

# FOR TEACHERS ONLY

The University of the State of New York  
REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

## UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

Tuesday, June 18, 2019 — 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., only

VOLUME  
**1** OF **2**  
THEMATIC ESSAY

### RATING GUIDE FOR PART II (THEMATIC ESSAY)

Updated information regarding the rating of this examination may be posted on the New York State Education Department's web site during the rating period. Visit the site at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/> and select the link "Scoring Information" for any recently posted information regarding this examination. This site should be checked before the rating process for this examination begins and several times throughout the Regents Examination period.

#### Contents of the Rating Guide

For **Part II** (thematic) essay:

- A content-specific rubric
- Prescored answer papers. Score levels 5 and 1 have two papers each, and score levels 4, 3, and 2 have three papers each. They are ordered by score level from high to low.
- Commentary explaining the specific score awarded to each paper
- Five prescored practice papers

General:

- Test Specifications
- Web addresses for the test-specific conversion chart and teacher evaluation forms

## Mechanics of Rating

The following procedures are to be used in rating essay papers for this examination. More detailed directions for the organization of the rating process and procedures for rating the examination are included in the *Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examination in United States History and Government*.

### Rating the Essay Question

(1) Follow your school's procedures for training raters. This process should include:

*Introduction to the task—*

- Raters read the task
- Raters identify the answers to the task
- Raters discuss possible answers and summarize expectations for student responses

*Introduction to the rubric and anchor papers—*

- Trainer leads review of specific rubric with reference to the task
- Trainer reviews procedures for assigning holistic scores, i.e., by matching evidence from the response to the rubric
- Trainer leads review of each anchor paper and commentary

*Practice scoring individually—*

- Raters score a set of five papers independently without looking at the scores and commentaries provided
- Trainer records scores and leads discussion until the raters feel confident enough to move on to actual rating

(2) When actual rating begins, each rater should record his or her individual rating for a student's essay on the rating sheet provided, *not* directly on the student's essay or answer sheet. The rater should *not* correct the student's work by making insertions or changes of any kind.

(3) Each essay must be rated by at least two raters; a third rater will be necessary to resolve scores that differ by more than one point.

**Schools are not permitted to rescore any of the open-ended questions (scaffold questions, thematic essay, DBQ essay) on this exam after each question has been rated the required number of times as specified in the rating guides, regardless of the final exam score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately. Teachers may not score their own students' answer papers.**

**United States History and Government**  
**Content-Specific Rubric**  
**Thematic Essay**  
**June 2019**

**Theme: Westward Movement of the Frontier**

Throughout United States history, efforts to settle new land pushed the frontier further west. Several important events influenced this westward movement. These events often led to conflict with Native American Indians or with foreign governments.

**Task:** Select *two* events that significantly influenced the westward movement of the frontier and for *each*

- Describe the historical circumstances surrounding the event
- Discuss the positive *and/or* negative effects of the event on the settlement of the West

You may use any event that significantly influenced the westward movement of the frontier from your study of United States history. Some events you might wish to consider include:

Signing of the Treaty of Paris (1783)	Discovery of gold in California (1848)
Creation of the reservation system (1800s)	Passage of the Homestead Act (1862)
Purchase of the Louisiana Territory (1803)	Purchase of Alaska (1867)
Opening of the Erie Canal (1825)	Completion of the transcontinental railroad (1869)
War with Mexico (1846–48)	

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Scoring Notes:**

1. This thematic essay has a minimum of *at least six* components (for *each* of *two* events that influenced the westward movement of the frontier, discussing the historical circumstances surrounding the event and *at least two* positive and/or negative effects of *each* event on the settlement of the West).
2. The discussion of the historical circumstances surrounding the event may focus on the narrow facts of the event *or* it may consider the wider issues of the time, e.g., a discussion of the war with Mexico may focus on United States troops in disputed territory or on the increasing momentum for Manifest Destiny.
3. The discussion of how the events influenced western settlement may be similar as long as the response includes distinct and separate information for each event, e.g., both the opening of the Erie Canal and the war with Mexico led to increased overseas trade, but the Erie Canal increased European trade through New York harbor while the Mexican Cession opened Asian trade through San Francisco.
4. The discussion of the positive and/or negative effects of the event on the settlement of the West may be immediate or long term.
5. The effects on the settlement of the West may be positive, negative, or a combination of positive and negative.
6. The response does not have to identify the effect as positive or negative as long as it is implied in the discussion.
7. The response may discuss how the event influenced the settlement of the West from any perspective as long as the position taken is supported by accurate facts and examples.
8. Although conflicts with Native American Indians and foreign governments are cited in the theme, the response may or may not include these conflicts as effects of westward movement of the frontier.
9. If more than two events that influenced the westward movement of the frontier are discussed, only the first two may be scored.

### Score of 5:

- Thoroughly develops **all** aspects of the task evenly and in depth by discussing the historical circumstances surrounding **each** of **two** events that influenced the westward movement of the frontier **and** *at least two* positive and/or negative effects of each event on the settlement of the West
- Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates\* information), e.g., (*Erie Canal*: connects the favorable geographical location of New York state between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic port at New York City and the growing support for internal improvements to Governor DeWitt Clinton’s determination to build a major east-west canal across the state that substantially reduced the cost of shipping from the Midwest, increased the value of western farmland, and attracted thousands of land-hungry European immigrants; *War with Mexico*: connects President Polk’s campaign to achieve Manifest Destiny, the boundary dispute with Mexico after the annexation of Texas, and the killing of American soldiers on “American soil” to a war with Mexico in which the United States took control of California and the Southwest, opening fertile land for farms but escalating sectional tension over the expansion of slavery and intensifying nativism against both Mexican citizens living in areas annexed by the United States and Chinese immigrants)
- Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details, e.g., (*Erie Canal*: Hudson River; Mohawk River; Lake Erie; Henry Clay’s American System; transportation revolution; “Clinton’s Ditch”; New York funded and controlled; Irish canal builders; reduced shipping time; growth of cities along canal; Rochester and Buffalo; growth of Midwestern cities like Detroit and Chicago; breadbasket; German immigrants; *War with Mexico*: “sea to shining sea”; 1844 election; Rio Grande vs. Nueces River; Zachary Taylor’s troops; Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; vineyards; orange groves; Asian trade; Compromise of 1850; balance between free and slave states; Chinese Exclusion Act; genocide against California tribes; debates over immigration)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

### Score of 4:

- Develops **all** aspects of the task but may do so somewhat unevenly by discussing one aspect of the task less thoroughly than the other aspects of the task *or* discussing one event more thoroughly than the other
- Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates\* information), e.g., (*Erie Canal*: discusses how the location of New York state between the Great Lakes and New York City on the Atlantic Ocean and Governor DeWitt Clinton’s push for an east-to-west canal across the state led to the construction of the Erie Canal and how the opening of the canal lowered shipping costs and encouraged European immigrants to settle in the Midwest; *War with Mexico*: discusses how the belief in Manifest Destiny and the killing of American soldiers in disputed territory in Texas led to war with Mexico and how the United States victory resulted in the acquisition of California and the Southwest, increasing sectional tension and hostility between white settlers and Native American Indians)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**Score of 3:**

- Develops *all* aspects of the task with little depth *or* develops *at least four* aspects of the task in some depth
- Is more descriptive than analytical (applies, may analyze and/or evaluate information)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some minor inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and a conclusion that may be a restatement of the theme

**Note:** If *all* aspects of the task have been thoroughly developed evenly and in depth for *one* event and if the response meets most of the other Level 5 criteria, the overall response may be a Level 3 paper.

**Score of 2:**

- Minimally develops *all* aspects of the task *or* develops *at least three* aspects of the task in some depth
- Is primarily descriptive; may include faulty, weak, or isolated application or analysis
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details; may include some inaccuracies
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addressed; may lack an introduction and/or a conclusion

**Score of 1:**

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task
- Is descriptive; may lack understanding, application, or analysis
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details; may include inaccuracies
- May demonstrate a weakness in organization; may lack focus; may contain digressions; may not clearly identify which aspect of the task is being addressed; may lack an introduction and/or a conclusion

**Score of 0:**

Fails to develop the task or may only refer to the theme in a general way; *OR* includes no relevant facts, examples, or details; *OR* includes only the theme, task, or suggestions as copied from the test booklet; *OR* is illegible; *OR* is a blank paper

\*The term *create* as used by Anderson/Krathwohl, et al. in their 2001 revision of Bloom's *Taxonomy of Educational Objectives* refers to the highest level of the cognitive domain. This usage of create is similar to Bloom's use of the term *synthesis*. Creating implies an insightful reorganization of information into a new pattern or whole. While a Level 5 paper will contain analysis and/or evaluation of information, a very strong paper may also include examples of creating information as defined by Anderson and Krathwohl.

**All sample student essays in this rating guide are presented in the same cursive font while preserving actual student work, including errors. This will ensure that the sample essays are easier for raters to read and use as scoring aids.**

**Raters should continue to disregard the quality of a student's handwriting in scoring examination papers and focus on how well the student has accomplished the task. The content-specific rubric should be applied holistically in determining the level of a student's response.**

American history can be defined by our government's encouragement of Western expansion, which developed into imperialism in later years. During the late 1800s, the Turner Thesis explained the American psyche by asserting that the conquest and taming of savage lands and people truly is the United States role and responsibility. This thesis became widely accepted and lent support to Manifest Destiny. Besides receiving support from academics, the settlers moving west received federal support even during times of national crisis.

Embroided in a bitter civil war, America placed its support of westward expansion on hold, except for the passage of the influential Homestead Act of 1862. Passed in the beginning stages of the war, Lincoln attempted to encourage and improve the settlement of the West. Although Lincoln is considered to be a war president, he was a Republican who believed in internal improvement and expansion. Without southern opposition in Congress, Lincoln could get homestead legislation passed. The Homestead act offered 160 acres of free land to any family willing to settle for 5 years and farm. Many thousands of settlers flocked to what today is known as the Great Plains — in order to try their hand at homesteading. Because the land given out through the act was not always suited for farming, many homesteaders failed and were forced to move back east, giving up their claims to land speculators. Those who survived, often did so with the help of new inventions such as John Deere's steel plow and Cyrus McCormack's reaper that helped conquer the tough sod. The series of small farms that were successful became the legacy of the Homestead Act, as the plains were transformed into the beginnings of America's

“breadbasket” to feed the world. According to the Turner thesis, those who left the east for the promise of free land on the frontier helped shape American democracy through their hard work and self-reliance.

Even before the Civil War, railroad companies took interest in the west. The same Republican Congress that passed the Homestead Act, took action to create a transcontinental railroad. The Pacific Railway Act gave both the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific vast amounts of land and government bonds to connect East and West. In the year 1869, these two privately owned railroad companies — heavily subsidized by the U.S. government and built by the backs of cheap immigrant labor—completed the link between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean. The railroad inspired others like it, creating a web of transportation routes within the next ten years. Unlike many railroads in the east, the transcontinental railroad, and smaller spurs, were mostly used to transport produce and agricultural goods from the west to the east. This link became a lifeline for many farmers and cattle ranchers, stimulating their business by providing a national market to which they could ship their crops and cattle. Longhorn cattle, raised in Southern Texas, was driven to the railheads in Kansas and shipped to the Chicago meat-packing plants, creating the era of the “beef bonanza.” As a result of the new markets more people moved out West and settled along the railroad. The landscape of the western United States became defined by large open ranches and small farms juxtaposed with new towns developed along the rail lines. Cheyenne, Wyoming and Omaha, Nebraska were born as the tracks were being laid and grew to be the most important cities in those states. Bit by bit, the infrastructure of the West improved after the

transcontinental railroad, allowing for a stronger economy which would rely heavily upon the railroad industry during the Gilded Age. Of course, with the movement west by white Americans comes conflict with Native American tribes. Both the Homestead Act and the Transcontinental Railroad stimulated the settlement of the west, and at the same time, assured the destruction of the Plains Indians way of life. The campaign against Native Americans conducted by the United States Army was a direct result of America's westward expansion and America conquered the frontier with waves of settlers and farmers — often supported by the government — and in doing so, they drove the native peoples into reservations or extinction. Huge numbers of buffalo, which the Native Americans depended on for their survival, were killed off. The haphazard settlement of the west caused tensions between whites and Native Americans that are still felt today.

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## Anchor Level 5-A

### The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth for the passage of the Homestead Act and for the completion of the transcontinental railroad
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*Homestead Act*: although Lincoln is considered to be a war president, he was a Republican who believed in internal improvement and expansion; without Southern opposition in Congress, Lincoln could get homestead legislation passed; act offered 160 acres of free land to any family willing to settle for five years and farm; because the land given out through the act was not always suited for farming, many homesteaders failed and were forced to move back east, giving up their claims to land speculators; series of small farms that were successful became the legacy of the Homestead Act, as the plains were transformed into the beginnings of America’s breadbasket to feed the world; according to the Turner Thesis, those who left the east for the promise of free land on the frontier helped shape American democracy through their hard work and self-reliance; *transcontinental railroad*: Republican Congress that passed the Homestead Act took action to create a transcontinental railroad; Pacific Railway Act gave both the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific vast amounts of land and government bonds to connect east and west; two privately owned railroad companies—heavily subsidized by the United States government and built by the backs of cheap immigrant labor—completed the link between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean; became a lifeline for many farmers and cattle ranchers, stimulating their business by providing a national market to which they could ship their crops and cattle; longhorn cattle, raised in southern Texas, was driven to the railheads in Kansas and shipped to the Chicago meatpacking plants, creating the era of the beef bonanza; landscape of the western United States became defined by large open ranches and small farms juxtaposed with new towns developed along the rail lines; Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Omaha, Nebraska, were born as the tracks were being laid and grew to be the most important cities in those states)
- Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details (*Homestead Act*: Civil War; John Deere’s steel plow; Cyrus McCormack’s reaper; tough sod; *transcontinental railroad*: Civil War; 1869; web of transportation routes; smaller spurs; settled along the railroad; stronger economy; Gilded Age; huge numbers of buffalo were killed off)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that describes the goal of Manifest Destiny and a conclusion that analyzes how both events assured the destruction of the Plains Indians’ way of life

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response uses strong analysis to connect the two events in terms of their Republican support, economic impact, and negative effect on Native American Indians.

Throughout United States history, efforts were made to settle in new lands which would push the frontier further west. Many events occurred that influenced the movement in the west which would result in conflict with Native American Indians or foreign governments. Examples of this include the war with Mexico and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. These occurrences expanded movement to the west, and would cause disputes and hurt many.

In the beginning of the nineteenth century, after the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory, citizens began to believe in Manifest Destiny — the belief that they had the divine mission to expand all the way to the Pacific. James K. Polk made it his goal in the 1844 Presidential campaign to achieve Manifest Destiny. To Britain he said “fifty-four forty or fight” to gain all of Oregon. Polk increased the tension between the U.S. and Mexico by promising to annex Texas from the Rio Grande north. Polk won the presidency and sparked war with Mexico by sending U.S. troops into disputed territory where they were fired upon by the Mexican army.

In 1846 the United States went to war with Mexico and Mexico was completely vulnerable to the superior military of the United States. The war would end in 1848 with Mexico losing the war. In the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo the Mexicans were forced to turn over land from the Rio Grande in Texas all the way to California. This land from the Mexican Cession was comprised of California, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, and Arizona. The positive effects of this obviously include the fulfillment of Manifest Destiny promised by Polk. California’s rich farmland, gold, and great ports have made the U.S. rich, all of which should have been Mexico’s. Negative effects include the loss of soldiers

Lives which was paramount. The United States was adversely affected because now the new land would cause fights between the Anti Slavery North and the avaricious pro slavery South over whether these territories would become free or slave states. Although a compromise would calm the nation temporarily, sectional tension remained and the issue of spreading slavery into new territories eventually led to a bloody civil war. Thus the Mexican War can be seen as a cause of the Civil War. Conquering land from Mexico also created enduring bitterness with Mexico over the treatment of Mexican citizens, who suddenly found themselves in the U.S. and who often lost their property. For over 150 years immigration has also been a recurring source of tension.

The completion of the transcontinental railroad is another example of the expansion of the West which would cause hatred of, and injustice to, the Native American Indians. Because of the Americans belief in Manifest Destiny, the government was eager to expand settlement across the open land and a transcontinental railroad was a major factor in accomplishing this goal. In the 1860 presidential election, the Republican Party campaigned for federal funding of a transcontinental railroad. Many Republicans like Lincoln were former Whigs and supported federal government money for internal improvements. Even though the nation was fighting a civil war, the Lincoln administration began the building by giving huge land grants to private railroad companies who sold the unused land for a profit. Towns and cities sprung up along the rail lines, populated with tens of thousands of people from all over the world as immigrants were lured from abroad by the railroad companies' advertisements. Towns

along the railroad could quickly communicate and trade with the entire nation.

The ability to travel quickly to the West allowed, as Fredrick Jackson Turner said, the frontier to become America's "safety valve" for those unemployed in the East giving them an opportunity to start over again. But it didn't work out so well for Native Americans because now railroads would drive them out of their lands more efficiently than ever before. White hunters worsened the situation by shooting the buffalo which the Natives depended on for everything, thus ending their nomadic way of life. The Native American Indians on the Great Plains went from being dominant in the first half of the 1800's to being forced onto reservations by the 1880's and 1890's. In 1924 the Native Americans would finally be granted full citizenship, but there is no way to compensate for the broken treaties and lack of concern for how they were treated after the completion of the transcontinental railroad.

In conclusion there have been many events which influenced Westward Movement and affected many. Examples of this include the war with Mexico and the completion of the transcontinental railroad. While these events had some positive effects on the U.S. economically, the negative effects were complex, with repercussions that still matter down to the present.

## Anchor Level 5-B

### The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth for the war with Mexico and for the completion of the transcontinental railroad
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*war with Mexico*: James K. Polk made it his goal in the 1844 presidential campaign to achieve Manifest Destiny; Polk increased the tension between the United States and Mexico by promising to annex Texas from the Rio Grande north; won the presidency and sparked war with Mexico by sending United States troops into disputed territory where they were fired upon by the Mexican army; United States was adversely affected because now the new land would cause fights between the anti-slavery North and the avaricious pro-slavery South over whether these territories would become free or slave states; although a compromise would calm the nation temporarily, sectional tension remained and the issue of spreading slavery into new territories eventually led to a bloody civil war; conquering land from Mexico also created enduring bitterness with Mexico over the treatment of Mexican citizens; for over 150 years immigration has also been a recurring source of tension; *transcontinental railroad*: because of the Americans' belief in Manifest Destiny, the government was eager to expand settlement across the open land and a transcontinental railroad was a major factor in accomplishing this goal; Republican Party campaigned for federal funding of a transcontinental railroad; even though the nation was fighting a civil war, the Lincoln administration began the building by giving huge land grants to private railroad companies who sold the unused land for profit; towns and cities sprang up along the rail lines, populated with tens of thousands of people from all over the world as immigrants were lured from abroad by the railroad companies' advertisements; but it did not work out so well for Native Americans because now railroads would drive them out of their lands more efficiently than ever before; white hunters worsened the situation by shooting the buffalo which the natives depended on for everything, thus ending their nomadic way of life; Native American Indians on the Great Plains went from being dominant in the first half of the 1800s to being forced onto reservations)
- Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details (*war with Mexico*: Louisiana Territory; "Fifty-four Forty or Fight!"; Oregon; superior military of the United States; Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; Mexican Cession; California, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, and Arizona; loss of soldiers' lives; *transcontinental railroad*: 1860 presidential election; Frederick Jackson Turner; America's safety valve; full citizenship; broken treaties)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction and conclusion that are slightly beyond a restatement of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response provides strong analysis of the negative effects of the Mexican-American War and the transcontinental railroad on Westward expansion, especially in relation to Native American Indians. All aspects of the task are well developed.

Westward expansion and settlement was always a part of the American national identity. The belief in manifest destiny, that the United States had the God-given right to expand from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, took the nation by storm until the frontier was officially closed in 1890. The desire to settle the frontier gripped many American citizens during the 19th century, with many specific events influencing such westward expansion. Events, such as the War with Mexico from 1846 to 1848, and the passage of the Homestead Act in 1862, are examples of the U.S. government encouraging this manifest destiny that had both positive and negative effects on the future of the U.S. society, politics, and economy.

The War with Mexico from 1846 to 1848, was a war over the boundary dispute between the Mexican and American governments that ultimately ended with the U.S. gaining most of the Southwestern region of the present day United States. Supporters of the war argued that it was necessary for the U.S. to protect its newly annexed state of Texas. Supporters also claimed that Mexican soldiers attacked American soldiers on U.S. soil north of the Rio Grande, despite it being the place of disputed territory. Opponents to the war put forth the "Spot Resolution" asking where U.S. soldiers were when they were fired upon and argued that winning land from the Mexican government would cause future debates over slavery in the U.S. Ultimately, the United States entered in a war with Mexico in 1846, ending in 1848, with the U.S. gaining Southwestern territory, most notably California. Yet the effects of such a war would be correctly predicted by the war's opponents. While the opening of the these new territories encouraged further frontier settlement and provided an

abundance of natural resources like gold and silver, the negative effect of the Mexican War was to prompt heated debates over the balance of free and slave states in the U.S. The Congress was thus forced to pass the Compromise of 1850, where California was accepted as a free state, and the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 was passed to make up for upsetting the balance between free and slave states in the Senate. Thus, while the Mexican-American War encouraged and influenced westward expansion, it also further complicated the slavery debate leading up to the U.S. Civil War.

The demands that lands won from Mexico be kept free of slavery were added to demands that public land in the West be given out free to landless settlers. This was realized in the Homestead Act of 1862 which also further influenced western expansion in the U.S. The Homestead Act was a direct encouragement of the settlement of the frontier by the U.S. government. The federal government essentially gave western farm land to settlers as long as they agreed to live on and work the land for five years. But while this free land obviously encouraged westward expansion, many settlers found the land granted them in the Great Plains under the act was poor farming land, often dry. Thus, these poor farming conditions would lead to extreme difficulties for homesteaders and many could not last the whole five years. The U.S. soon entered a "Gilded Age" where big business and rail road companies took control of the products farmers were able to produce, hurting the farmers. Thus, while the Homestead Act of 1862 encouraged westward expansion, many settlers suffered economically under poor farming conditions, the rise of big business and the power of railroads.

The ideal of manifest destiny was ultimately highly encouraged in the 19th century. The Mexican War, while providing new states for settlement, led to further debates over the expansion of slavery. The Homestead Act gave many farmers cheap land to farm on, but the land made farming difficult and led to economic hardships for many farmers. Even after the closing of the frontier in 1890, the U.S. continued to practice manifest destiny by expanding overseas to Latin American nation states and other islands in the Pacific Ocean such as Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Thus, expansion has been and always will be a part of the American identity.

## Anchor Level 4-A

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the war with Mexico more thoroughly than the passage of the Homestead Act
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*war with Mexico*: war over the boundary dispute between the Mexican and American governments; supporters of the war argued that it was necessary for the United States to protect its newly annexed state of Texas; also claimed that Mexican soldiers attacked American soldiers on United States soil north of the Rio Grande, despite it being the place of disputed territory; opening of these new territories encouraged further frontier settlement and provided an abundance of natural resources like gold and silver; negative effect of the Mexican War was to prompt heated debates over the balance of free and slave states; Congress was thus forced to pass the Compromise of 1850, in which California was accepted as a free state, and the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 was passed to make up for upsetting the balance between free and slave states in the Senate; *Homestead Act*: demands that public land in the West be given out free to landless settlers; federal government essentially gave western farmland to settlers as long as they agreed to live on and work the land for five years; many settlers found the land granted them in the Great Plains under the act was poor farming land, often dry; poor farming conditions would lead to extreme difficulties for homesteaders and many could not last the whole five years)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*war with Mexico*: Southwestern region; Spot Resolution; California; Civil War; *Homestead Act*: free of slavery; farmers suffering economically; Gilded Age; big business; power of railroads)
- Demonstrates a logical plan of organization; includes an introduction and conclusion that go beyond a simple restatement of the theme by discussing Manifest Destiny as a historical circumstance of both events. The conclusion also observes that after the closing of the frontier the United States went on to pursue overseas expansion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response concerning the war with Mexico contains good analysis of key events and effects, including the war's causal relationship to the Civil War; however, the discussion of the Homestead Act would have benefitted from further analysis and a more thorough development of the effects on the settlement of the west.

Throughout American History, Manifest Destiny has been a driving force in the country's development. Manifest Destiny is the idea that Americans have the God given right to move west. The expansion was inspired by negative events such as the Mexican American War that won the U.S. land, but also watershed American triumphs such as our purchase of the Louisiana Territory as it gave us 1/3 of our country. Manifest Destiny changed America in ways that can never be reversed.

One cause of westward expansion was the Mexican American War. The Mexican American War began in 1846 over the land between the Nueces and Rio Grande Rivers that both countries claimed. The United States had also tried to negotiate with Mexico to purchase California and the Southwest. When that failed, President Polk provoked a war to win the land from Mexico. When the United States emerged as the victor, Mexico surrendered to us the Mexican Cession. The Mexican Cession was a massive piece of land in the Southwest. It was one of the largest pieces of land gained during westward expansion and includes some of the most scenic natural wonders like the Grand Canyon and the redwood forests. Although the Mexican Cession did drastically increase the size and natural beauty of the country, it caused furious debates over the expansion of Slavery. The Country was still locked in a battle over slavery. The annexation of the Mexican Cession created dreadful tension between slave and free states and compromises did not eliminate the problems. In 1850 California was admitted as a free state so the South demanded a stronger fugitive slave law. The tensions were very hard on the union. Although gaining the Mexican Cession was a huge step in completing

Manifest Destiny it caused a rift in the Union that would bring about America's bloodiest war.

The Purchase of the Louisiana Territory was a watershed moment in United States history. The Louisiana Purchase was the largest gain during westward expansion. It spread from the Appalachian mountains into the mid-western United States. Buying the Louisiana territory from France was the beginning of Manifest Destiny. As settlers began to move west they needed the Mississippi River to transport their crops. When France offered to sell the Louisiana territory, President Jefferson quickly agreed so the United States would get control of the river. But, this purchase caused a plethora of issues for the United States. Before the United States' Purchase of the land, Native Americans called the Great Plains home. They saw the Migration of white Americans as an act of encroachment, and bloody conflicts broke out as a result. To some, the aggression of natives turned them off to the idea of moving west, but most settlers simply fought to win their land. The Purchase also caused internal political problems. The expansion of slavery was becoming a big topic of debate. The annexation of such a monstrous amount of land turned the little spark of tension into a flame. The North and South would argue back and forth about slavery, making the Louisiana Purchase the centerpiece in the later Missouri Compromise. When Missouri was admitted as a slave state Maine became a free state to maintain the balance in Congress. The Louisiana Purchase was possibly the most important deal in U.S history, but caused bloodshed and tension that can never be forgotten.

Westward Expansion was America's biggest triumph. Because of

trying times like the Mexican-American War, and risky purchases such as that of the Louisiana Territory, the U.S managed to grow from 13 colonies, to a massive world power. The process was long, wars were fought, and money was made and lost, but in the end the U.S stood victorious as the biggest player on the world stage.

**Anchor Level 4-B**

**The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task for the war with Mexico and for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*war with Mexico*: began in 1846 over the land between the Nueces and Rio Grande rivers that both countries claimed; United States had also tried to negotiate with Mexico to purchase California and the Southwest; President Polk provoked a war to win the land from Mexico; one of the largest pieces of land gained during westward expansion and includes some of the most scenic natural wonders; annexation of the Mexican Cession created dreadful tension between slave and free states and compromises did not eliminate the problems; although gaining the Mexican Cession was a huge step in completing Manifest Destiny it caused a rift in the Union that would bring about America's bloodiest war; *Louisiana Territory*: as settlers began to move west they needed the Mississippi River to transport their crops; when France offered to sell the Louisiana Territory, President Jefferson quickly agreed so the United States would get control of the river; before the United States purchase of the land, Native Americans called the Great Plains home; saw the migration of white Americans as an act of encroachment and bloody conflicts broke out as a result; annexation of such a monstrous amount of land turned the little spark of tension into a flame; North and South would argue back and forth about slavery, making the Louisiana Purchase the centerpiece in the later Missouri Compromise); includes faulty analysis (*Louisiana Territory*: it spread from the Appalachian Mountains into the Midwestern United States)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*war with Mexico*: Grand Canyon; redwood forests; expansion of slavery; California was admitted as a free state; stronger fugitive slave law; *Louisiana Territory*: largest gain; beginning of Manifest Destiny; expansion of slavery; Missouri was admitted as a slave state; Maine became a free state; maintain the balance in Congress)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that connects the two events to the definition of Manifest Destiny and a conclusion that connects westward expansion to the United States as a world power

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response relates both events to Manifest Destiny and tensions over the expansion of slavery using distinct examples for each. While providing some good analysis, the response overall lacks the amount of detail seen in a higher level paper.

From the founding of the United States until the end of World War II in 1945, expansion was an important part of American history. The first leg of that expansion was westward expansion, expanding the United States from its original location along the Eastern Seaboard to spanning the entire North American continent. The United States government used many means to achieve expansion. One effort was the purchase of the Louisiana Territory in 1803 which nearly doubled the size of the United States. Another factor which promoted westward expansion was the Mexican-American War in 1846-1848. Both acts increased tensions, the first with Native Americans and the second within the US regarding slavery. Both the Louisiana Purchase and the Mexican-American War occurred with the intention of increasing territory and led to tensions.

The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 nearly doubled the size of the United States and increased tensions with Native Americans. By 1803, the Louisiana Territory, at that time a huge tract of land in central North America, had changed hands several times until it was in French possession. However wars in Europe in which the French were involved caused Napoleon to sell the land. At the same time, Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States felt pressures to expand. Americans wanted control of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans. Despite Jefferson's concern over constitutional interpretation, he ultimately used a loose interpretation of the Constitution to purchase the land. Almost instantly, the size of the US doubled. The Louisiana Territory provided land on which farmers could expand. Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to explore the unknown territory. Their findings indicated a wealth of new resources

including vast navigable rivers, a variety of plant and animal life and a huge land mass. However, this sudden expansion of territory also led to increased conflicts with the Native Americans who had lived on that land. Much of this new Louisiana Territory was the home of nomadic Buffalo hunters. As white American settlers expanded, they came into contact with these Native Americans who resisted advances onto their land. This led to a generation of Indian wars and conflicts that nearly extinguished the Buffalo and native American culture. While the Louisiana Purchase expanded both the size of the United States and the land on which farmers could expand, it also led to an increase in conflict with Native Americans.

The Mexican-American War (1846-1848) was fought with the intention of acquiring new territory and, while it achieved that goal, it also increased internal tensions over the issue of slavery. By the 1840s, expansion was already well underway and Manifest Destiny, the idea that the United States was destined to expand over the entire continent, prevailed. At the time Mexico had a few pieces of territory that the United States wanted, including California and New Mexico. When President Polk sent US troops into disputed territory above the Río Grande, he instigated a war with Mexico that won this territory and more. After a fairly quick and easy war, the United States added new territory with ports on the Pacific Ocean for trade routes with Asia. However, this new territory reawakened the debate over the spread of slavery that had already been fought. The desire of the Northern States to prevent the spread of slavery and the Southern States to spread slavery coupled with the overwhelming desire to keep the balance between the slave and free states produced controversy.

Eventually, the Compromise of 1850 was reached to try to settle the issue of slavery in these new territories, but it only delayed the coming of the Civil War for a decade.

The history of the United States is one of expansion. In the 19th century, the United States grew from a few states on the Eastern Seaboard to a massive nation spanning the continent. Two deliberate attempts to push westward were the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and the Mexican American War (1846-1848). Both led to increased tensions with Native Americans and increased sectional tensions over the spread of slavery.

## Anchor Level 4-C

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task but does so somewhat unevenly by discussing the purchase of the Louisiana Territory more thoroughly than the war with Mexico
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*Louisiana Territory*: wars in Europe in which the French were involved caused Napoleon to sell the land; Americans wanted control of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans; despite Jefferson's concern over constitutional interpretation, he ultimately used a loose interpretation of the Constitution to purchase the land; their findings indicated a wealth of new resources including vast navigable rivers, a variety of plant and animal life, and a huge land mass; sudden expansion of territory also led to increased conflicts with the Native Americans who had lived on that land; led to a generation of Indian wars and conflicts that nearly extinguished the buffalo and Native American culture; *war with Mexico*: by the 1840s, expansion was already well underway and Manifest Destiny, the idea that the United States was destined to expand over the entire continent, prevailed; when President Polk sent United States troops into disputed territory above the Rio Grande, he instigated a war with Mexico that won this territory and more; after a fairly quick and easy war, the United States added new territory with ports on the Pacific Ocean for trade routes with Asia; new territory reawakened the debate over the spread of slavery; overwhelming desire to keep the balance between the slave and free states produced controversy; Compromise of 1850 was reached to try to settle the issue of slavery in these new territories, but it only delayed the coming of the Civil War for a decade)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: doubled the size; French possession; third president; farmers; sent Lewis and Clark to explore the unknown territory; nomadic buffalo hunters; *war with Mexico*: California and New Mexico; Northern states; Southern states)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes a lengthy introduction outlining the ties between expansion and increased tensions and a conclusion that notes both events increased sectional rivalry as well as tensions with Native American Indians

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response demonstrates good knowledge of the historical circumstances concerning the purchase of the Louisiana Territory and the effects of the purchase on Native American Indians, but discusses the war with Mexico less thoroughly. Further explanation of the effects of the war with Mexico would have strengthened the response.

Throughout United States history, the desire to expand and move further west was propagated by the theory of Manifest destiny as well as efforts to connect the economy. Two events that resulted from this westward expansion were the Louisiana Territory Purchase as well as the emergence of the first transcontinental railroad that connected the Western Economies to that of the Eastern Economies. Positive effects of the Louisiana Purchase was that the USA was able to rid any other European Foreign nation from the mainland that could threaten security, as well as the acquisition of the Port of New Orleans. Positive effects of the Transcontinental Railroad were that it paved the way for the era of industrialisation, as well as a more interconnected economy.

New Orleans was able to be used by American Settlers under the Pickeney Treaty. The port had proved beneficial in economic terms, as it had given farmers up North an opportunity to ship their goods to the South. When this opportunity was threatened by European Nations, the US capitalized on the opportunity to purchase the Louisiana territory from France. Under this purchase, not only was the USA able to double its territory but also got ownership of the port of New Orleans. The acquisition of the territory also led to other developments such as tensions with the Native Americans who had already pre-existed in the territory. As more Americans settled westward, debates over the existence of slavery in the territory took place. These ultimately led to the passage of the Missouri Compromise that prohibited slavery north of 36°30', a temporary solution to the sectional problem. Hence, under the Louisiana purchase, there was positive components with the terms of economy, but negative drawbacks with regards to political conflicts over slavery and military conflicts with Native Americans.

By the end of the Civil War, the first Transcontinental Railroad was being built by the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Companies on land granted by Congress. This was ultimately able to connect regional economies which helped pave the way for the modern industrial Revolution. After the Transcontinental Railroad was built, consolidation of railroad companies by major banks became prevalent and certain aspects of a modern capitalist economy emerged. With that being said, after the Civil War the Southern economy lagged behind the Northern Economy largely due to a lack of modernized economy and railroad systems. Furthermore, with the addition of railroads, conflicts with Native Americans became more prevalent as workers were killing buffalo and taking Native American land to lay track. Hence, the transcontinental railroad paved way for a modern industrialized economy, but hurt Native American relationships.

In conclusion, Westward Expansion came with economic benefits as well as negative aspects regarding Native American Indians and their traditional lifestyles.

### Anchor Level 3-A

#### **The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory and for the completion of the transcontinental railroad
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Louisiana Territory*: port had proved beneficial in economic terms, as it had given farmers up north an opportunity to ship their goods to the south; when this opportunity was threatened by European nations, the United States capitalized on the opportunity to purchase the Louisiana Territory from France; tensions with the Native Americans who had pre-existed in the territory; as more Americans settled westward, debates over the existence of slavery in the territory took place; these ultimately led to the passage of the Missouri Compromise that prohibited slavery north of 36°30', a temporary solution to the sectional problem; *transcontinental railroad*: by the end of the Civil War, the first transcontinental railroad was being built by the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific companies on land granted by Congress; able to connect regional economies which helped pave the way for the modern Industrial Revolution; consolidation of railroad companies by major banks became prevalent and certain aspects of a modern capitalist economy emerged; conflicts with Native Americans became more prevalent as workers were killing buffalo and taking Native American land to lay track)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: New Orleans; Pinckney Treaty; double its territory; political conflicts over slavery; military conflicts with Native Americans; *transcontinental railroad*: southern economy lagged)
- Demonstrates a logical plan of organization; includes an introduction that mentions some aspects of the discussion and a brief conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response mentions several important economic aspects of the events, but they are not explored in sufficient depth for a higher level paper.

The frontier has always been a very crucial part of the United States throughout its history. It has always enabled America to grow not only in size, but also in culture. Two events that significantly influenced the westward movement was the purchasing of the Louisiana Territory as well as the completion of the transcontinental railroad.

Before President Jefferson bought the Louisiana territory, the U.S. was a small country since it did not have a lot of land. Jefferson had to change this since in order for America to remain an agrarian society, Jefferson's vision of how America's economy should be run, there must be enough land to farm. On top of this, purchasing this land enabled Americans to access the Mississippi River which is very crucial for trade. Jefferson had to go against his belief that the constitution should be read strictly in order to promote his belief that America should be an agrarian society - Furthermore, the deal was very appealing since Napoleon was willing to sell it cheaply, as a result of colonies being a burden on him while he is fighting wars in Europe, and also him needing money. After the purchase many were encouraged to move west and settle. Over time, this had a positive effect on the U.S. since there was more land which meant that there could be more farms which in turn could feed the growing populations in the big developing cities. Early explorers called these plains "the Great American Desert" because there wasn't much rain. After the Civil War, inventions helped change the plains. Windmills and irrigation brought water to the soil and the steel plow broke up the tough sod. The prairie then became the source of important crops like wheat and corn. This area then helped feed the world.

The trans-continental railroad enabled people to travel longer distances in shorter amounts of times. Before the railroad was built, the fastest way to get to California was to go by ship around the tip of South America and back North to California. The first railroads were built in the East and they began to replace canals to transport goods. When Abraham Lincoln ran for president, he promised to build a railroad across the continent. His campaign promise was fulfilled and now people were able to go straight through America and get to California. This encouraged more and more people to settle West since they can travel quicker. On top of this, products were now able to be moved faster in comparison to wagon trains or ships around the Americas. New businesses were beginning to develop such as the meat-packing industry in Chicago. Cattle in Texas would be driven to the railroad and taken to Chicago to be slaughtered and packaged for sale. Steel companies grew to supply expanding rail lines. The transcontinental railroad allowed many other businesses to succeed.

This is how the purchase of Louisiana territory and the transcontinental railroad both significantly influenced westward movement, in a positive way. Were it not for these two events, then America may not have been the same.

### Anchor Level 3-B

#### The response:

- Develops most aspects of the task in some depth for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory and for the completion of the transcontinental railroad
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Louisiana Territory*: in order for America to remain an agrarian society, Jefferson's vision of how America's economy should be run, there must be enough land to farm; purchasing this land enabled Americans to access the Mississippi River which is very crucial for trade; Jefferson had to go against his belief that the Constitution should be read strictly in order to promote his belief that America should be an agrarian society; after the Civil War, inventions helped change the plains; this area then helped feed the world; *transcontinental railroad*: before the railroad was built, the fastest way to get to California was to go by ship around the tip of South America and back north to California; first railroads were built in the east and they began to replace canals to transport goods; when Abraham Lincoln ran for president he promised to build a railroad across the continent; products were now able to be moved faster in comparison to wagon trains or ships around the Americas; new businesses were beginning to develop such as the meatpacking industry in Chicago; steel companies grew to supply expanding rail lines)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: Napoleon was willing to sell it cheaply; colonies being a burden; wars in Europe; windmills and irrigation; steel plow; tough sod; *transcontinental railroad*: cattle in Texas; slaughtered and packaged)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and conclusion that are little more than a restatement of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response includes good information especially about the historical circumstances surrounding each event, but discusses only one effect for each.

All throughout United States History, there have been many events and occurrences that led to settling the Western Frontier. These events not only allowed for more land and riches, but also created a variety of conflicts. Two events that significantly influenced the westward movement of the frontier was the purchase of the Louisiana Territory (1803) and the passage of the Homestead Act (1862), with new offers and vast amounts of land.

The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 was one of the most important decisions for America that made the nation much larger. Thomas Jefferson, the President at the time, had been debating if he should purchase the huge amount of land from the French. He was somewhat hesitant at first because his beliefs included not giving too much power to the federal government. He followed Democratic-Republican opinions, and making a deal like this for the nation, was contradicting not having such a strong government. Jefferson ended up purchasing the land for an extremely good deal of a few million dollars. This decision brought forth many positive effects on the settlement of the West. One of the positive effects included the huge amount of land that needed to be explored. Jefferson ordered the Lewis and Clark expedition as just one example of the opportunity to explore. New land was open to the public and after Americans read of Lewis and Clark's discoveries, there was an increase in western settlement. However, this caused issues as well. Even though there was a lot of land, people were unsure what to do with it. Leaders debated whether or not the new area should be slave or free in the future. This caused a variety of conflicts and compromises were needed. The conflicts with Native Americans also increased, causing individuals to face

difficulties settling. Violent conflicts were happening as families and people attempted to settle west.

The Passage of the Homestead Act in 1862 also influenced westward movement of the frontier. The West was a large region, that very few had ventured to. People had not settled here at first. However, during the Civil War, the congress, to fix this problem, decided to pass the Homestead Act. This act gave free land to people who were willing to live on it and farm it for a few years. Many families agreed due to the good deal, and started to migrate there. Many negative effects of the event on the settlement of the West were starting though. The land on the plains was mostly barren of trees and isolated and the utter loneliness that people felt made it difficult to succeed. There was no one around, and families were forced to live on the land, otherwise they couldn't continue the deal. In a few years the transcontinental railroad was completed which made the settlers less isolated and helped them transport their crops. In addition conflicts with Native Americans arose. White Americans were taking over land that buffalo grazed, causing the natives to get into fights with the settlers. The Natives tried to stop the growing western settlement but failed. The Act did increase settlement in the West because it offered a new life and a choice of success in a different place.

The Homestead Act and the Louisiana Purchase both impacted the westward movement of the frontier with prospects of land and a more successful life. The Frontier was continuing to be passed and settled on by families and people. The government had a large role in these specific events by influencing people to migrate towards the West. America was growing and the boundaries for movement on the frontier were pushing farther west year by year.

### Anchor Level 3-C

#### **The response:**

- Develops all aspects of the task with little depth for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory and for the passage of the Homestead Act
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Louisiana Territory*: somewhat hesitant at first because his beliefs included not giving too much power to the federal government; Jefferson ended up purchasing the land for an extremely good deal; new land was open to the public and after Americans read of Lewis and Clark's discoveries, there was an increase in western settlement; leaders debated whether or not the new area should be slave or free in the future; caused a variety of conflicts and compromises were needed; *Homestead Act*: gave free land to people who were willing to live on it and farm it for a few years; land on the plains was barren of trees and isolated and the utter loneliness that people felt made it difficult to succeed; white Americans were taking over land that buffalo grazed, causing the natives to get into fights with the settlers)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: huge amount of land from the French; Democratic-Republican; Jefferson ordered the Lewis and Clark Expedition; *Homestead Act*: during the Civil War; transcontinental railroad; transport their crops); includes an inaccuracy (*Louisiana Territory*: a few million dollars)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that states the government took a large role in influencing westward migration

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response recognizes two of the most important effects of each event; however, the various aspects of the task are not thoroughly developed. Additional supporting facts and details would have strengthened the response.

The construction of means of transportation has led to great westward expansion throughout the history of the United States; the Erie Canal and the Transcontinental Railroad both contributed to westward migration.

In the years leading up to 1825, New York governor Clinton began constructing what was to become the Erie canal, connecting the New York harbor to the great lakes. In the 1780s, the Northwest Ordinance opened up the Northwest Territory for settlement. By creating the Erie Canal, New York grew New York City, developed numerous cities along the canal, and poured migrants into the now-midwest. Large midwestern cities such as Chicago developed as a result of the existence of the Erie Canal as a means of transportation.

Two decades later, gold was discovered in California, and a tremendous number of individuals and families made their way all the way to the west coast. With this migration there was now a large population on both coasts of the country, but was difficult to travel between them. In 1869, the Transcontinental Railroad connected Chicago (and the eastern railroad network) to San Francisco. This new means of transportation allowed for even greater westward movement. Further, the railroad company encouraged the settlement along the route to provide for the labor required to complete the railroad; thus, westward population growth occurred not only at the destination, but along the route as well. The Transcontinental Railroad, itself the product of westward expansion, contributed to even further westward expansion.

Both the Erie Canal and the Transcontinental Railroad, as means of travelling west, provided for individuals seeking to travel west in

search of the American dream – the former for the Northwest Territory in 1825 and the latter for California and the greater West in 1889.

**Anchor Level 2-A**

**The response:**

- Minimally develops most aspects of the task for the opening of the Erie Canal and for the completion of the transcontinental railroad
- Is primarily descriptive (*Erie Canal*: New York Governor Clinton began constructing what was to become the Erie Canal, connecting the New York harbor to the Great Lakes; by creating the Erie Canal, New York grew New York City, developed numerous cities along the canal, and poured migrants into the now Midwest; large Midwestern cities such as Chicago developed as a result of the existence of the Erie Canal as a means of transportation; *transcontinental railroad*: gold was discovered in California and a tremendous number of individuals and families made their way all the way to the West Coast; there was now a large population on both coasts of the country, but it was difficult to travel between them; connected Chicago and the eastern railroad network to San Francisco; westward population growth occurred not only at the destination but along the route as well; transcontinental railroad, itself the product of westward expansion, contributed to even further westward expansion)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*Erie Canal*: Northwest Territory; *transcontinental railroad*: labor required)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction and conclusion that state both events helped individuals travel west in search of the American dream

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response correctly observes that both transportation systems prompted the growth of cities along their routes; however, the response is far too brief and lacks the development and detail of a Level 3 paper.

In the early 19th Century, many Americans became enamored with the idea of “manifest destiny”— the idea that it was the fate of the United States to extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. This led the American government to purchase and annex large tracts of land during the 19th Century, including the Louisiana Territory (1803) and the Mexican Cession (1846-48). This led to various positive and negative effects on the Americans’ settlement in the West.

The Louisiana territory led to boundless opportunities in the West for Americans, but also conflicts with Native Americans. As the French Empire (led by Napoleon) began to decline, Napoleon realized that he could not ensure the protection of the Louisiana Territory in North America. Therefore, he decided to sell this vast amount of land west of the current America to President Thomas Jefferson in America. This purchase doubled the size of the U.S. and inspired many families to move west to begin a new life, especially since the population in the east was increasing. However, before this could occur, Jefferson sent out explorers Lewis and Clark to document and map out the new land. This led to the discovery of the Mississippi River, which would later on be crucial for trade and transportation from east to west. However, they also encountered unwelcoming Native Americans who disapproved of the white people taking their land. As more Americans moved west, they forcibly removed Native Americans from their land and killed them. This led to backlash from the Native Americans, but ultimately the Euroamericans destroyed the majority of their lifestyles and forced them into reservations.

A different example of America acquiring territory in the 19th Century was the Mexican Cession. President James K. Polk led the U.S. into the

Mexican-American War in 1846 – first to annex Texas, where many Americans were now living, and then other territories as well. These territories were made into the states California, Utah, Arizona, Kansas, and Nebraska. This had some positive effects because it brought more farmland into the U.S., which was needed because farmers' ruthless techniques were rapidly destroying the land. However, it also heightened tensions concerning the issue of slavery because the new states altered the balance of an equal number of slave to free states. Senator Henry Clay's proposal for popular sovereignty (allowing the people to decide about slavery) in Kansas led to "Bleeding Kansas," where arguments over slavery became violent and bloody, and ultimately the Civil War.

Although the American annexation of territories in the 19th century might have seemed beneficial at first, it ultimately led to many consequences for the Americans and Native Americans.

## Anchor Level 2-B

### The response:

- Minimally develops most aspects of the task for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory and for the war with Mexico
- Is primarily descriptive (*Louisiana Territory*: as the French Empire led by Napoleon began to decline, Napoleon realized that he could not ensure the protection of the Louisiana Territory; decided to sell this vast amount of land west of the current America to President Thomas Jefferson; doubled the size of the United States and inspired many families to move west to begin a new life; Jefferson sent out explorers Lewis and Clark to document and map out the new land; as more Americans moved west they forcibly removed Native Americans from their land and killed them; Euro-Americans destroyed the majority of their lifestyles and forced them onto reservations; *war with Mexico*: different example of America acquiring territory in the 19th century was the Mexican Cession; President James K. Polk led the United States into the Mexican-American War; heightened tensions concerning the issue of slavery because the new states altered the balance of an equal number of slave to free states); includes faulty analysis (*Louisiana Territory*: this led to the discovery of the Mississippi River; *war with Mexico*: first to annex Texas; led to “Bleeding Kansas”)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*war with Mexico*: California, Utah, Arizona; more farmland); includes an inaccuracy (*war with Mexico*: Kansas and Nebraska)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction that defines Manifest Destiny and a brief conclusion

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response shows understanding of the task but is uneven and weakened by a limited scope, minimal examples, and a lack of supporting details.

Throughout the United States History, efforts to settle new land pushed the frontier further west. Several important events influenced this westward movement. These events often led to conflict w/ Native American or w/ foreign gov'ts. Of all the westward movements, two of them were the creation of the reservation system and the completion of the transcontinental railroad.

In the early 1800s, as US increased the demand for moving westward, steps were taken to ensure to fulfill the Manifest Destiny, which encouraged the westward expansion. One of the ways was the removal of Native Americans and pushing them westward further and further. By doing so, the creation of the reservation system on Native Americans was made. President Andrew Jackson forcibly removal Indians from their home and relocated them into reservation camps built for as many as several clans into one camp. By clearing the lands once held by Native Americans, the new land can be used for farming, home, and railroads. As a result, the impact of the creation of the reservation system put many Native Americans in dismay. The removal of the Native American traveling to the reservation camps became to known as the Trail of Tears b/c ppl were crying as they were getting to the camps. However, by removing the Native Americans, US gain access to the West and natural resources were obtained such as Buffaloes. People were able to house, farm, and build railroads.

As Americans gain the desire for westward expansions, people moved and population grew in west coast cities such as San Francisco and states such as Oregon. Therefore, the need for an efficient transportation system was needed for swift travel between the east and west coast, as well as business affairs for goods. Stephen Douglas,

who was the senator for Michigan at that time proposed for a development for the transcontinental railroad. The plan was underway, two companies, one from the east and the other from the west, started building railroad and meet at the middle. The rate at which the railroads were built was rapid, highly due to the growing competition b/t the two companies competing as to who built more in a day. After the overbuilding occur, when the companies went past each other, the final place where the railroad will meet was in Utah. This marked the success of the railroad stretching from California to the east coast. This feat was the greatest enterprise of 1800 because not only the US succeeded in building the railroad, other countries in Europe were astonished by the accomplishment. The railroad can now carry people from one side and America to another without traveling on wagons for months. Goods such as fruits and meat can be delivered without being spoiled as well. Westward expansion can be done since more ppl could travel in a short period of time.

Efforts to settle new land pushed the frontier further west through US history. Several important events influenced this westward movement. The true efforts were the transcontinental railroad and the reservation system. The events drastically changed the US history.

## Anchor Level 2-C

### **The response:**

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task for the creation of the reservation system and for the completion of the transcontinental railroad
- Is primarily descriptive (*reservation system*: removal of Native Americans and pushing them westward; by clearing the lands once held by Native Americans, the new land could be used for farming, homes, and railroads; United States gained access to the West and natural resources were obtained; *transcontinental railroad*: efficient transportation system was needed for swift travel between the East and West coasts; two companies, one from the east and the other from the west, started building the railroad and met in the middle; railroad could carry people from one side of America to another without traveling on wagons for months; goods such as fruits and meat could be delivered without being spoiled); includes faulty analysis (*reservation system*: President Andrew Jackson forcefully removed Indians from their home and relocated them into reservation camps built for as many as several clans into one camp; became known as the Trail of Tears because people were crying as they were getting to the camps)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details (*reservation system*: Manifest Destiny; *transcontinental railroad*: coast cities; San Francisco; Oregon; competition; Utah); includes inaccuracies (*transcontinental railroad*: Stephen Douglas, who was the senator for Michigan; from California to the East Coast)
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and conclusion that are little more than a restatement of the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response in general lacks understanding of the reservation system for Native American Indians. The discussion of the transcontinental railroad is slightly better but lacks the overall development common in a higher level paper.

Throughout history the United States has had intentions on expanding its territory. This resulted in the westward expansion of the country. The expansion resulted in the wrongful treatment of the Native Americans, whose land we were invading. Two examples of the westward migration is the Louisiana Purchase and discovering gold in California.

The first example of the westward migration is the Louisiana Purchase. This was purchased from France for about 15 million dollars, and the purchase resulted in doubling the United States size. There was a negative result to the purchase. The Native Americans were living on the land that we had purchased. At the time Andrew Jackson was president, he made the decision to begin the Trail of Tears. The Trail of Tears was the action of moving the Native Americans off the land we wanted. This action had both negative effects.

The second event that is an example of westward migration is the discovery of Gold in California. This was called the Gold Rush. The discovery of Gold resulted in westward migration. People that were out of jobs or who were not as wealthy went out west to discover Gold to have a better life. This movement had a negative effect along with the positive effect of moving people out west. This negative effect was that the value of Gold decreased along with the effect on the currency at the time.

Both of these events helped to move people outwest. The Louisiana Purchase and the discovery of Gold in California had their separate positive and negative effects. These actions were all a result of trying to expand the size of the United States.

## Anchor Level 1-A

### **The response:**

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory and for the discovery of gold in California
- Is descriptive (*Louisiana Territory*: purchased from France for about 15 million dollars and the purchase resulted in doubling the United States size; Native Americans were living on the land that we had purchased; *gold in California*: went out west to discover gold to have a better life); includes faulty analysis (*Louisiana Territory*: at the time Andrew Jackson was president, he made the decision to begin the Trail of Tears; *gold in California*: negative effect was that the value of gold decreased along with the effect on the currency at the time)
- Includes no relevant facts, examples, or details
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and conclusion that restate the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response includes only a few facts about the Louisiana Purchase and very minimal information about the gold rush.

Throughout American history, there have been numerous occasions that involved westward expansion. Two significant events that influenced the movement of the frontier were the California Gold Rush and the development of the transcontinental railroad.

In 1848, gold was discovered in California. This newfound resource attracted thousands of people to come to the west in hopes of becoming rich. Although very few people actually found gold, the possibility that one could be lucky motivated them to leave home and go mine. Soon many families were left without a man in the house as they were in pursuit of gold. The Gold Rush was very productive for businesses in California. Constant waves of miners flooded the state and shops selling mining material prospered. With an increase amount of people came an increase amount of spending, so financially California benefitted. However, the new population quickly turned detrimental as it became overpopulation. With no nearby end to how many people were coming in, land in the West became limited. People from the East no longer had space to live upon arrival and living conditions from then on became bad.

The transcontinental railroad was a project started around the mid 1800s. Its goal was to connect the states so that communication and transportation would be easier. People could travel faster and manufacturers could deliver goods more efficiently. However, it was important that the West Coast have access to the railroad as well, so for that to happen, Americans needed more land. The railroad was completed around 1869 and it became a success. Its pure existence helped America economically and socially. The system made the process of buying and selling easier and the amount of poor people needed for the job was tremendous. Despite these positive effects, there

were people who opposed the railroad. There were state governments who did not want the tracks running through their land and citizens, who never supported the idea in the first place, did not want to pay for it. But the helpfulness to the country outweighed the wants of the individual.

During this time period, America wanted to advance as a nation. For a country to accomplish that, it needs more resources especially land. Although there were problems and opposition to the concept of westward movement, it benefitted the people. Times like the Gold Rush and tasks like the completion of the transcontinental railroad allowed America to grow and eventually become the economical powerhouse it is today.

#### Anchor Level 1-B

##### The response:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task for the discovery of gold in California and for the completion of the transcontinental railroad
- Is descriptive (*gold in California*: although very few people actually found gold, the possibility that one could be lucky motivated them to leave home and go mine; constant waves of miners flooded the state and shops selling mining material prospered; *transcontinental railroad*: people could travel faster and manufacturers could deliver goods more efficiently); includes faulty analysis (*gold in California*: the new population quickly turned detrimental as it became overpopulation; land in the west became limited; people from the east no longer had space to live upon arrival and living conditions from then on became bad; *transcontinental railroad*: however, it was important that the West Coast have access to the railroad as well, so for that to happen, Americans needed more land; there were state governments who did not want the tracks running through their land and citizens, who never supported the idea in the first place, did not want to pay for it)
- Includes a few relevant facts, examples, and details
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that states the events allowed America to grow and become an economic powerhouse

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The response includes some accurate general statements but very limited supporting information, with several statements indicating a weak understanding of the associated content. The discussion also incorrectly concludes that the events led to the end of available western land.

Since the birth of the United States, there were many efforts to expand further west. This expansion has been led by different reasons. There have been several events that have pushed Americans to look west. Two significant events were the Purchasing of the Louisiana Territory and the war with Mexico, which opened more land for Americans.

One event that influenced the westward expansion was the Purchase of the Louisiana territory. In France, Napoleon Bonaparte was in power and was struggling to keep control of his empire. This led him to make the offer to the United States to buy all the French land in the west, including New Orleans. This was a tremendous amount of land that included the Mississippi River. In this time Thomas Jefferson was president, and agreed to the purchase of all the territory. The United States was becoming larger in size and the population was increasing. This purchase allowed for new land to be opened in the west. This allowed more land to farm. However, this purchase would lead to conflict with the Native Americans who had been pushed west. This event would also tie slavery to the question of western expansion, which was if slavery would be allowed in the new territories. The north wanted the territory to be free and the South wanted the territories to be slave states. Thankfully the Missouri Compromise of 1820 set a line making most of the Louisiana Territory free, but allowing Missouri in as a slave state. Maine was let in as a free state to keep things balanced. The positive effects was that allowed for more people to look to the west for opportunities, such as farming. This event would influence Americans to move west, but it would also cause tension about slavery moving west.

The second event was the Mexican-American war. Americans had

been moving west, and into Texas. Texas would later gain its independence and want to become a state in the United States. Once the United States accepted Texas, there was the question of the Mexican and American border. Mexico believed the area near the Río Grande was theirs and the United States the same. James Polk, the president would send troops to the border, and in one instant Mexican soldiers shot at Americans. The war lasted two years, and in the end the United States won. In the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the Mexicans ceded land to the U.S, such as New Mexico and Utah territories. This would push many Americans to look to the west, where they could farm, mine, and have cattle. However, the negative impact of this event was the question of the expansion of slavery. In the end, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which was created to settle the debate about these territories would give many territories popular sovereignty. This would lead to a wave of Americans who wanted to vote to become slave or free. In the end the war with Mexico encourage Americans to look westward, but changed the way slavery would expand west.

The westward expansion in history would be influenced by events, such as the Mexican American war and the Louisiana Territory purchase. They both would open up land in the west and change the lives of west settlers who wanted slavery, and those who did not. The question of westward expansion and slavery would continue until the Civil War.

Throughout United States history, efforts to settle new land pushed the frontier further and further west. Several important events influenced this westward movement, two good examples being the Discovery of gold in California in 1848 and the Completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869. While both of these had their upsides, they also had negative effects on those involved.

Possibly one of the most well known causes of westward expansion, the Gold Rush began with the first discovery of gold at Sutters Mill the same year California became U.S. territory. News of the amazing discovery spread across the country and across the Pacific Ocean as well. For many settlers, the chance to “strike it rich” and make a fortune on gold was too good to resist. Thousands of “49ers” caught “gold fever” and moved west to try their luck in the “Bear Flag Republic.” Of course, gold mining wasn’t the perfect opportunity many thought it would be. While thousands went west to find gold, very few actually found it. Even of those few, even fewer found enough that they became as rich as they had dreamed to become. Would-be miners often became enterprising merchants who sold shovels, sluice boxes and other supplies that miners needed. One example was an immigrant named Levi Strauss who opened a store in nearby San Francisco and began selling durable jeans for miners. Soon enough whole towns of people formed that lived off the gold that miners found nearby. However, these new towns weren’t always the best either. With so many trying to get rich quick, some found it easier to steal than find it themselves. Lawlessness was everywhere as towns were filled with mostly young males whose leisure time included alcohol, gambling and fighting. Vigilante justice, a common way to keep order, only added to the violence. Crime could

easily occur in these towns, but if the gold ran out then the town could easily fall apart. Many “Ghost Towns” would be left behind as people left to find new gold, not able to make any money without the flow of gold panning throughout the town, however, many stayed for the mild climate and fertile farmland which kept California’s population growing long after the gold rush.

The “overnight” growth of California’s population set the stage for an event that was nearly as influential, if not more, to westward expansion — the completion of the transcontinental railroad just after the Civil War. The project’s goal was to connect California with the rest of the nation by laying tracks across the vast little populated Great Plains and the rugged Rocky Mountains.

Chinese laborers, who were often turned away from California’s gold fields, found dangerous work constructing the rail lines. They endured savage winter weather, deadly explosives and imposing terrain. With this new mode of transportation, Easterners could easily move manufactured products and themselves across the U.S. New towns like Omaha and Salt Lake City would be built all along the route, while cities like Chicago would grow explosively and Easterners would come to make a living in emerging industries. From its beginning, the railroad was the most efficient way to move goods from coast to coast — creating a true national market. The transcontinental railroad helped make the United States the most productive and wealthy nation in the world. Despite the good it caused, the railroad too had its downsides. The railroad cut straight through the main hunting grounds of the plains Indians. The Sioux and Cheyenne depended on the buffalo for food and shelter — all their basic needs.

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**Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – B**

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Hunters like Buffalo Bill Cody killed thousands of Buffalo to feed the railroad workers. Sports men shot out of train windows as amusement leaving the buffalo carcasses rotting on the plains. The transcontinental railroad caused the near extinction of the plains Indians' source of survival. The railroad act and the western movement of settlers taking advantage of free homesteads undermined Native American Indian strength and rapidly led to their being restricted to reservations.

Clearly, both the railroad and the discovery of gold both had positive and negative effects on U.S. history. What they have in common though is that they shaped the world we live in now. With westward expansion many found new places to call their home, and as the years passed these towns grew into the states we know today.

As the United States expanded its borders westward, conflicts with Native Americans increased. The U.S. improved economically and socially at the expense of Native Americans.

The creation of reservation systems, while clearing the way for westward expansion for white settlers worked to take Native Americans' culture away from them. The U.S. has always had conflicts with Native Americans over land since the very beginning with the first settlers. Chief Justice John Marshall attempted to settle one dispute in *Worcester v. Georgia*, in which he concluded that Georgia had no jurisdiction over sovereign native lands. President Andrew Jackson did not agree with this decision and declared, "he has made his decision, let's see him enforce it." He passed the Indian Removal Act. Under Martin Van Buren who shared many opinions with Andrew Jackson, the Trail of Tears occurred. The forced removal of eastern tribes set a precedent for moving Native Americans onto reservations after the Civil War. This allowed for more westward expansion, however it also robbed Native Americans of their traditions and culture. The Dawes Act forced white American culture including religion, clothing and the English language, on Native Americans. The Indian Citizenship Act in the 1920s gave Native Americans U.S. citizenship despite the fact that they were already citizens of their own nations. The creation of reservation systems means that today the reservations are sovereign and make tribal decisions while still being part of the United States.

The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad marked a beginning of the second industrial revolution in U.S. history and an ending of many Plains Native Americans. President Abraham

Lincoln had shown the importance of railroads by transporting union supplies and soldiers during the Civil War. The Pacific Railway Act paid for the railroad with land grants and loans to two private railroad companies who competed to build the most tracks East to West and West to East. They met in Promontory Point, Utah and connected the country together with a gold spike. The completion of the railroad created a need for time zones as people from across the country depended on standard operating schedules to meet their trains, ending the earlier confusion. The United States was divided into four zones that we still follow today. The railroad marked a beginning in U.S. history because it made transportation of goods and people easier and faster. But, the completion of railroad marked an end for many Plains Native Americans because the Buffalo population, a main source of food, shelter, and clothing, had been depleted during its construction. Not only were the buffalo herds' migration patterns disrupted, but the railroads brought tens of thousands of new white settlers into the west. Many Plains Native Americans died because of the loss of their hunting grounds.

The effect of Westward expansion has been large, both on White Americans and Native Americans. It has created conflict and death as well as new opportunities and prosperity.

Throughout history, many efforts have been made in order to promote settlement of new lands. One of these settlements includes the movement of the frontier further west in America. Various events influenced this movement, such as the purchase of the Louisiana Territory and the discovery of gold in California. These events led to both positive and negative effects on the settlement of the West.

During the early 1800's, Thomas Jefferson was president. Napoleon approached Jefferson with the offer to buy the Louisiana Territory, a part of the French property, for 3.5 million. Jefferson had conflicts about whether to accept it or not. If he bought it, he would have to take on a loose interpretation of the constitution, since it didn't explicitly state the federal government having the right to buy more land. On the other hand, buying the territory would expand the colonies tremendously and it would give the Americans access to the Mississippi River. This was a positive effect of settlement because the Americans would have a more efficient and faster way of transport from the north to the south. It would also lead to the need for expansion of the settlements to occupy the new land.

Another event that promoted western settlement is the California Gold Rush. Once the first discovery of gold was made in 1848, the Gold Rush began. The news of this discovery spread quickly, leading to an influx of immigrants from Europe and Asia. This was a positive effect on the settlement of the west because loads of immigrants came in to the state of California to seek fortune for themselves and their families. This started to have a negative effect, however, when too many immigrants started to arrive. Foreigners from different countries weren't always necessarily welcome. For example,

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**Thematic Essay—Practice Paper – D**

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resentment and contempt grew for the Chinese immigrants, and as a result, led to the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act. This restricted immigrants from China, and so hedged the flow of immigration and settlement into the state of California.

There have been many events which have impacted the settlement of the West in America. The purchase of the Louisiana Territory helped promote the movement into the West by expanding the size of the United States and gaining control of the Mississippi River. The California Gold Rush also had a positive effect on western settlement in that it became a cause for immigration, with people wanting to expand their fortune. This later on led to a negative effect, however, with the Chinese Exclusion Act and how it halted the flow of immigrants from China. Many events throughout history impacted the settlement of the West in both a positive and negative way.

The West brought many different opportunities. Throughout history, gaining territory and expanding west has always been a goal. The westward movement of the frontier was influenced by the California Gold Rush and overcrowding of east coast cities.

In 1848, the discovery of gold brought hope of wealth. Many individuals, and families, packed everything they had and ventured west to California. Most of the people moving were poor farmers who had nothing.

The belief that there was gold west made them insane. With the poor crop production and sales, gold was their only hope. Although the people were hopeful, the Gold Rush caused many problems. Many California residents who were gold miners were not happy with newcomers. The residents made it difficult for people to not only find gold but also live. The people who had traveled from the east coast faced other problems as well. Since it was not always easy to find gold, many of them were left with less than they had when they first came. The discovery of gold in California helped expand the United States but it did not have a positive effect on the people.

Before the United States expanded, the east coast was filled with overcrowded "slums." The people that lived in these cities faced illness and uncomfortable living. The Manifest Destiny assisted in the idea of moving to western areas. As people began to move west, cities did become less crowded but the travelers faced much worse than overcrowding. Territories that were not claimed by the United States fought off these people. Many were left to continue moving and died from the journey. Others faced the anger of Native Americans who did not speak their language. The lack of communication caused the

Natives to be confused and protective of their land. Both conflicts posed threats to the travelers and the people already living in the west. Westward expansion had many negative affects. Foreign governments and Native Americans impacted the movement and stopped many travelers. Current inhabitants in California also stopped the expansion. The westward movement of the frontier was difficult because of the posing threats but helped the United States expand.

**Practice Paper A—Score Level 3**

**The response:**

- Develops most aspects of the task in some depth for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory and for the war with Mexico
- Is more descriptive than analytical (*Louisiana Territory*: in France, Napoleon Bonaparte was in power and was struggling to keep control of his empire; tremendous amount of land that included the Mississippi River; would lead to conflict with the Native Americans; the North wanted the territory to be free and the South wanted the territory to be slave states; Missouri Compromise of 1820 set a line making most of the Louisiana Territory free but allowing Missouri in as a slave state; Maine was let in as a free state to keep things balanced; *war with Mexico*: once the United States accepted Texas there was the question of the Mexican and American border; James Polk, the president, would send troops to the border, and in one instant Mexican soldiers shot at Americans; Mexicans ceded land to the United States; this would push many Americans to look to the west, where they could farm, mine, and have cattle; negative impact of this event was the question of the expansion of slavery)
- Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details (*Louisiana Territory*: offer to the United States; New Orleans; Thomas Jefferson; more land to farm; *war with Mexico*: gain its independence; become a state; Rio Grande; United States won; treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; New Mexico and Utah territories; popular sovereignty); includes an inaccuracy (*war with Mexico*: Kansas-Nebraska Act)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that notes both events raised the question of the expansion of slavery that continued until the Civil War

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 3. The response demonstrates understanding of the historical circumstances surrounding each event and the tension over the expansion of slavery that resulted from each event. However, in both examples a second effect is mentioned but not fully developed.

## Practice Paper B—Score Level 5

### The response:

- Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth for the discovery of gold in California and for the completion of the transcontinental railroad
- Is more analytical than descriptive (*gold in California*: news of the amazing discovery spread across the country and across the Pacific Ocean; for many settlers, the chance to strike it rich and make a fortune on gold was too good to resist; thousands of 49ers caught gold fever and moved west to try their luck in the Bear Flag Republic; gold mining was not the perfect opportunity many thought it would be; would-be miners often became enterprising merchants who sold shovels, sluice boxes, and other supplies that miners needed; whole towns of people formed that lived off the gold that miners found nearby; with so many trying to get rich quick, some found it easier to steal than find it themselves; lawlessness was everywhere as towns were filled with mostly young males whose leisure time included alcohol, gambling, and fighting; vigilante justice, a common way attempt to keep order, only added to the violence; *transcontinental railroad*: growth of California’s population set the stage for an event that was nearly as influential, if not more, to westward expansion—the completion of the transcontinental railroad just after the Civil War; goal was to connect California with the rest of the nation by laying tracks across the vast, little populated Great Plains and the rugged Rocky Mountains; Chinese laborers, who were often turned away from California’s gold fields, found dangerous work constructing the rail lines; towns like Omaha and Salt Lake City would be built all along the route, while cities like Chicago would grow explosively and easterners would come to make a living in emerging industries; railroad was the most efficient way to move goods from coast to coast—creating a true national market; cut straight through the main hunting grounds of the Plains Indians; caused the near extinction of the Plains Indians’ source of survival; homesteads undermined Native American Indian strength and rapidly led to their being restricted to reservations)
- Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details (*gold in California*: Sutter’s Mill; few actually found it; immigrant named Levi Strauss; nearby San Francisco; durable jeans; ghost towns; mild climate; fertile farmland; *transcontinental railroad*: manufactured products; Sioux and Cheyenne; buffalo; Buffalo Bill Cody; feed the railroad workers; sportsmen shot out of train windows; carcasses rotting)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that notes the events shaped United States history

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 5. The response employs ample analysis in its discussion of the human and economic effects of the gold rush and the transcontinental railroad. The discussion of the transcontinental railroad convincingly argues that it had a greater effect on westward expansion than the gold rush, focusing on the railroad’s positive economic effects on the United States and negative effects on Native American Indians.

## Practice Paper C—Score Level 4

### The response:

- Develops all aspects of the task for the creation of the reservation system and for the completion of the transcontinental railroad
- Is both descriptive and analytical (*reservation system*: United States has always had conflicts with Native Americans over land since the very beginning with the first settlers; Chief Justice John Marshall attempted to settle one dispute in *Worcester v. Georgia*, in which he concluded that Georgia had no jurisdiction over sovereign native lands; forced removal of eastern tribes set a precedent for moving Native Americans onto reservations after the Civil War; Dawes Act forced white American culture including religion, clothing, and the English language on Native Americans; Indian Citizenship Act in the 1920s gave Native Americans United States citizenship, despite the fact that they were already citizens of their own nations; creation of reservation systems means that today the reservations are sovereign and make tribal decisions while still being part of the United States; *transcontinental railroad*: Abraham Lincoln had shown the importance of railroads by transporting Union supplies and soldiers during the Civil War; Pacific Railway Act paid for the railroad with land grants and loans to two private railroad companies who competed to build the most tracks east to west and west to east; met in Promontory Point, Utah, and connected the country together with a gold spike; completion of the railroad created a need for time zones as people from across the country depended on standard operating schedules to meet their trains, ending the earlier confusion; United States was divided into four zones that we still follow today; marked an end for many Plains Native Americans because the buffalo population, a main source of food, shelter, and clothing, had been depleted during its construction; many Plains Native Americans died because of the loss of their hunting grounds)
- Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details (*reservation system*: President Andrew Jackson; “he has made his decision, let’s see him enforce it”; Indian Removal Act; Martin Van Buren; Trail of Tears; *transcontinental railroad*: second industrial revolution; transportation of goods and people; migration patterns disrupted; tens of thousands of new white settlers)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization; includes a brief introduction and a conclusion that connect the two events to their harmful effects on Native Americans

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 4. The response shows a good understanding of the task and includes several important ideas about the history of Native American Indians but lacks the depth, level of analysis, and detail of a Level 5 paper.

## Practice Paper D—Score Level 2

### The response:

- Minimally develops most aspects of the task for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory and for the discovery of gold in California
- Is primarily descriptive (*Louisiana Territory*: he would have to take on a loose interpretation of the Constitution; Americans would have a more efficient and faster way of transport from the north to the south; *gold in California*: the news of this discovery spread quickly, leading to an influx of immigrants from Europe and Asia; resentment and contempt grew for the Chinese immigrants, and as a result, led to the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act); includes faulty analysis (*Louisiana Territory*: it would give the Americans access to the Mississippi River)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details; includes inaccuracies (*Louisiana Territory*: buy the Louisiana Territory for 3.5 million; would expand the colonies)
- Demonstrates a satisfactory plan of organization; includes an introduction that restates the theme and a conclusion that reviews some of the major points of the response

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 2. The response includes some accurate information but addresses the task in a limited and somewhat repetitive way.

## Practice Paper E—Score Level 1

### The response:

- Minimally develops some aspects of the task for the discovery of gold in California
- Is descriptive (*gold in California*: miners were not happy with newcomers; the residents made it difficult for people to not only find gold but also to live; since it was not always easy to find gold, many of them were left with less than they had when they first came)
- Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details
- Demonstrates a general plan of organization; includes an introduction and conclusion that restate the theme

**Conclusion:** Overall, the response fits the criteria for Level 1. The discussion of the Gold Rush includes several generalizations with no specific supporting information. The discussion of the overcrowding of eastern cities fails to correctly address the task.

# United States History and Government Specifications June 2019

## Part I Multiple-Choice Questions by Standard

Standard	Question Numbers
1—United States and New York History	1, 4, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 31, 32, 35, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 50
2—World History	37, 39, 40, 44
3—Geography	2, 21, 30, 38
4—Economics	14, 15, 17, 19, 25, 28, 29, 33, 36, 49
5—Civics, Citizenship, and Government	3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 18, 23, 34, 43, 48

## Parts II and III by Theme and Standard

	Theme	STANDARDS
Thematic Essay	Change; Citizenship; Diversity; Foreign Policy; Government; Immigration and Migration; Technology; Presidential Decisions and Actions	Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5: United States and New York History; World History; Geography; Economics; Civics, Citizenship, and Government
Document-based Essay	Citizenship; Civic Values; Diversity; Environment; Government; Individuals, Groups, Institutions; Presidential Decisions and Actions; Technology	Standards 1, 2, 3, and 5: United States and New York History; World History; Geography; Civics, Citizenship, and Government

### *Notes:*

Part II scoring information is found in Volume 1 of the Rating Guide.

Part III scoring information is found in Volume 2 of the Rating Guide.

**The *Chart for Determining the Final Examination Score for the June 2019 Regents Examination in United States History and Government* will be posted on the Department's web site at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/> on the day of the examination. Conversion charts provided for the previous administrations of the United States History and Government examination must NOT be used to determine students' final scores for this administration.**

### **Submitting Teacher Evaluations of the Test to the Department**

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State assessments. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. Instructions for completing the evaluation form are as follows:

1. Go to <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/exameval/reexameval.cfm>.
2. Select the test title.
3. Complete the required demographic fields.
4. Complete each evaluation question and provide comments in the space provided.
5. Click the SUBMIT button at the bottom of the page to submit the completed form.