

Score Level 5

Throughout the history of the United States different individuals and groups have held a variety of perspectives on important issues.

Easternness moving westward is one of these issues. For many

Americans, the move west was a part of the Manifest Destiny of the United States, but for others it meant the end of a way of life.

One event in the United States' history was when European Americans or pioneers moved westward.

They decided to move westward because of the gold rush in California. Back

then, everybody's dream is to be rich.

This was a big opportunity to gain their dream. Also, moving westward meant

equality. You could make up your own rules. You would get along

with everybody. You could have your own bit of "Paradise." Nobody could boss you around or tell you what to do. Who would not want that?

Another big impact in the United States was the railroads on the west. Before railroads were built in the west, they were built in the North East. This made trading easier and boomed up the economy. Now having railroads in the west you could ~~have~~ make ~~your~~ good money. You could ~~to~~ give you ~~to~~ raw goods to the factories and they would pay you. Also it would ruin the Indian's land which you would see in a little while.

Instead of having open land, the land would now be full of train tracks.

Also you could travel from east to west much more faster than what

the pioneers did. You won't have to worry about your horses dying or catching disease or be exhausted because you could ride on a train

for the 4 days it takes to get there  
and do nothing but relay.

Western expansion changed the  
lives of the Native Americans drastically.

The Native Americans were forced  
to move from one place to another  
living on reservations while your  
land is being destroyed. Train tracks  
were taken up the land and  
animals would just be killed for  
food and be left to rot while you  
can make lots of stuff with also.  
Lots of tribes were wiped out  
because they weren't use to the  
white men's diseases. One terrible  
thing the white men did was they  
laid blankets covered with diseases  
on the Native American's ~~land~~ land.  
When the Native Americans found  
those blankets, they ~~do~~ decide not to  
waste them. They used them for  
everything. They would all die and  
the white men would take over the  
land. There were some tribes

that did not let ~~them~~  
them had be taken <sup>away</sup> ~~away~~ from them.  
They put on a fight. They also  
killed ~~so~~ a lot's of Native Americans  
because they didn't have the rifles  
like we did to defend themselves.

Lots of chiefs died, Chusken froze  
and died. If you look at  
Chief Joseph of Nez Percé's surrender,  
you could see how ~~tired~~ ~~to~~  
tired and sick he was saying how  
he will fight no more... forever  
~~and that the Native Americans~~  
~~are still suffering because we did~~  
~~not give them help that they~~  
~~needed.~~

In conclusion, the expansion  
moving westward changed the  
United States in a good way and a  
bad way. These ~~are~~ three examples  
cause a great impact for present-day  
America. In my opinion, even  
though I feel bad for the  
Native Americans ~~in~~ the expansion

westward not only made American  
loggers, but it helped us clear  
it improved our economy and with  
the trains and railroads, it made us  
improve our technology.

**Commentary  
Score Level 5**

- Thoroughly addresses all aspects of the *Task* by accurately analyzing and interpreting four of the documents
- Incorporates information from the documents in the body of the essay, analyzing and discussing, where appropriate, but not copying the documents
- Incorporates outside information relative to the documents (e.g., use of the railroad for east-west trade, reference to reservations and disease for Native American Indians, an explanation for the waste that resulted from the killing of the buffalo)
- Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization
- Includes an introduction and conclusion that shows an understanding of the topic

**Conclusion**

Overall, the response fits the criteria for a 5. All aspects of the task have been addressed. The student analyzed the documents and incorporated adequate outside information.

## Score Level 5

Westward expansion changed the lives of many Native Americans. We came and took over their land and their resources. We also started wars with them for their land.

The Native Americans used every part of the animal they killed. They ate the meat and used the bones for tools and hide for blankets. Buffalo hides were extremely important to the Dakota tribe because they used them as the covering for their tipis. When we came we just shot buffaloes for fun and pleasure. ~~We~~ They left the buffaloes to die without eating the meat or using their hide. The Native Americans hunted when they needed food and hides, and we hunted when we didn't need food or hides. When we shoot buffaloes for fun the Native Americans were the ones suffering from it. The shooting of animals such as buffaloes will lessen the ~~population~~ population and make the herds move on. The Native Americans ~~are~~ are dependent on the buffalo herds so they move with the herd. When we just shoot ~~the~~ the buffalo the Indians have to move and the population is extremely lower. So when we kill them there will be no herd for them to follow.

Harriet Scott Palmer's Family is an example of a family who moved west to live. Her father wanted to "go west" because there were much better and beautiful things in the west. One of the reasons people wanted to "Go West" was that there were great gold discoveries. Everyone thought that when you go west you will be come rich from finding gold. Another reason families were moving west was for the scenery and land. There were wonderful fertile valleys in the Oregon Territory. Her family was going to go and live in the gold rich and fertile Oregon Territory.

In the west there was a thing called the homestead Act. There were 160 acres in the Homestead Act. They set aside 160 acres so people could move in and start towns. This Act encouraged more people to move westward. This encouraged them by knowing that when they get there, there is a big piece of land waiting for them to come and inhabit. There was a poster that said "Grand Rush for the Indian Territory". Below that it said 15,000,000 Acres of land open for settlement. That is like saying you indians get out of here and we can take your land. The Indians land was being taken without there consent. They had no choice to give the land up. This is like taxation without representation we didn't like it and we doing almost the same to the indians. We are taking there land without there consent.

Another factor that increased the rush to

get to the West was the rail roads. You could travel from ~~Ohio~~ Omaha to San Francisco in 4 day in 1869. This rail road went from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This poster ~~advis~~ This rail road advertised that you're avoiding the danger of sea travel, there are luxurious cars and eating houses. It also said that there are sleeping cars and people could get to the gold silver and other minerals. The railroads greatly increased westward travel. The only thing the rail roads cared about was how much money they made. They didn't care if they were pushing the Native Americans out of their homes.

During ~~all~~ of this expansion the Native Americans started a war with the United States. The chief of the Nez Perce said he was tired of fighting. This means the Indians are giving up faith that they'll get their territory back. He also said all of the chiefs are dead. The Indians have no more leaders and they will have no more land. The Indians are so sick of the fight that some just ran up into the hills and never came back. The Indian ~~know~~ knew they were going to die but they did it so they could die on their ~~own~~ hereditary land. When all the fighting was through the tribes were killed and chieftains along with them. The Indians were forced to go live in little areas set aside for these tribes to live. The areas weren't even big enough for the tribes to live normally.



Westward expansion had its advantages and disadvantages. We got new territory at a cost. The cost was destroying the ritual owners of the United States tribes and lives.

### Commentary Score Level 5

- Thoroughly addresses all aspects of the *Task*
- Uses six of the documents, with analysis ("Native Americans were nomadic, moved with the buffalo, killing the buffalo meant no herds to follow")
- Includes accurate information from the documents about reasons for westward movement (e.g., Gold Rush, fertile land, free land/Homestead Act, improved transportation)
- Richly supports essay with accurate facts and examples about the clash of cultures on the Western frontier (e.g., lifestyle destroyed, land taken away unfairly, necessity of the buffalo for housing and food)
- Incorporates relevant outside information (uses analogy of taking Indian land with British taxation without representation)

### Conclusion

This is a low 5. There is strong and rich content. However, the organization is weak. The student organized the essay from document 1 through document 7 rather than explaining the reasons for westward movement and then the impact on the Native American Indian culture. While there is outside information, a high 5 would have incorporated more extensive outside knowledge.

#### Score Level 4

Throughout the history of the United States, different individuals & groups have a variety of perspectives on important issues. Easterners moving westward is one of these issues. For many Americans, the move west was a part of the Manifest Destiny of the United States, but for others it meant the end of a way of life.

European Americans moved westward for a variety of reasons. Some liked the adventure of the wilderness, others went to seek gold out in California, & a few moved out to the fertile land, because their own had run out of much ~~nutrients~~ of the nutrients in new land. After the Homestead Act was passed, even more people started moving, because people wanted all of the free land they could get.

Railroads helped settle the west. It made it easier to travel the far distance that had to be traveled. It also made it less like the wilderness, because more supplies could be circulated.

The Indians were greatly affected by expansionism. The more railroads ~~were~~ were made + the more free land was given out, the harder the Indians struggled. Buffalo were often killed for sport or for specific parts + left to be wasted by Americans, while if Indians killed buffalo, they would use the entire thing, because they understood you can not take ~~that~~ things like that for granted. Indians had to move further + further west, until there was nowhere else for them to go, which is when they were forced onto reservations.

Throughout the history of the United States, different individuals + groups have held a variety of perspectives on important issues. Moving and expanding westward was one arguable ~~opinion~~ opinion of people.

#### Commentary Score Level 4

- Mostly demonstrates why settlers moved west (e.g., adventure of wilderness, gold, fertile land, free land)
- Mostly demonstrates an understanding of the impact railroads had on the West (e.g., easier to travel, move supplies)
- Mostly demonstrates understanding of how the westward expansion changed the lives of Native American Indians (e.g., killed buffalo, created reservations)
- Some analysis of the documents (e.g., killing of buffalo for pleasure vs. using all parts, selling of land resulting in Native American Indians being moved to reservations)
- Incorporates some examples of additional information (e.g., reservations, adventure of wilderness)
- Initial paragraph restates theme and there is a concluding paragraph; essay demonstrates organization
- Contains no factual errors

#### Conclusion

This essay represents the criteria for a high 4.

#### Score Level 4

Two reasons why European Americans moved westward was the discovery of gold in California and because there was a lot of fertile land that would be good for farming on. There was also the Homestead Act which gave homesteaders 160 Acres.

The impact of the railroads in the west had a great part in the expansion of the Great Plains, which was in the west. The railroads could transport large amounts of cargo in a very short amount of time.

The railroads also brought travelers who rode the railroads because of the scenery, food and the luxurious cars for sleeping. They could go to California in four days.

The Westward movement changed the lives of Native Americans because the Westward movement brought many European Americans to the areas where the Native Americans had settled. These European Americans kicked

the Native Americans off their land and settled on it. They did this by force. An example of this was when chief Joseph said "we are tired... our chiefs were killed... we are cold and don't have enough blankets." So you can see that they drove the Native Americans off the land by force. The European Americans tried to make up for this by giving the Native Americans settlements of 15,000,000 acres to settle on, but the Europeans just kept taking the land away.

Another reason why the Native Americans lives changed was that the European Americans

Another reason why the Native Americans lives changed was that the European Americans would shoot the buffalo for fun and let them sit there to rot. When the Native Americans killed buffalo they used the whole thing. They would use it for food, clothing and housing. When the European Americans shot the buffalo they decreased the buffalos population so almost where they were endangered. Because of this many Native Americans died and they were driven off the land to follow the

~~Remaining buffalo herds.~~

Remaining buffalo herds.  
As you can see there were  
many changes that occurred that changed  
the settlement of the west and Native  
Americans lives.

**Commentary  
Score Level 4**

- Addresses most aspects of the *Task*; demonstrates understanding of the evidence in the documents
- Includes mostly accurate and relevant information about westward migration based solely on most of the documents. Additional knowledge of the topic is not incorporated in the response (e.g., "Homestead Act gave homesteaders 160 acres.")
- Includes a general discussion of the westward movement and the impact on the lives of Native American Indians (e.g., "These European Americans kicked the Native Americans off their land...")
- Supports the essay with mostly accurate facts, examples, and details, with the discussion descriptive rather than analytical (e.g., quotes Chief Joseph, "luxurious cars")
- Essay is developed with a somewhat logical plan of organization

**Conclusion**

Overall, the response fits the criteria for level 4. Incorporating additional outside information and providing an analytical rather than a descriptive response would have made this response a stronger 4.

### Score Level 3

This paper will discuss about moving westward. It will talk about and identify reasons why European Americans moved westward. It will also describe the impact of railroads on the West. This paper will also explain how westward expansion changed the lives of Native American Indians.

There are several reasons in why European Americans moved westward in the 1850's. One of those reasons was because of the great gold discoveries that had taken place in California. Also, the people were told of wonderful fertile valleys of the Oregon territory - an act of giving 640 acres of land.

The railroad in the west also had a great impact, because in the field when the train tracks were built they were shot for no reason at all, which killed off a lot of the buffalo population.

Most important though was the

impact on the indian of effect on the westward expansion. Because of the americans moving westward it pushed the indians off their land into territories and environments that they weren't used to. The killing of buffalo's also had a huge effect on the indians because buffalo was basically what they used for every thing.

This paper was discussed about moving westward. It talked about reasons why european americans moved westward, the impact of railroads, and how the westward expansion changed the lives of the native american indians

### **Commentary Score Level 3**

- Uses at least three of the documents and addresses all aspects of the task by describing the documents
- Shows limited understanding of Native American Indian lifestyle (e.g., "the buffalo was basically what they used for everything")
- Shows basic understanding of clash of cultures (e.g., railroad tracks built and buffalo shot for no reason)
- Incorporates no outside information
- Essay is developed satisfactorily, with a general plan of organization (i.e., introduction, body of three paragraphs, and conclusion)
- Restates theme in introduction, writes each bullet into a sentence
- Concludes with a restatement of the theme (rewrites each bullet into a sentence)

### **Conclusion**

The student shows basic but clear understanding of the reasons for westward movement and impact on Native American Indians. The student uses three documents in a limited way and restates directly what is in the document. There is no outside information in the essay. Overall, this essay represents a high 3.



There are several reasons why European Americans moved westward. There was a big impact of railroads on the west. Western expansion changed the lives of Native American Indians in many ways.

There are several reasons why European Americans moved westward. One reason why is because there was a lot of gold in the west and people wanted to get rich quick. Another reason why European Americans moved westward was because the American government was giving away a lot of land and people wanted it.

There was a big impact on the west because of railroads. People could go to anywhere in the west quicker. They could go for pleasure, health, or business, they could go to California to mine gold or silver.

Westward expansion changed the lives of Native American Indians in many ways. While the

Government was giving away free land the  
Indians had to move onto reservations and the  
Indians still had to move. Men killed buffalo for  
no reason and the Indians needed buffalo for food  
and shelter and other reasons. The Indians also fought  
but gave up ~~and the~~ because they  
were dying and too cold.

**Commentary**  
**Score Level 3**

- Demonstrates some understanding of why settlers moved west (e.g., gold, land)
- Used most of the documents
- Demonstrates some understanding of the impact of railroads on the West (e.g., quicker, pleasure, health, business)
- Demonstrates some understanding of how the westward movement changed the lives of Native American Indians (e.g., took their land, reservations, death)
- Superficial discussion of the facts
- No factual errors
- Includes one example of additional knowledge of the topic (reservations)
- Initial paragraph restates *Task*; no concluding paragraph

**Conclusion**

This essay represents the criteria for an average 3.

This essay is about the westward movement. I will be talking about two reasons why the European Americans moved westward. I will also be talking about the impact of how the westward movement changed the lives of Native American Indians and how the westward movement impacted the railroads in the west.

First I will be talking about two reasons why European Americans moved westward. European Americans moved westward because there was large gold discoveries and there was an over population in the east.

The second document I will be talking about is ~~the impact~~ how the westward movement ~~in the west~~ impacted on the railroads in the west. The railroads in the west were of a lot of use because most of the people were moving west and

the railroads were making a lot of money off transporting the people west.

The third and final document I will be talking about is how the westward movement affected the Native American Indians. The Native American Indians were affected because the European Americans were killing the buffalo for pleasure instead of food. The westward also affected the Native American Indians by the European Americans taking the Natives land.

This paper was about 2 reasons why the European Americans moved westward. This paper is also about the impact of railroads in the west and the way the Native American Indians lives changed from the westward movement.

**Commentary  
Score Level 3**

- Includes generally accurate and relevant information about limited aspects of westward migration, using some of the documents but very little outside information
- Relies mostly on generalizations, vaguely describing contents of the documents
- Does not develop the task beyond the limited mention of the documents
- Follows a general plan of organization
- Restates a limited theme in the introduction and includes a satisfactory restatement in the conclusion

**Conclusion**

Overall, this response best fits the criteria for a low 3.

## Score Level 2

The essay that I am writing has to do with 3 different topics. European Americans moving westward, impact of railroads, and lives of Native Americans.

There are a couple of reasons why European Americans moved westward. One reason why is Europeans heard of the great gold discoveries in California. Also wonderful valleys of Oregon territory. The impact of railroads. You could travel from East to west in less than four days. People traveled on railroads from place to place for travel for pleasure, health or business and gold, silver and other mines. Changes of lives of Native American Indians the buffaloes were being killed the Indians used the buffalo for shelter, food, clothing. The Indians land was getting taken away because the settlers were taking their land.

I have ~~to~~ discuss 3 different topics that that was about the questions.

### Commentary Score Level 2

- Attempts to address the aspects of the Task
- Discussion simply restates the contents of the documents, with no analysis even though more than half of the documents (five) were used
- Incorporates no relevant outside information
- Essay is focused, but lacks adequate development of topic

#### Conclusion

Overall, the response best fits the criteria for a solid 2. A majority of documents were used, but they were not analyzed. Although the essay answered the question, the student did not adequately develop the response.

## Score Level 2

In the west there were many valuable treasures. When finding out about this people gathered their belongings and moved to the west hoping to find the valuable objects that they heard about. People moved to the west because they were hoping to find gold and fertile land within the Oregon Territory. In the west the railroads were very impacted. For instance people all over were getting on trains with hopes of the trains taking them west, and eventually finding gold and fertile land to make them rich. However what started to happen was so many people were moving to the west and it caused problems with overpopulation. However it was good because it settled the unused territory in the west.

The westward expansion changed life for the native

Americans because their land was taken advantage of and given away for free. The Native Americans were also big on using every part of the animal for human use, what started to happen was that American men were killing Buffalo's for pleasure instead of the use of food and protection from the outside, like in the case of the tipi. The westward expansion made many men that were unwanted and unworthy move to the Territory. Many people were also taking the fertile land and resources that were once ~~there~~ theirs.

**Commentary**  
**Score Level 2**

- Attempts to address the *Task*, although some information is misinterpreted (e.g., "heard about treaties")
- No relevant outside information is apparent
- Includes factual errors (e.g., "people all over were trying getting on trains...", "so many people were moving to the west and caused problems with overpopulation.")
- Restates some contents of the documents
- Organization and focus are weak

**Conclusion**

Overall, the response best fits the criteria for a 2.

Score Level 1

European Americans  
moved westward for two very important reasons. One was because of the gold rush they heard that was coming from California. They thought they were going to be rich. Another was the fertile valley of Oregon territory an act of congress giving to actual settlers 640 acres of land.

**Commentary**  
**Score Level 1**

- Addresses only one part of the *Task* with vague reference to one document
- No outside information is provided
- Uses the terms *gold rush* and *Oregon Territory*
- Essay lacks focus
- Essay fails to provide either an introduction or conclusion

**Conclusion**

The student fails to address the *Task*. The student makes a vague reference to one of the documents in a limited way. There is no outside information. Overall, this essay represents a 1.



## Appendix A

# GRADE 8 INTERMEDIATE SOCIAL STUDIES TEST SPECIFICATIONS GRID (Revised 2000)

### NUMBER OF MULTIPLE-CHOICE ITEMS BY STANDARD AND UNIT

Standard → ↓Unit	1 US AND NY HISTORY	2 WORLD HISTORY	3 GEOGRAPHY	4 ECONOMICS	5 CIVICS, CITIZEN SHIP, AND GOVERNMENT	RANGE
1-Prior to 1500	1-3	0-1	1-3	0-2	0-1	2-4
2-Exploration/ Colonization	1-3	0-2	1-3	0-2	0-2	2-5
3-A Nation Created	1-3	0-2	0-2	1-2	1-2	3-5
4-Experiment in Government	1-2	0-1	0-1	0-1	2-4	3-5
5-Life in a New Nation	1-3	0-1	1-2	0-1	0-1	2-4
6-Division and Reunion	1-2	0	1-2	0-2	0-2	2-4
7-An Industrial Society	1-3	0	1-2	1-3	0-1	3-5
8-An Interdependent World	1-3	0-3	0-1	0-1	0-1	2-4
9-Between the Wars	1-3	0-1	0-1	2-4	0-2	3-5
10-Worldwide Responsibilities	2-4	1-2	0-2	0-1	0-2	4-5
11-WWII to the Present	1-2	0-1	0-2	0-2	1-3	2-4
11*-Cross- Topical	1-3	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	2-4
TOTAL						45

\*Items placed in row 11 are cross-topical. Cross-topical items address content from two or more units.

## Appendix B

# GRADE 8 INTERMEDIATE SOCIAL STUDIES TEST SPECIFICATIONS GRID

### MULTIPLE-CHOICE ITEMS BY STANDARD AND UNIT

Standard → ↓Unit	1 US AND NY HISTORY	2 WORLD HISTORY	3 GEOGRAPHY	4 ECONOMICS	5 CIVICS, CITIZEN SHIP, AND GOVERNMENT	Number
1-Prior to 1500	1	0	3	0	2	3
2-Exploration/ Colonization	4	0	5, 6	0	0	3
3-A Nation Created	10	7	0	8,9	11	5
4-Experiment in Government	12	0	0	0	13, 14, 15, 16	5
5-Life in a New Nation	19	0	17	20	18	4
6-Division and Reunion	21	0	0	0	22, 23	3
7-An Industrial Society	25, 26	0	24	27, 28	0	5
8-An Interdependent World	30, 31, 32	0	29	0	0	4
9-Between the Wars	35	0	0	33, 34	0	3
10-Worldwide Responsibilities	38, 39	36, 37	0	0	0	4
11-WWII to the Present	40	0	0	0	41, 42	3
11*-Cross- Topical	43, 33	0	0	45	0	3
TOTAL						45

\*Items placed in row 11 are cross-topical. Cross-topical items address content from two or more units.

## Appendix C

### Components and Weighting of the Grade 8 Intermediate Social Studies Test

ITEM TYPE	NUMBER OF ITEMS	APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF THE TEST
Multiple-choice items*	45	50%
Constructed response*	3-4	20%
Document-based question*	1	30% (10% - Scaffolded question 20% - essay)

### Components of the Grade 8 Intermediate Social Studies Test Sampler Keyed to the Social Studies Standards

ITEM TYPE	STANDARD(S)
Multiple-choice*	(See Multiple-Choice Specifications Grid) (Appendix B)
Constructed response*	Standard 1: History of the United States and New York Standard 4: Economics
Document-based question*	Standard 1: History of the United States and New York Standard 4: Economics

\* Students must answer all questions on each part of the Grade 8 Intermediate Social Studies Test. There is no choice of questions.





New York State Education Department, Room 760 EBA, Albany, NY 12234

**Grade 8 Intermediate Social Studies Test  
Test Sampler Draft, Spring 2000  
Comment Sheet**

YES

No

1. **Content**—Are the questions generally appropriate in content?

*Comments:*

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2. **Difficulty**—Are the questions generally appropriate in difficulty?

*Comments:*

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3. **Directions**—Are the directions in the test sampler Draft clear and easy for students to follow?

*Comments:*

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4. **Time**—Would most of the students be able to complete this test Sampler Draft within the time allotted (3 hours)?

*Comments:*

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5. **Additional Comments:**