
AP[®] United States History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

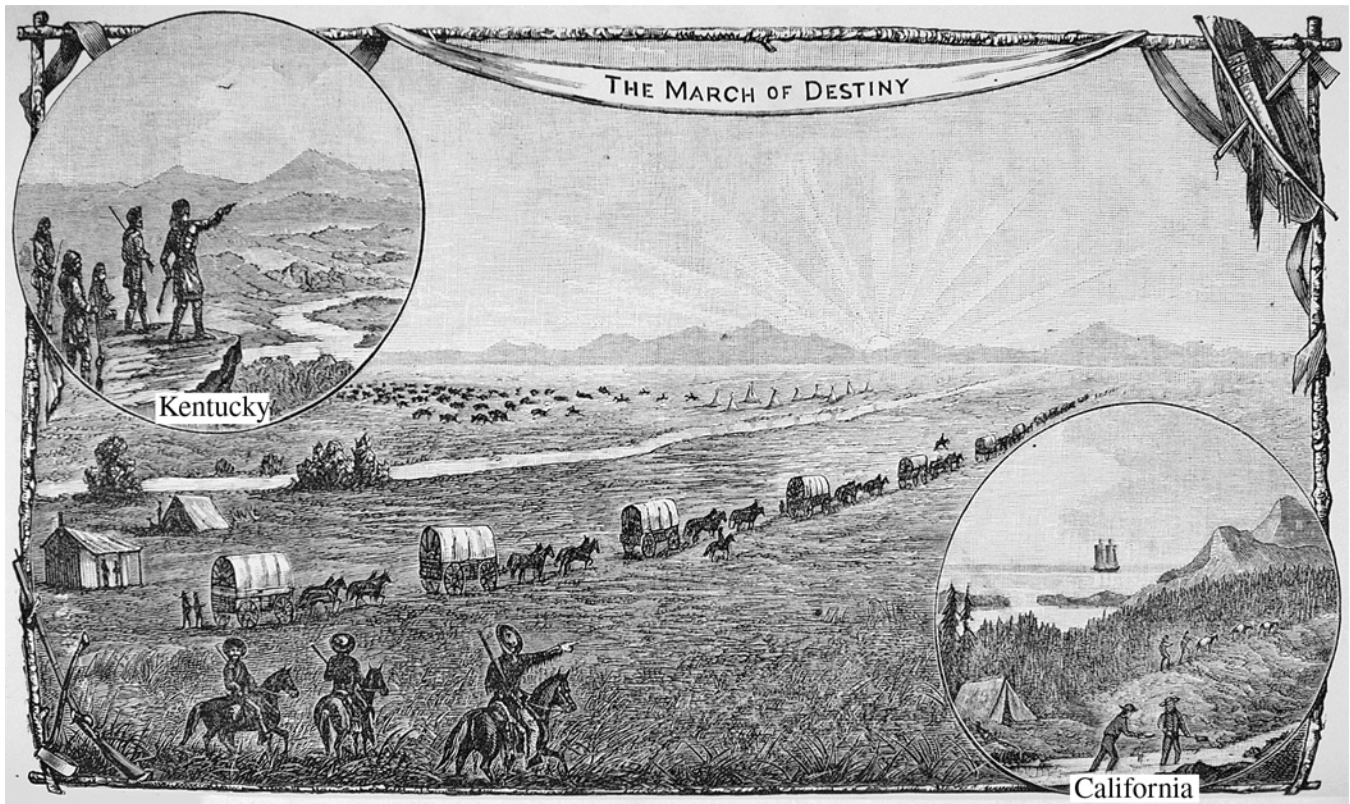
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Short Answer Question 2



Using the image above, which depicts the first half of the nineteenth century, answer (a), (b), and (c).

- Briefly describe ONE historical perspective expressed in the image.
- Briefly explain how ONE specific event or development in the period from 1800 to 1850 contributed to the process depicted in the image.
- Briefly explain ONE specific historical effect in the period from 1844 to 1890 that resulted from the process depicted in the image.

Scoring Guide

0–3 points

Score 3

Response accomplishes **all three** tasks set by the question.

Score 2

Response accomplishes **two** of the tasks set by the question.

Score 1

Response accomplishes **one** of the tasks set by the question.

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Short Answer Question 2 (continued)

Score 0

Response accomplishes **none** of the tasks set by the question.

Score NR

Is completely blank

Question-Specific Scoring Guide

- ONE point for describing ONE historical perspective expressed in the image
- ONE point for explaining how ONE specific event or development in the period from 1800 to 1850 contributed to the process depicted in the image
- ONE point for explaining ONE specific historical effect in the period from 1844 to 1890 that resulted from the process depicted in the image

Scoring Notes

Introductory notes:

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These rubrics require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.

Examples of responses to (a) that would earn credit:

- Artist supports Manifest Destiny and the spread of United States settlers westward; image suggests that American civilization is spreading.
- Image in upper left suggests explorers discovering land that appears to be unoccupied.
- The image of the wagon train in the center suggests progress and movement of people westward.
- The image may connote that homesteading and establishing new farms will improve the West.
- Depiction of American Indians suggests that they are passive observers of United States westward expansion/accepting of United States expansion.
- The depiction of the sun suggests the light of progress through United States westward expansion (sun is either rising or setting).
- The image in the lower right depicts people digging for gold in California, which suggests the many ways to profit from westward movements (e.g., fur trapping, cattle ranching, mining, farming, commercial shipping, trade).
- All of these views associate Manifest Destiny and the western expansion of the United States with economic progress, social and geographic mobility, religious mission, and ideas of racial superiority.
- These views also associate Manifest Destiny with white male settlers.

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Short Answer Question 2 (continued)

Examples of responses to (b) that would earn credit:

- The Louisiana Purchase added to the territory of the United States that was accessible for national expansion.
- The War of 1812 and the defeat of Tecumseh’s Indian Confederacy opened the Old Northwest to United States settlement.
- Promotion of the idea of opportunities in the West through the press and by journalists (e.g., John L. O’Sullivan, Horace Greeley) encouraged Americans to move west.
- Mexican–American War and the resulting acquisition of new land by the United States opened new land for United States settlement.
- Particular population movements into the West contributed to or facilitated westward mobility.
 - Migration of family farmers for economic opportunity
 - Emergence of new cities and towns in the West
 - Oregon Trail allowing for westward movement
 - Mormon migration
 - Free-soilers moving to the West
- Expanded transportation networks (e.g., canals and railroads) facilitated westward expansion.
- Economic development of the West encouraged westward migration.
 - Agricultural staple production in the Midwest
 - Cotton production and slavery expanding to the West
 - Growth of the internal slave trade
 - Fur trade in the Pacific Northwest
 - Development of extractive industries such as mining
 - Gold rushes in California and elsewhere
 - Development of cattle ranching
- American Indian removal led to the dispossession of land that could then be acquired by U.S. western migrants.

Examples of responses to (c) that would earn credit:

- Mexican–American War and the resulting acquisition of new land for the United States.
- Controversies over the spread of slavery to the West, which ultimately led to the Civil War.
 - Kansas–Nebraska Act
 - Compromise of 1850
 - Free Soil Party
 - Foundation of the Republican Party
- Developments that contributed to the continuation of population movement into the West between 1844 and 1890.
 - Migration of family farmers for economic opportunity
 - Emergence of new cities and towns in the West (e.g., Chicago)
 - African American “Exoduster” migration from the South
- Expanded transportation networks and greater integration of the West with the economies of the Northeast and Midwest (e.g., transcontinental railroads).
- Continued economic development of the West.
 - Farming on the Great Plains
 - Largely extractive industries such as mining
 - Gold rushes in California and elsewhere
 - Cattle ranching
- Federal government encouragement of western development (e.g., Homestead Act, railroad land grants, and subsidies).

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Short Answer Question 2 (continued)

- United States westward expansion created conflicts between white settlers and American Indians.
 - Wars between federal government and American Indians (e.g., Sand Creek massacre (1864), General George Custer’s campaigns, Battle of Little Big Horn (1876), Dawes Act (1887), Wounded Knee (1890))
 - Forcing of American Indians onto reservations
- More interest by business leaders in gaining access to and control over external markets in Latin America and beyond.
- Destruction of American bison (buffalo) and reduction in other natural resources in the West.
- International migrants from places such as eastern Asia came to the western United States for labor and economic opportunities.
- The desire of white Americans to exclude nonwhite immigrants from competing for economic opportunities in the West led to immigration restrictions such as the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882).
- Western Agrarian activists (e.g., Grangers, Farmer’s Alliance/Populists) organized to oppose the monopolistic practices of western transportation companies and agribusinesses.

NOTE: *Be sure to note the overlapping dates on (b) and (c) and make sure the answers for (b) and (c) are within the correct time period specified.*

NOTE: *It may be acceptable for test takers to use some of the same examples to respond to either (b) or (c) as long as they show how the evidence is appropriate for each part of the question. Merely mentioning an event will not result in the awarding of points in part (b) and (c). Responses must provide an explanation that answers the relevant question.*

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

- a. The concept of Manifest Destiny is evident within the image, an ideology which postulated that it was America's divine right to expand westward, supported by ~~the~~ things such as the Homestead Act to encourage Americans to occupy the "frontier."
- b. The 1849 California Gold Rush prompted tens of thousands of individuals in the East to sell their belongings, pack up their families, and move west in search of new found riches.
- c. The Pacific Railway Act and the construction of a transcontinental railway directly arose from westward expansion to connect the west and agricultural Midwest to the Eastern United States. As more people moved west, it was deemed essential to connect them to the east both for individual movement ~~but also~~ and movement of goods.

End of response area for Q2

Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2** on this page only. Do **NOT** write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

- a. The perspective of manifest destiny is shown through the image. American colonists expanded ~~ed~~ westward due to their belief that it was their God given right to control the entire continent, East to West. This perspective increased nationalism and sparked conflicts over newly acquired land.
- b. The process depicted is western expansion. A monumental progression in that area was the Louisiana Purchase. Known as the Best Deal of all time, America nearly doubled its size after France sold the land to Thomas Jefferson. This event began the idea of western expansion, and was the first to allow Americans the freedom to pick up and start over somewhere else.
- c. Within western expansion, there layed the issue of Native Americans. Through various treaties, their land had continued to be reduced and taken over by mostly European settlers and then the colonists. However the most devastating effect on Native Americans was the Indian Removal Act, followed by the Trail of Tears. These events devastated the Native American population, all in the name of manifest destiny or western expansion.

End of response area for Q2

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

A.) One historical perspective expressed in the image is the idea of Manifest Destiny. The concept that it was America's god-given right to expand into whatever territory they felt was theirs can be seen in this image as it is titled "The March of Destiny" (emphasis on "Destiny"), & quite clearly depicts Americans travelling east from Kentucky westward out to California.

B.) ~~The First~~ The Second Great Awakening helped contribute to the process depicted in the images. As Americans were influenced by the movement telling them to have faith & embrace newfound ideas of personal liberties & freedoms, this further enforced the idea that it was practically the American's responsibility to claim & expand into the new territory of the west.

C.) The ~~cross~~ displacement of ^{population drop} Native Americans was a result of the concept of Manifest Destiny. For example, The Trail of Tears is a prime example. The Trail of Tears occurred after President Andrew Jackson facilitated the uprooting of hundreds of thousands of Native Americans from western lands. This caused a severe population dip in the Native American population as the traveling conditions were vile & many were lucky to be alive by the end.

End of response area for Q2

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2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Short Answer Question 2

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

- The responses to this question were expected to demonstrate understanding and analysis of a primary source image depicting Manifest Destiny and westward expansion. Students first needed to describe one historical perspective expressed in the image. Then they needed to explain how one specific event or development in the period from 1800 to 1850 contributed to the process depicted in the image. Finally, they needed to explain one specific historical effect in the period from 1844 to 1890 that resulted from the process depicted in the image.
- Students needed to be able to understand historical perspective, as well as cause and effect. Because part (b) required students to explain an event or development from 1800 to 1850, and part (c) required them to explain a specific historical effect from 1844 to 1890, the chronological overlap between the two parts also made it necessary for responses to demonstrate knowledge of dates of key historical events.
- This question focused on analyzing historical evidence and causation.
- This question addressed Key Concept 5.1.

Sample: 2A

Score: 3

The response to (a) earned 1 point by accurately associating the image with Manifest Destiny, and the response more than adequately describes the concept.

The response to (b) earned 1 point by explaining the economic potential of the California Gold Rush as a reason for westward movement.

The response to (c) earned 1 point by explaining the effect that westward expansion had on transportation and industry.

Sample: 2B

Score: 2

The response to (a) earned 1 point by accurately associating the image with Manifest Destiny, and the response adequately describes the concept.

The response to (b) earned 1 point by explaining the role of the Louisiana Purchase as sparking westward expansion during the time period.

The response to (c) did not earn a point because it lacks specifics, and the examples used (Indian Removal Act and Trail of Tears) are out of the time period.

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Short Answer Question 2 (continued)

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

The response to (a) earned 1 point by accurately associating the image with Manifest Destiny, and the response adequately describes this concept.

The response to (b) did not earn a point because it does not connect the Second Great Awakening with a specific development that led to westward expansion.

The response to (c) did not earn a point because the example used, the Trail of Tears, is out of the time period.