

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



Interpretation A Adapted from an account by Hettie Anderson, 1933.

Anderson was a homesteader on the Plains in Nebraska from 1884 to 1889. Her husband had read the advertisements published by the railroad company about good farming land there. Anderson, aged 25, her husband, and their children, aged 8, 6, 4, and 1, had moved to Nebraska from the East.

Homesteading was not a success. Our one-roomed sod house was too small. Every year was a struggle. It was not as we imagined. We did not realise the difficulty of getting fuel and timber, or of getting the one great necessity, water. We had to borrow a neighbour's plough and horses and were in his debt. Our vegetables were killed off in the heat and we couldn't grow enough wheat and oats to make any money. The hard work and terrible worry ruined my husband's health. So, when our neighbours went back East, we followed them.

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Interpretation B Adapted from an account by Arthur Stanley, 1915.

Stanley was born in Kansas and grew up on a homestead in the 1880s. His grandfather and father farmed there. Stanley inherited the homestead, married, and raised his own family.

Homesteaders tamed the land and succeeded in making it beautiful. Now it is full of orchards and rich farms. The courage, resilience and hard work of farmers like my parents achieved this. My older brothers and I were brought up in a two-roomed sod house which was very comfortable, never really cold in winter or hot in summer. We ploughed with our own fine oxen team and took our wheat by horse and cart to the mill. We now do these jobs with machinery.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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