

Name: _____

Period: _____

TO THE STUDENT:

This booklet contains three essay questions. You are to answer **all three** of these essay questions.

In preparing your answers for the questions in this booklet you must take these steps:

1. Write your answers to Part A in this booklet. Part A is worth 4 points.
2. Write your essay on the lined paper provided. This part of your essay is worth 8 points.
3. Draw a line through any mistake you may make when you are writing your essay. Make the correction and continue with your essay. You do not need to start over.
4. Read your completed essay carefully to make sure that you have not made any mistakes and that it is as complete and detailed as possible.
5. Make sure that you **construct support** (give reasons why, details, examples, and explanations)!

Remember, you must answer **all** of the essay questions in this booklet. When you are done you must hand in this test booklet along with the final copies of each essay. Make sure your name is on this booklet and on each of your final copies.

ESSAY QUESTION 1

DIRECTIONS: If you choose essay question 1, answer Part A on this page first. Then use your answers to Part A to write Part B, the essay.

We have learned that different groups of people went west at different times for different reasons. Together, these groups settled the vast American west. Some of these groups are listed below:

*MOUNTAIN MEN
MORMONS
PROSPECTORS*

*OREGON PIONEERS
"FORTY-NINERS"
HOMESTEADERS*

Part A - Notes

Choose 4 groups from the list above and write them on the lines below. Next to each group, in five words or less, state the main reason each group went west.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Part B - Essay

Using your information from Part A, write an essay that explains why each of the groups you selected went west, and how each group contributed to settlement of the west.

Write the first draft of your essay on the back of this page. Write the final copy of your essay on the lined paper provided.

Begin your essay with the TOPIC SENTENCE, "A variety of people helped to settle the American west."

ESSAY QUESTION 2

DIRECTIONS: If you choose essay question 2, answer Part A on this page first. Then use your answers to Part A to write Part B, the essay.

Early explorers labeled the area between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains, "the Great American Desert." They believed that this land would never be suitable for farming.

By the late 1800s the Great Plains had been settled primarily by farmers! What made the difference? Improvements in technology.

Part A - Notes

On the lines below list four changes or improvements in technology that helped make farming possible on the Great Plains.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Part B - Essay

Using your information from Part A, write an essay explaining changes in technology that made it possible to farm the Great Plains.

Write the first draft of your essay on the back of this page. Write the final copy of your essay on the lined paper provided.

Begin your essay with the TOPIC SENTENCE, "Changes in technology made it possible for farmers to settle the Great Plains."

ESSAY QUESTION 3

DIRECTIONS: If you choose essay question 3, answer Part A on this page first. Then use your answers to Part A to write Part B, the essay.

Following completion of the first transcontinental railroad in 1869, other railroads spread across the west like a giant web. Far-flung places were soon joined together by rail. For some, this dramatic growth was a blessing. For others, it was a curse.

Part A - Notes

On the lines below list two ways the growth of railroads during the late 1800s helped the farmers of the Great Plains.

1. _____

2. _____

On the lines below list two ways the growth of railroads during the late 1800s hurt the Indians of the Great Plains.

3. _____

4. _____

Part B - Essay

Using your information from Part A, write an essay that compares the effects of railroad expansion on the farmers and Indians of the Great Plains.

Write the first draft of your essay on the back of this page. Write the final copy of your essay on the lined paper provided.

Begin your essay with the TOPIC SENTENCE, "The growth of railroads in the west during the late 1800s helped some people, but hurt others."