

Option 24/25 scheme of work



The American West, c1835–c1895
GCSE (9-1) History

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in History (1HI0)

Introduction

This document provides a sample outline scheme of work for the **American West, c1835–c1895**.

This is intended as an example approach only and is not prescriptive: it should be adapted by schools to fit their timetabling and staffing arrangements.

The scheme assumes 12 teaching weeks for the Period study.

The separate **Course planner** document provides a range of examples of delivery options that can be used for planning alongside this document.

The separate **Topic booklet** for Option 24/25 includes illustrative exemplification of content.

In adapting this scheme of work, teachers might find it useful to consider the following:

- What, and how much, background and contextual material needs to be covered as an introduction and overview before starting the main specification content.
- The focus of the question types in the assessment of the Period study:
 - Explain two consequences of...
 - Write a narrative account analysing...
 - Explain the importance of x for y...

Week	Specification content
1	<p>Key topic 1.1 The Plains Indians: their beliefs and way of life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and tribal structures, ways of life and means of survival on the Plains. • Beliefs about land and nature and attitudes to war and property. • US government policy: support for US westward expansion and the significance of the Permanent Indian Frontier. The Indian Appropriations Act 1851.
2	<p>Key topic 1.2 Migration and early settlement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The factors encouraging migration, including economic conditions, the Oregon Trail from 1836, the concept of Manifest Destiny, and the Gold Rush of 1849. • The process and problems of migration, including the experiences of the Donner Party and the Mormon migration, 1846–47. • The development and problems of white settlement farming.
3	<p>Key topic 1.3 Conflict and tension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for tension between settlers and Plains Indians. The significance of the Fort Laramie Treaty 1851. • The problems of lawlessness in early towns and settlements. Attempts by government and local communities to tackle lawlessness.
4	<p>Key topic 2.1 The development of settlement in the West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significance of the Civil War and post war reconstruction, including the impact of the Homestead Act 1862, the Pacific Railroad Act 1862, and the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad, 1869. • Attempts at solutions to problems faced by homesteaders: the use of new methods and new technology; the impact of the Timber Culture Act 1873 and of the spread of the railroad network. • Continued problems of law and order in settlements, and attempted solutions, including the roles of law officers and increases in federal government influence.

Week	Specification content
5	<p>Key topic 2.2 Ranching and the cattle industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cattle industry and factors in its growth, including the roles of Iliff, McCoy and Goodnight and the use of the railroad network. • The impact of changes in ranching on the work of the cowboy. • Rivalry between ranchers and homesteaders.
6	<p>Key topic 2.3 Changes in the way of life of the Plains Indians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of railroads, the cattle industry and gold prospecting on the Plains Indians. • The impact of US government policy towards the Plains Indians, including the continued use of reservations. President Grant's 'Peace Policy', 1868.
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with the Plains Indians: Little Crow's War (1862) and the Sand Creek Massacre (1864), the significance of Red Cloud's War (1866–68) and the Fort Laramie Treaty (1868).
8	<p>Key topic 3.1 Changes in farming, the cattle industry and settlement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in farming: the impact of new technology and new farming methods. • Changes in the cattle industry, including the impact of the winter of 1886–87. The significance of changes in the nature of ranching: the end of the open range. • Continued growth of settlement: the Exoduster movement and Kansas (1879), the Oklahoma Land Rush of 1893.
9	<p>Key topic 3.2 Conflict and tension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of solutions to problems of law and order: sheriffs and marshals. The significance of Billy the Kid, OK Corral (1881), Wyatt Earp. • The range wars, including the Johnson County War of 1892.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with the Plains Indians: the Battle of the Little Big Horn, 1876 and its impact; the Wounded Knee Massacre, 1890.
11	<p>Key topic 3.3 The Plains Indians: the destruction of their way of life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hunting and extermination of the buffalo. • The Plains Indians' life on the reservations. • The significance of changing government attitudes to the Plains Indians, including the Dawes Act 1887 and the closure of the Indian Frontier.

Week	Specification content
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="416 256 1301 284">• <i>Review and assessment of The American West, c1835–c1895.</i>