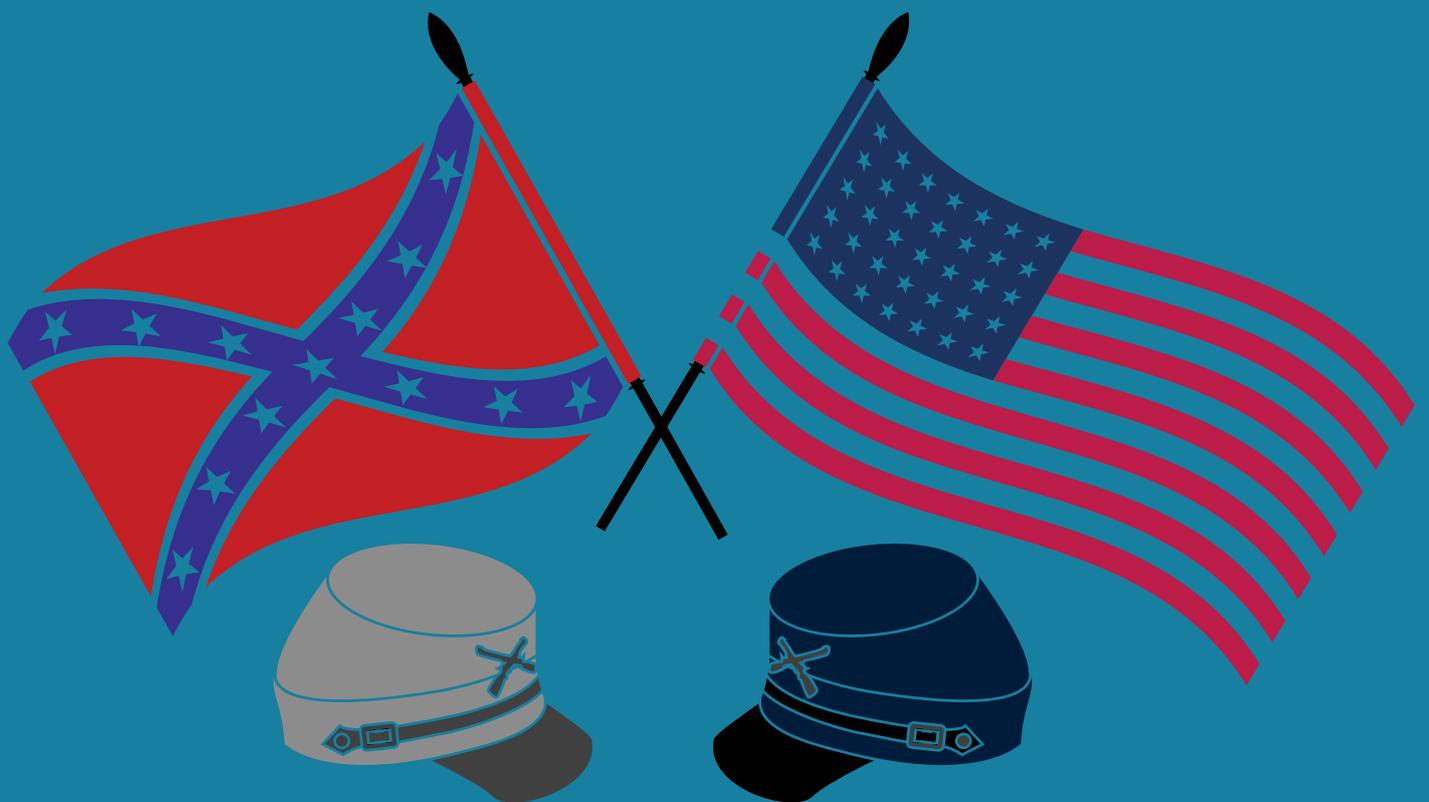


AQA GCSE (9-1) HISTORY  
AMERICA 1840-95: EXPANSION & CONSOLIDATION

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EXAM BUSTER

# REVISION GUIDE



STUDENT NAME

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**ABOUT THIS REVISION GUIDE**

This revision guide is split into four main sections which cover all the content that AQA require students to know as they take the GCSE (9-1) History paper on America 1840-95: Expansion & Consolidation (\*\*see guidance note\*\*).

Each section starts with the key knowledge that students need to learn. This knowledge is followed by review activities to help test that knowledge, as well as exam-style questions.

The QR codes on the back of this revision booklet take students to example answers to these questions, as well as a wide range of other interactive learning activities which will help them revise for America 1840-95.

# SAMPLE PAGES

**\*\* Making sense of this book\*\***

Guaranteeing the coverage of a specification is a daunting task, and ensuring it is understood is equally daunting. When reading the contents of this Exam Buster booklet you can be forgiven for thinking that it does not follow the AQA specification, or give a complete coverage of the unit; however, rest assured that it does, as the table below will demonstrate.

The order of the content has been intentionally adjusted. Through our experience as classroom teachers and examiners, we have grouped course content together into broad themes, in order to avoid common misconceptions and mistakes. While many will approach the specification and follow it exactly in the order it is published, that does mean that there is a lot of 'jumping' between topics, making the learning seem interrupted. The Mormons, Indian Wars and the American Civil War are three examples of topics which are broken up across the unit.

The rationale behind this new structure is that students can develop their knowledge and understanding of the three main themes or broad areas of study within the unit, so they can better see where the overlap occurs whilst also developing their chronological understanding.

Key Topic 1: Moving West & Settling		AQA Specification
1.1	The Great American Desert	1.1 The geography of North America
1.2	Who moved West & why?	1.2 Why the early settlers went west and the challenges they faced
1.3	Settling in the West	3.1 The continued settlement of the west 2.3 Coming to terms with the Mormons
Key Topic 2: Indians & White Americans		
2.1	The Plains Indians' way of life	1.3 Dealing with a different culture
2.2	Early American government policy towards the Plain Indians	1.3 Dealing with a different culture 2.1 Increasing conflict on the Plains
2.3	The Indian Wars 1862-1867	2.1 Increasing conflict on the Plains
2.4	The resolution of the 'Indian problem' after 1865	3.3 Resolution of the 'Indian problem' after 1865
Key Topic 3: Civil War & Reconstruction		
3.1	Background to the American Civil War, 1861-65	2.2 The background to the American Civil War

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## TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

Date	Details
28 <sup>th</sup> May 1830	<b>Indian Removal Act</b> This act established the Permanent Indian Frontier in the West. Many Indians were moved from their lands in the East and beyond the frontier to be settled in the West.
27 <sup>th</sup> June 1845	<b>Murder of Joseph Smith</b> The Mormon leader was killed whilst in prison. This convinced Brigham Young of the need to move West, away from religious persecution.
27 <sup>th</sup> December 1845	<b>Manifest Destiny</b> The phrase, coined by journalist John L. Sullivan, which described the expansionism of white Americans and inspired people to move West.
Feb 1846	<b>Mormons leave to travel West</b> The first group of Mormons left the East and began their resettling in Salty Lake City, outside the control of the US government.
1846-48	<b>Mexican-American War</b> A war triggered by the annexation of Texas. It led to US armies capturing Mexican territory and increasing the size of America. The US government forced Mexico to sign to the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.
1849	<b>Gold Rush</b> Movement of the so called "49ers" to California in search of gold discovered in the Sierra Nevada mountains (in 1848). This led to a sharp increase in the population of California which reached 250,000 people in four years.
September 1850	<b>The Compromise of 1850</b> A compromise between Northern and Southern States to allow California to join the Union as a free state but the South was to be compensated with the Fugitive Slave Act and there was permission for new states in the South to choose for themselves whether to allow slavery.
1851	<b>Indian Appropriations Act</b> This created legally recognised reservations intended to protect the Native Americans from Westward expansion but, in reality, the Indians were forced to live on these reservations.
17 <sup>th</sup> September 1851	<b>(First) Fort Laramie Treaty</b> An agreement between the white and Native Americans. White Americans were allowed to build forts and roads on the Indian land, and in return Indians agreed not to attack white Americans on the Oregon trail. They also received an annual subsidy and areas for hunting.

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Date	Details
6 <sup>th</sup> November 1860	<b>Abraham Lincoln elected President of the United States</b> Abraham Lincoln was known to oppose slavery and his election as president was not well supported in the South. His election prompted the secession from the Union by South Carolina, followed by 6 other states, to form the Confederacy.
1861-65	<b>American Civil War</b> A conflict between the Northern (Union) states of America and the Southern (Confederate) state of America. The key divide between these two groups was their view on slavery, however, there were other causes for the conflict.
20 <sup>th</sup> May 1862	<b>Homesteader Act</b> Encouraged settlement in the West by offering people 160 acres of land as long as they lived there for 5 years.
1 <sup>st</sup> January 1863	<b>Emancipation Proclamation</b> Abraham Lincoln signed a document to free the slaves in America in an effort to end the war. It allowed African Americans to join the Union's army.
1863-67	<b>Cheyenne War</b> One of the early Indian wars, a conflict between white Americans and Native Americans which lasted several years and involved attacks by Indians on ranches, and attacks against the Indians by local white militia groups.
29 November 1864	<b>Sand Creek Massacre</b> Colonel Chivington led soldiers from the Colorado militia in attacking an Indian camp and killing many Native Americans.
1865-68	<b>Red Cloud's War</b> A war between Native and white Americans, caused by the discovery of gold in the Rocky Mountains, which led to many white Americans crossing Indian lands and breaking the Fort Laramie Treaty.
6 <sup>th</sup> December 1865	<b>Thirteenth Amendment</b> An amendment to the US constitution which ended slavery and gave Congress the power to enforce it; it effectively ensured slavery could not be practised in the United States.
9 <sup>th</sup> July 1866	<b>Fourteenth Amendment</b> An amendment to the US constitution which made former slaves, and all people born in America, citizens of the United States.
21 <sup>st</sup> December 1866	<b>Fetterman's Massacre</b> Around 80 US soldiers led by Captain Fetterman were caught in a trap by Sioux Indians where they were killed and mutilated. The news of this horrified many white Americans.
6 <sup>th</sup> November 1868	<b>(Second) Fort Laramie Treaty</b>

# SAMPLE PAGES

Date	Details
3rd March 1873	<p><b>Timber Culture Act</b> Encouraged further settlement of the West after the Homestead Act by offering a further 160 acres of free land as long as settlers planted 40 acres of trees.</p>
1876-77	<p><b>Great Sioux War</b> A war between the US army and the Indian Sioux Nation which was caused by the discovery of gold in the Black Hills. This led to the settlement by white Americans which broke the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868.</p>
25th-26th June 1876	<p><b>Battle of the Little Bighorn</b> A battle in which US army general, Custer, was defeated by an army of Sioux Indians led by Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse. It is widely believed the defeat was the fault of Custer although opinions vary, with some people believing he was unlucky.</p>
3 March 1877	<p><b>Desert Land Act</b> Settlers could buy 640 acres of lands in areas where there was not much rainfall.</p>
8th February 1887	<p><b>Dawes General Allotment Act (Dawes Act)</b> An act designed to break up and destroy Indian culture. Reservations were broken up into individual plots, Indians were encouraged to become farmers and children were to be prepared to live in the world of white Americans.</p>
28th December 1889	<p><b>Battle of Wounded Knee</b> Final battle between the Native Americans and US army which defeated the Native Americans and effectively ended the Indian Wars on the plains.</p>

# SAMPLE PAGES

## KEY TOPIC 1: MOVING WEST & SETTLING

### 1.1 The Great American Desert

#### The geography of North America

The American War of Independence freed colonists to explore and settle across the continent. They did this for a number of reasons and with varying amounts of success, as crossing and settling in this new continent presented a number of challenges to those who attempted it.

The land was made up of a varied terrain and features which made traveling West both difficult and dangerous. This land included the Great Plains, mountain ranges and weather conditions with extremes of cold and heat. It is important to remember the journey was long and took many months, plus the travellers carried everything they owned with them.

#### Characteristics of the Great Plains

Features	Problem
Enormous size	Getting there in the first place. Isolation when there.
Lack of trees	Nothing to build houses with. Nothing for fuel.
Semi-arid (little water available)	Need for drinking water. Need for water for animals.
Unpredictable weather, including extremely cold and violent winters	Very difficult to grow crops. Animals died in winter.
Strong winds	The winter 'Northers' brought hail and blizzards. Tornadoes destroyed houses.
Large open area with few trees and natural features	Easy to get lost. Nowhere to get protection from winds.
Inhabited by locusts and grasshoppers	These ate any crops.
Inhabited by wolves	Dangerous to people and livestock.

#### Attitudes to the Great American Desert: Manifest Destiny

This phrase was first used in 1845 by John L. O'Sullivan who was editor of a New York newspaper called The Morning Post.

# SAMPLE PAGES

**What were the challenges of moving west?**

- 1. Preparing for the long journey:** In order to settle, travellers would need to carry their belongings and would need to build a wagon to travel in. Sometimes these would struggle to cross the terrain and break on the hard ground in winter or be washed away when crossing rivers. Shortages could also develop as there was no way to replace items.
- 2. Weather conditions:** Weather added to these problems as winds could be very strong, which could break the wagons or cause cattle to stampede. It would also be extremely hot in the summer months which caused water shortages. However, it could also be cold at night.
- 3. Threat of death from diseases and accidents:** The lack of water meant it was difficult to stay clean and people could be killed by a number of diseases such as typhus. There was a lack of medical care so if you broke a bone or had a wound, it was likely that an infection would develop and lead to death.
- 4. Attacks by Native Americans:** Native Americans were suspicious of the wagon trains, as they were afraid that white Americans would take their land. Many people got lost and stranded because, although there were maps, most wagon trains were led by guides who had travelled the route before and sometimes tried to take shortcuts.

**Exam-style question:**

1	Explain two problems posed by the Great American Desert (4 marks)	<i>Answer:</i>
<p>Exam hint:</p> <p><i>The 4-mark question is an opportunity to show some simple knowledge but it is important to answer the question properly; take note of the fact you must give two examples and explain them with some accurate detail.</i></p>		

# SAMPLE PAGES

## 1.2 Who moved West and why?

There were four groups of people who moved west across the Great Plains and the mountains.

### Mountain men

The first group were the mountain men, who went to the Rocky Mountains to hunt for fur in the 1820s and 1830s. They were also known as trailblazers because they created the very first trails which helped people to move West and then settle on the Great Plains and on the West Coast.

### Pioneer farmers

The second group were pioneer farmers who moved to farm the land, these people followed the paths set by the mountain men and trailblazers in search of new land to settle on. They faced many challenges in crossing America because of the landscape. Two groups can be used as examples to show how difficult to journey to the West was for travellers: The Sagars in 1844 and The Donner Party in 1846.

#### 1844: The Sagars

Henry Sagar decided to take his family to Oregon. They joined a group of 323 people and 72 wagons. The journey was difficult from the start as the rain had turned the land to mud and the rivers were difficult to cross. Five weeks into the journey, Naomi Sagar gave birth to her seventh child. Arguments broke out between the group over killing too many buffalo and the Sagars were left without a leader for the rest of the journey. There were also reports of Henry having difficulty controlling the oxen that were pulling the wagon, plus Catherine Sagar jumped off the wagon and broke her leg. The family also suffered from a disease called "camp fever", and tragedy struck when Henry Sagar died whilst trying to stop a buffalo stampede and Naomi Sagar died from "camp fever".

#### 1846: The Donner Party

60 wagons and 300 migrants, led by wealthy brothers Jacob and George Donner, left for California. They had more women, elderly people and children than usual, but they were very well equipped. The Donner brothers had read a leaflet produced by a trail guide called Lansford Hastings which suggested there was a short cut. The Donner party argued over this and the group split into 2 with the smaller group of about 80, including the brothers, taking the short cut. The party tried to follow what they believed was the quicker route, through Utah into Nevada, but they suffered badly when they lost four wagons and 300 cattle. There were also quarrels and one man was killed by another man. By the time they reached the Sierra Nevada they were badly demoralised and had little food.

Worse was to come as the snow arrived early in October and the party found themselves trapped on the wrong side of the mountains without the strength to carry on. They were trapped for the winter, animals died and food stocks ran out. The first migrant died of starvation on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Half of the group decided to try and get some help but their small supplies quickly ran out. In desperation, the group turned to cannibalism: four men were frozen to death so were eaten by others in the group. They got to Johnson's ranch after 32 days and pleaded for help. The rescue party went in to the Sierra Nevada mountains and found the rest of the party in a scared and mad state. Half were dead and the other half had survived by eating the others.

### The miners

# SAMPLE PAGES

speaker and built up hundreds of followers. Although Mormonism is rooted in Christian beliefs, they had many