

## Essay questions for essay #2 The West

1. 'An aggressive and unjust war.' To what extent is this a fair assessment of the Mexican War of 1846?
2. Assess the main factors involved in the taming of the 'Wild West' between 1840 and 1896.
3. Is it correct to say there was an 'agrarian revolt' in the 1870s and the 1880s?
4. Evaluate the impact of the 'Gold Rush' of 1849 on America's westward expansion?
5. How far did the USA benefit economically from westward expansion after 1865?
6. How valid is the assertion that improved transportation was the basic reason for America's dramatic westward expansion during 1840-96?
7. 'Mexico will poison us.' How accurate was this prediction of the effects of the Mexican War on the United States?
8. How significant in the period to 1890 were the social and economic consequences of the westward expansion of the United States?
9. Assess the main factors involved in taming the 'Wild West' between 1865-1896.
10. To what extent was the west a distinct cultural community from 1840 to 1890?
11. Assess the relative significance of the factors which caused the destruction of the way of life of the Plains Indians in the second half of the nineteenth century.
12. Which was the more important factor in ensuring westward expansion: federal government support or technological innovation?
13. Evaluate the factors which explain the growth of the myth of the Wild West.
14. Assess the main factors involved in the taming of the 'Wild West' between 1840 and 1896.
15. Assess the relative significance of the factors which caused the destruction of the way of life of the Plains Indians in the second half of the nineteenth century.
16. Which was the more important factor in ensuring westward expansion: federal government support or technological innovation?
17. Evaluate the factors which explain the growth of the myth of the Wild West.