

The College Board
Advanced Placement Examination
UNITED STATES HISTORY

Section II

Part A

(Suggested writing time—40 minutes)

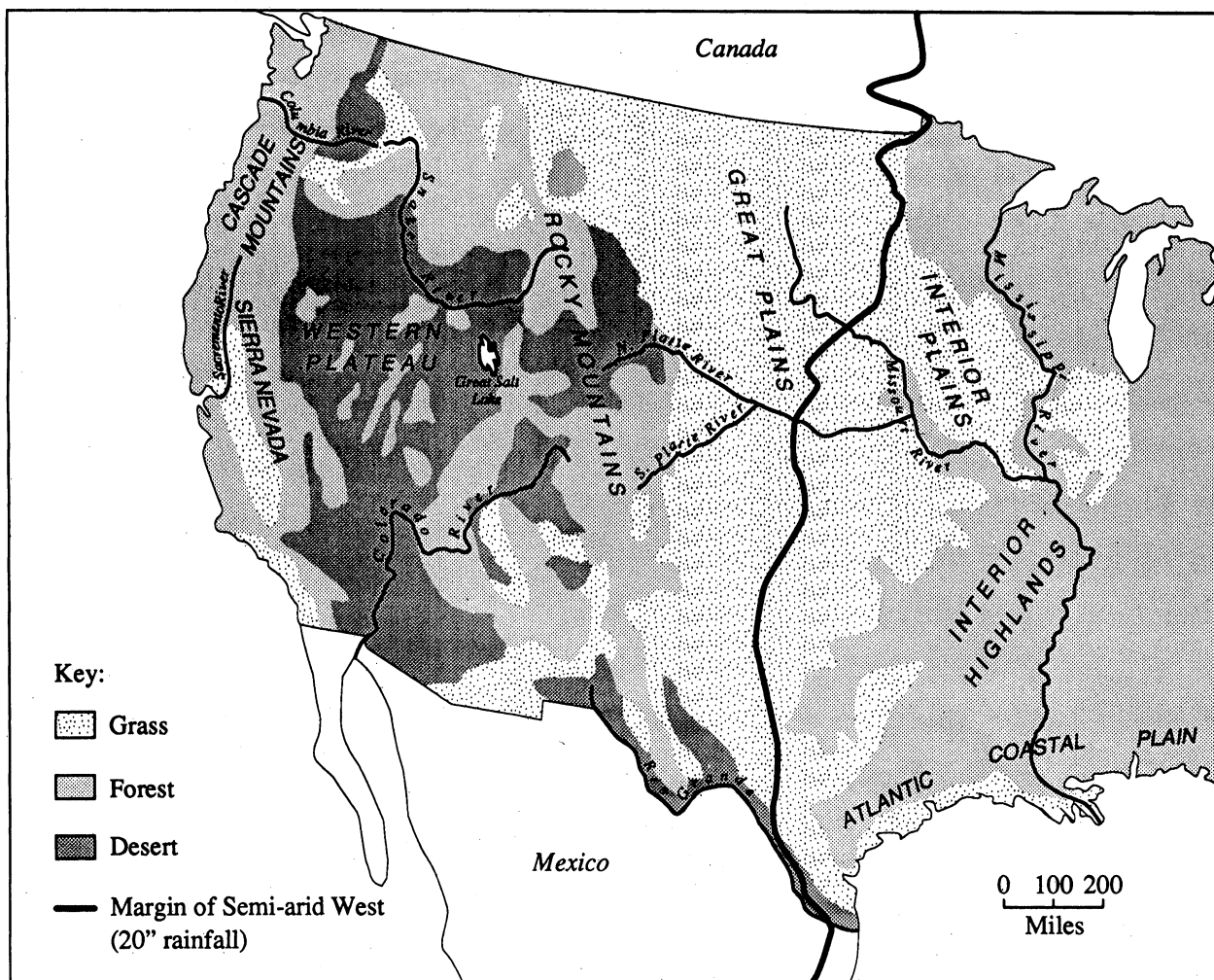
Percent of Section II score—50

Directions: The following question requires you to construct a coherent essay that integrates your interpretation of Documents A-I and your knowledge of the period referred to in the question. High scores will be earned only by essays that both cite key pieces of evidence from the documents and draw on outside knowledge of the period.

1. To what extent did the natural environment shape the development of the West beyond the Mississippi and the lives of those who lived and settled there? How important were other factors?

Use BOTH evidence from the documents AND your knowledge of the period from the 1840's through the 1890's to compose your answer.

Document A



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Source: President James K. Polk's Message to Congress, December 2, 1845.

Oregon is a part of the North American continent, to which . . . the title of the United States is the best now in existence. The British proposition of compromise, which would make the Columbia [River] the line south of 49° . . . and would leave on the British side two-thirds of the whole Oregon Territory, including the free navigation of the Columbia and all the valuable harbors on the Pacific, can never for a moment be entertained by the United States without an abandonment of their just and clear territorial rights, their own self-respect, and the national honor.

Document C

Source: L. R. Hafen, *Recollections of a Handcart Pioneer* (an account of the 1846-1847 trek to Salt Lake City).

The emigrants were entirely ignorant of the country and climate. . . . But Levi Savage used his common sense and his knowledge of the country. He declared positively that . . . we could not cross the mountains with a mixed company of aged people, women, and little children, so late in the season without much suffering, sickness, and death. He therefore advised going into winter quarters without delay; but he was rebuked by the other elders for want of faith. . . . Savage was accordingly defeated, as the majority were against him. . . .

Cold weather, scarcity of food, lassitude and fatigue from over-exertion, soon produced their effects. . . . We soon thought it unusual to leave a camp-ground without burying one or more persons.

Death was not long confined to the old and infirm, but the young and naturally strong were among its victims. . . . Weakness and debility were accompanied by dysentery. This we could not stop or even alleviate, no proper medicine being in the camp; and in almost every instance it carried off the parties attacked.

Document D

Source: W.G.M. Samuel, West Side Main Plaza, San Antonio, Texas 1849



Witte Memorial Museum, San Antonio Museum Association,
San Antonio, Texas.

Document E

Source: *Diary of Lucy Henderson Deady* (ca.1850).

Three days after my little sister Lettie drank the laudanum [that mother had brought along as medicine] and died, we stopped for a few hours, and my sister Olivia was born. . . . We could not tarry a day, . . . we had to press on. . . . There was no road. . . . It was a very rough ride for my mother and her new born babe.

After a great hardship . . . we finally made our way through . . . to Oregon. . . . We had been eight months on the road instead of five, we were out of food, and our cattle were nearly worn out. . . . There were five of us children. . . . We lived on boiled wheat and boiled peas that winter.

Document F

Source: Acts of the Wyoming Territorial Legislature, 1869 and 1870

AN ACT to confer to women all the rights of citizenship.

That every woman of the age of twenty-one years, residing in the territory, may, at every election to be holden under the laws thereof, cast her vote; and her rights to the elective franchise, and to hold office, shall be the same, under the election laws of the territory, as those of the electors.

AN ACT to protect married women in their separate property, and the enjoyment of their labor.

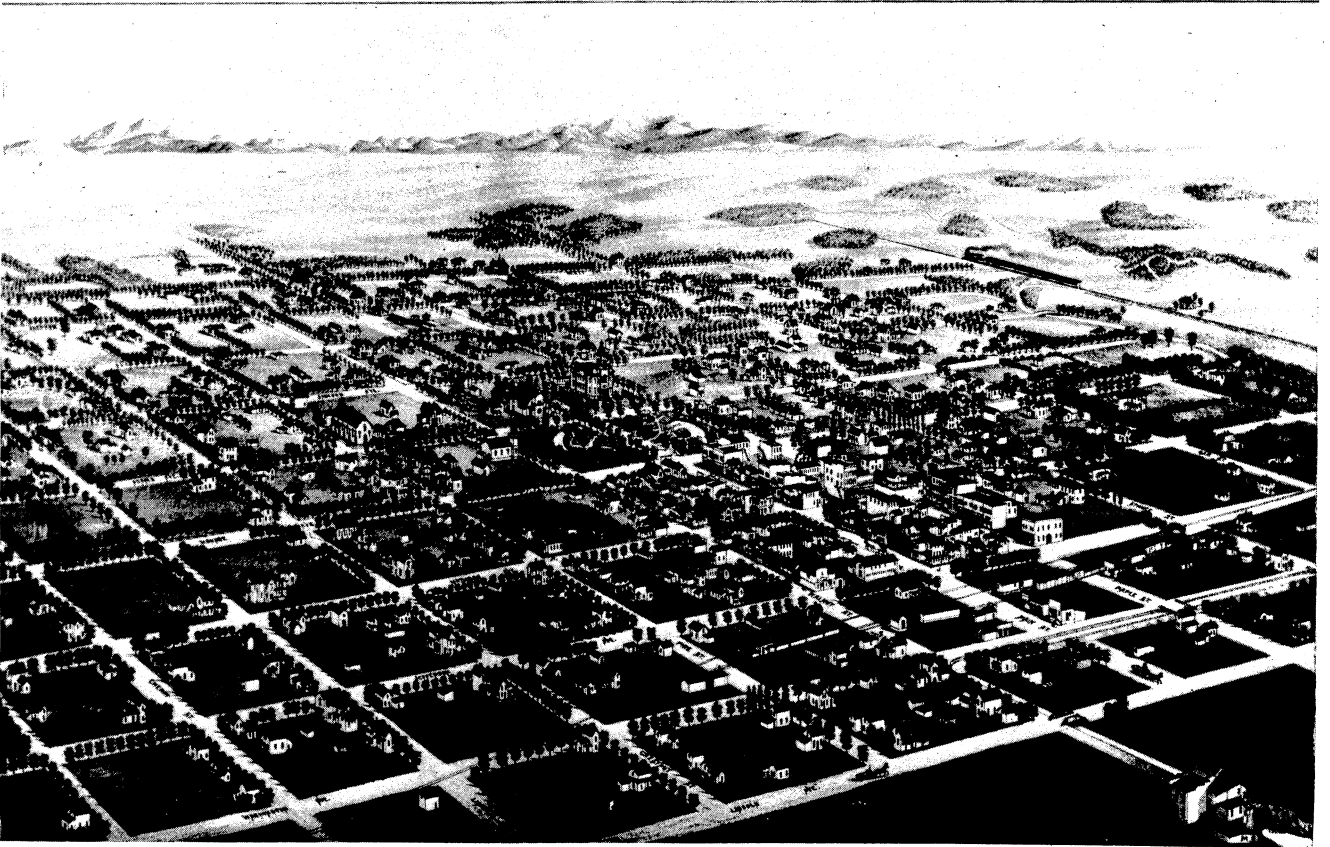
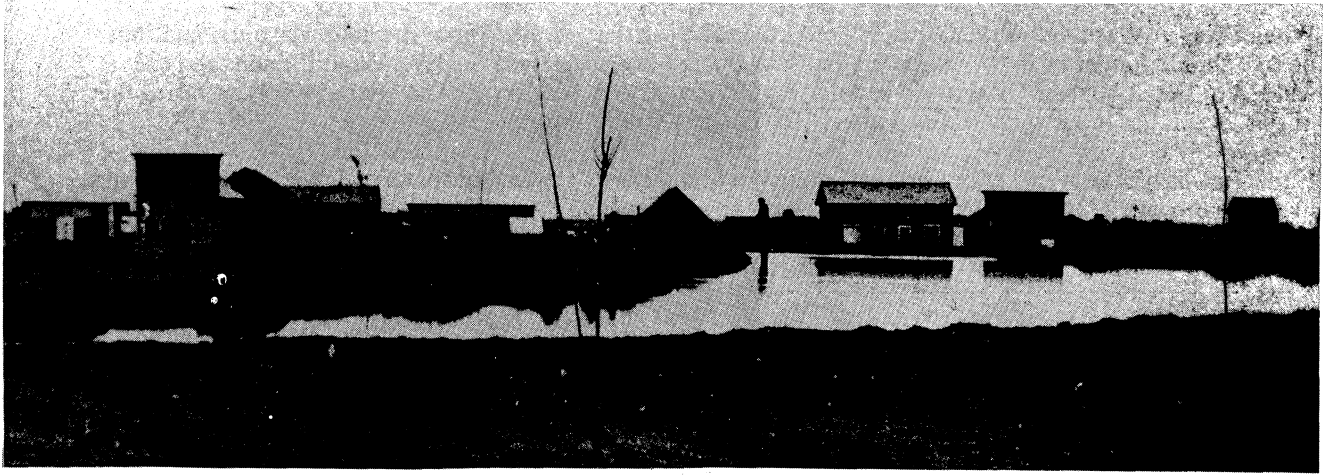
Section 1. That all the property, both real and personal, belonging to any married woman as her sole and separate property . . . shall, notwithstanding her marriage, be and remain . . . , her sole and separate property, under her sole control, and be held, owned, possessed and enjoyed by her, the same as though she were sole [single] and unmarried, and shall not be subject to the disposal, control or interference of her husband.

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Document G

Source: Greeley, Colorado in 1870 and 1882



City of Greeley Museum

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Document H

Source: Parra-Wa-Samen (Ten Bears) of the Yamparika Comanches (ca. 1872).

When I was at Washington the Great White Father told me that all the Comanche land was ours, and that no one should hinder us in living upon it. So, why do you ask us to leave the rivers, and the sun, and the wind, and live in houses? Do not ask us to give up the buffalo for the sheep. The young men have heard talk of this, and it has made them sad and angry. Do not speak of it more. . . .

If the Texans had kept out of my country, there might have been peace. But that which you now say we must live on is too small. The Texans have taken away the places where the grass grew the thickest and the timber was the best. Had we kept that, we might have done the things you ask. But it is too late. The white man has the country which we loved, and we only wish to wander on the prairie until we die.

Document I

Source: Andy Adams, *The Log of a Cowboy* (ca. 1882).

The first week after leaving San Antonio, our foreman scouted in quest of water a full day in advance of the herd. One evening he returned to us with the news that we were in for a dry drive, for after passing the next chain of lakes it was sixty miles to the next water, and reports regarding the water supply even after crossing this arid stretch were very conflicting.

‘While I know every foot of this trail through here,’ said the forman, ‘There’s several things that look scaly. There are only five herds ahead of us, and the first three went through the old route, but the last two, after passing Indian Lakes, for some reason or other turned and went westward. These last herds may be stock cattle, pushing out west to new ranges; but I don’t like the outlook. It would take me two days to ride across and back, and by that time we could be two thirds of the way through. I’ve made this drive before without a drop of water on the way, and wouldn’t dread it now, if there was any certainty of water at the other end. I reckon there’s nothing to do but tackle her; but isn’t this a hell of a country? I’ve ridden fifty miles to-day and never saw a soul.’

END OF DOCUMENTS FOR QUESTION 1.

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