886-87 for the cattle industry (8 marks).

# CONFLICT AND TENSION - LAWLESSNESS

The vast numbers of settlers and the huge size of the continent led to problems in dealing with law and order. The US government had to find ways of dealing with the growth in crime – town marshals, sheriffs, US marshals.

## **Billy the Kid**

Outlaw and federal fugitive who committed numerous crimes including stealing, cattle rustling and several murders. Notoriety grew due to media coverage. Shot and killed by sheriff Pat Garrett. Became an American 'legend'.

## **Wyatt Earp and the gunfight at the OK Corral (1881)**

Earp a retired lawman and his brothers, one the town marshal moved to Tombstone, a rich silver mining town. A battle for control with a gang of outlaws resulted in the gunfight, in which several gang members were killed. The Earps were charged with murder, but acquitted by a judge. An example of a 'lawless lawman'.

# Changes in way of life for Plains Indians



The increased tensions between the Indians, settlers and the US government escalated into 'The Indian Wars' – Little Crow's War, Sand Creek Massacre, Red Cloud's War and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fort Laramie Treaty (1868).

The growing number of settlers had a huge impact on the Plains Indians. The railroads and cattle industry restricted freedom of movement and obstructed the buffalo hunts. Gold prospectors broke the treaties.

President Grant realised government policy towards Plain's Indians was not working. There had been lots of conflict between Plains Indians and the US government throughout the 1860's and Indian's were struggling to survive on the reservations. Grant created the **Peace Policy of 1868**.

The policy continued placing Plains Indians into reservations and trying to encourage them to become members of white American society. Grant made the army protect Indians in reservations from white attacks more effectively, and gave them the powers to attack any Indians who refused to stay in their reservation. Grant also replaced any corrupt Indian agents with Christian men. He believed that Christian clergymen would be more trustworthy and less likely to take advantage of the Plains Indians.

**Little Crow's War (1862)** – starvation conditions on the reservation led to an uprising in desperation. The Indians attacked soldiers and settlers, leading to execution for some, reservations for others.

**Sand Creek Massacre (1864)** – Black Kettle was flying the white peace flag on the reservation, but the US army attitude was extermination, women and children were slaughtered.

**Red Cloud's War (1866-68)** – miners crossing Indian land were attacked, the US army built forts that were then surrounded by Red Cloud and his Indians. Soldiers leaving the fort were attacked.

**Second Fort Laramie Treaty (1868)** - a direct consequence of Red Cloud's War and Fetterman's Trap. The US government realised they could not defeat the Dakota Sioux without large numbers of soldiers. This treaty was to bring peace between the whites and the Sioux who agreed to settle within the Black Hills reservation in the Dakota Territory. The Black Hills of Dakota are sacred to the Sioux Indians.

Write a narrative account analysing the key events in the years 1851-66 that led to the beginning of Red Cloud's war.

You may use the following in your answer:

- the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851)
- the discovery of gold in Montana

third bullet point is your own information.

- Gold discovered in the Black Hills of Montana (Indian territory) causing another gold rush, miners crossed the land and were not prevented by Custer and the 7<sup>th</sup> cavalry (breaking terms of the treaty).
- Indians gathered in the Little Bighorn valley, prepared to go to war. Spiritual leader – Chief Sitting Bull. War leader – Chief Crazy Horse. Custer's errors – splits his men, doesn't wait for back up, ignores his Crow scouts and underestimates numbers of Indians, Indians better equipped, Custer goes for glory and loses. Crazy Horse co-ordinates Indians to fight as a team, repeater rifles.
- Consequences – Indian victory was an embarrassment for US – determined to wipe out 'savages' – wanted revenge.
- Wounded Knee Massacre (1890) – Wovoka and Ghost Dance Movement, unnerved US army, 7<sup>th</sup> cavalry surrounded Chief Big Foot and Indians, shot fired leading to 150 Indian killed, just 25 US soldiers in final conflict – revenge for Bighorn?

Explain two consequences of the Battle of the Little Bighorn (1876)

# Destruction of the Plains Indians

- The government had a deliberate policy of hunting and exterminating the buffalo herds to get rid of the Indians. Buffalo Bill. Expeditions were encouraged for people to shoot them.
- US government way of dealing with Indians on reservations – banning ceremonies, taking away horses, farming on poor land, rationing, children removed and educated as white Americans, Dawes Act (1887) allocated land to Indian families, encouraging them to live and farm as white American and removing the power of the chief.
- Closure of the Indian Frontier a year after Oklahoma Land Rush.

Explain two consequences of the Dawes Act (1887)

(8 marks)

Write a narrative account analysing the destruction of the traditional way of life of the Plains Indians in the years 1876–c1895.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Battle of Little Big Horn (1876)
- Dawes Act (1887)

third bullet point is your own information

**Consequences questions: - (8 marks - 2 x 4 marks)**

Explain two consequences of the setting up of the Oregon Trail (1836)

Explain two consequences of the coming of the Transcontinental Railroad (1869)

Explain two consequences of the discovery of gold in Montana (1862)

Explain two consequences of the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851)

Explain two consequences of the Fort Laramie Treaty (1868)

Explain two consequences of government policy towards the Native Americans.

### **Narrative Account questions - (8 marks)**

Write a narrative account analysing the ways in which the US government policy towards the Plains Indians developed in the period 1835-51.

You may use the following in your answer:

- the Permanent Indian Frontier (c1834)
- the Indian Appropriations Act (1851)

third bullet point is your own information...

Write a narrative account analysing the conflict between the plains Indians and the US government in the years 1876-1890.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Battle of the Little Bighorn (1876)
- The Ghost Dance (1890)

third bullet point is your own information...

Write a narrative account analysing the key stages in the growth of cattle ranching in the years 1861-72.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Joseph McCoy and Abilene
- cattle barons

third bullet point is your own information

## **Explanation questions (16 marks - 2 x 8 marks)**

Explain two of the following:

- The importance of cattle trails for the development of the cattle industry in the 1860s.
- the importance of the railroads for changes in the way of the life of the Plains Indians.
- The importance of the wagon trails for the early settlement of the West.

Explain two of the following:

- the importance of the Oregon Trail for the early settlement of the west.
- The importance of the Indian Appropriations Act (1851) for the way of life of the Plains Indians.
- The importance of the development of new mining towns for law and order in the early West.

Explain two of the following:

- The importance of the Battle of the Little Bighorn (1876) for government attitudes towards the Plains Indians.
- The importance of the Johnson County War (1892) for law and order in the West.
- The importance of the Oklahoma Land Rush of 1893 for settlement of the West.

Explain two of the following:

- The importance of the Indian Appropriation Act to the way of life of the Plains Indians.
- The importance of religion to the way of life of the Plains Indians.
- The importance of the buffalo to the way of life of the Plains Indians.

Explain two of the following:

- The importance of the concept of Manifest Destiny for migration West.
- The importance of the Homestead Act (1862) for the development of the Plains.
- The importance of Abilene for the growth of the cattle industry.