



GCSE HISTORY

Paper 1 Section A/A: America, 1840–1895: Expansion and consolidation

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretations **A** and **B** for use in answering Questions 01, 02 and 03



2 3 6 G 8 1 4 5 / 1 A / A

Interpretation A Adapted from General Sherman's Final Report to the Secretary of War, 1883.

In 1869 Sherman took command of the army and led its fighting against the native Americans. When he retired in 1883, Sherman gave his last report to the government about the end of the Great Sioux War.

The Plains Indians have been defeated and the Indian problem ended. There may still be the occasional incident but there will be no more Indian wars. A large factor in this result is the army. The settlement of Indian lands by hard working farmers has also been important. However, the biggest factor is the railroad. The final completion of the four great national railway lines has finished the Indian problem forever. I think the building of the railways is the most important event in modern times. They are responsible for the peace and great wealth our nation now enjoys.

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Interpretation B Adapted from the autobiography of John Cook, 'The Border and the Buffalo', 1907.

John Cook joined the Union Army aged sixteen and fought in the Civil War. He was a Homesteader, cowboy, and later, a gold prospector. He then became a buffalo hunter and fought against native Americans. Finally, he worked as a government scout and guide for the army.

The buffalo hunters destroyed the Plains Indians' supply of food. The hunters should have been given great thanks and a medal showing a dead buffalo on one side with a defeated Indian on the other. We did more in two years to finish the Indian problem than the entire army had done in forty. Exterminating the buffaloes defeated the Indians and created a lasting peace. After the buffaloes were replaced on the Plains with cattle, cowboys became the heroes of our American nation.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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