



GCSE

HISTORY

Paper 1 Section A/A:

America, 1840–1895: Expansion and consolidation

8145/1A/A

Interpretations Booklet

INTERPRETATIONS A and B for use in answering Questions 01, 02 and 03

[Turn over]

INTERPRETATION A

Adapted from General Sherman's Final Report to the Secretary of War, 1883.

In 1869 Sherman took command of the army and led its fighting against the native Americans. When he retired in 1883, Sherman gave his last report to the government about the end of the Great Sioux War.

The Plains Indians have been defeated and the Indian problem ended. There may still be the occasional incident but there will be no more Indian wars. A large factor in this result is the army. 5 The settlement of Indian lands by hard working farmers has also been important. However, the biggest factor is the railroad. The final

**completion of the four great national 10
railway lines has finished the Indian
problem forever. I think the building
of the railways is the most important
event in modern times. They are
responsible for the peace and great 15
wealth our nation now enjoys.**

[Turn over]

INTERPRETATION B

Adapted from the autobiography of John Cook, 'The Border and the Buffalo', 1907.

John Cook joined the Union Army aged sixteen and fought in the Civil War. He was a Homesteader, cowboy, and later, a gold prospector. He then became a buffalo hunter and fought against native Americans. Finally, he worked as a government scout and guide for the army.

The buffalo hunters destroyed the Plains Indians' supply of food. The hunters should have been given great thanks and a medal showing a dead buffalo on one side with a defeated Indian on the other. We did more in

**two years to finish the Indian problem
than the entire army had done in forty.
Exterminating the buffaloes defeated
the Indians and created a lasting 10
peace. After the buffaloes were
replaced on the Plains with cattle,
cowboys became the heroes of our
American nation.**

END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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