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1 Selecting and using own knowledge

This unit will help you to select and use your own knowledge when answering a question.

The skills you will build are to:

- select relevant detail from your own knowledge to support the points you make
- understand how much detail is appropriate for the question
- deploy your own knowledge appropriately to reinforce your points.

In the exam, all the questions will require you to deploy your own knowledge in the form of detail to support the points you make. This unit will prepare you to write your own response to the following exam-style question.

Exam-style question

Explain **two** consequences of the Pacific Railroad Act.

(8 marks)

Consequence 1:

.....
.....

Consequence 2:

.....
.....

The three key questions in the **skills boosts** will help you select and use your own knowledge.



Look at the sample student plan on the next page.

Exam-style question

Explain **two** consequences of the Pacific Railroad Act.

When answering this question the focus should be on what happened as a **result** of the Pacific Railroad Act. Points about how and why it came about would be irrelevant.

Below is a list of points the student has selected to use in their answer:

① Cross out ~~eat~~ the points that would not be relevant to answering the question.

- *The southern states left the Union in 1861*
- *Made migration to the West much easier*
- *The geography of America made it difficult to build a railroad*
- *Northern and southern states disagreed on the route a railroad should take*
- *The US government committed to giving each company large areas of land along the railroad for them to sell*
- *The job of building the First Transcontinental Railroad was split between two companies*
- *Plains Indians did not like railroads*

Here is part of the student's answer:

One consequence of the Pacific Railroad Act was that the job of building the First Transcontinental Railroad was split between two companies. The Union Pacific started in Ohio and built westwards and the Central Pacific started in Sacramento and built eastwards. This sped up the construction process, which would mean achieving Manifest Destiny more quickly.

Yellow highlights show where the student has identified a consequence.

Green highlights show where the student has used supporting detail.

Pink highlights show their explanation of the consequence.

② Now look at the rest of the student's answer below. Annotate and highlight  the answer to show:

- a where a consequence is identified
- b where there is supporting detail about the consequence
- c where there is explanation of the consequence.

Another consequence of the Pacific Railroad Act was that migration to the American West increased. By 1880, railroad companies had settled 200 million acres in the West. The Act gave so much land to the railroad companies to sell that it was more successful than the Homestead Act in encouraging settlement.

Encouraging settlement in the West

This unit uses the theme of encouraging settlement in the West to build your skills in selecting and using your own knowledge. If you need to review your knowledge of this theme, work through these pages.

- 1 Complete the table below by:
- a writing  the name of the Act in the space provided
 - b completing  the aims of each Act.

Date	Act	Aims of Act
May 1862		Settling the West with individual farms, owned and worked by
July 1862		Developing connections between the new lands of the W..... and northern i..... cities
1873		Reducing the rate of of homesteads

- 2 Put a cross (X) by the following to show which were **not** features of the Homestead Act.

- A Plots of 160 acres would be given to successful claimants.
- B The Act meant that the First Transcontinental Railroad could be built.
- C It cost just \$10 to register a claim.
- D Once someone had lived on the land for five years, built a house and planted five acres of crops, they could 'prove up' by paying \$30 and own their homestead outright.
- E By 1876, over 15 million acres of land had successfully become homesteads.

- 3 Tick (✓) whether each statement is true or false. true false

- a The Homestead Act successfully encouraged immigration from Europe.
- b Only 16 per cent of public land was eventually homesteaded.
- c All homesteads were 'proved up'.
- d Many rich landowners used the Act to get land cheaply.

Remember this?

4 Write  two reasons why building a transcontinental railroad was difficult.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

5 Draw  lines to match up the points with the impacts of the Pacific Railroad Act.

A The Plains Indians

a Towns grew rapidly along railroad routes.

B Communication

b The growth of railroads led to declining numbers of buffalo.

C Trade

c Texas cattlemen could transport cattle to the East for sale at high prices.

D Settlement

d The railroad opened up links between the USA and Asia.

E Cattle industry

e The first transcontinental electric telegraph was set up along the tracks of the First Transcontinental Railroad.

6 Circle  which of the following were consequences of the Timber Culture Act.

16 million acres of land were claimed

People bought land just to sell it on at a later date when its value had increased

Homesteaders who signed up to it had to plant trees on one-quarter of the 160 acres they claimed

The Fort Laramie Treaty was signed

The Homestead Act

1 How do I choose what to use from my own knowledge?

When answering any History question, you will need to include specific detail to support the points you make. This detail needs to be relevant to the question, but should not form the majority of your answer. The detail is there to **support** your answer, not to tell the story of what happened.

Read the exam-style question below.

Exam-style question

Explain **two** consequences of the Homestead Act.

- 1 Tick to show which of the following own knowledge points are relevant to this question.

Which points happened as a result of the Homestead Act?

Parts of the Great Plains were being settled for the first time.

Abilene was established.

It helped to achieve Manifest Destiny by encouraging settlement across America.

Immigration from Europe increased.

Once you have made a relevant point, you then need to back it up with some relevant supporting evidence that outlines details about the consequence.

A student wrote the following as part of their answer to the exam-style question at the top of the page.

One consequence of the Homestead Act was that immigration from Europe increased. By 1875, over half of Nebraska's population were recent immigrants and their children.

Relevant point

Relevant piece of detail to support the point

- 2 Read the exam-style question below then draw  lines to match the pieces of own knowledge to the supporting detail.

Remember: Relevant supporting detail must provide further relevant information about the point made.

Exam-style question

Explain **two** consequences of the Homestead Act.

Own knowledge

A The Homestead Act made land affordable for ordinary people.

B There was a large increase in settlement in places such as Nebraska.

C Rich landowners were able to become even richer.

Supporting detail

a Almost half of all land settled was homestead land and its growth in population led to its becoming a state in 1867.

b Big ranch owners would make their employees file claims and then hand the rights over to the landowner.

c Before 1862, land cost \$1 per acre; the Act meant that people could claim 160 acres for \$10.

2 How do I know how much detail to include?

Using supporting information is good. However, you must only include information that is relevant. To make detail relevant, it should provide evidence to support the consequence you have identified.

Exam-style question

Explain **two** consequences of the Pacific Railroad Act.

The evidence in the following student answer is not detailed enough, although the point it makes is correct.

Point:

One consequence of the Pacific Railroad Act was that the US government was committed to supporting the construction of the First Transcontinental Railroad.

Evidence:

The government gave money and land to railroad companies to help them.

The following evidence would be better:

The government gave the railroad companies a lot of land to sell and loaned at least \$16,000 for every mile of track laid.

Provides specific detail

- ① Read the statement below and write  one piece of relevant supporting information to act as evidence.

Point:

One consequence of the Pacific Railroad Act was the increased speed of the destruction of the Plains Indians' way of life.

Evidence:

.....

.....

.....

It is important to be detailed in your answer, but you can also include too much of your own knowledge. Look at this extract from a student answer to the exam-style question at the top of the page.

One consequence of the Pacific Railroad Act was that Manifest Destiny was closer to being achieved. Manifest Destiny was the belief that white Americans should take over all the land between the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. The Plains Indians had no place in this dream that some people had for the USA. The Act helped to achieve it by connecting western territories with the East and integrating them with the West, and by helping people to travel and settle more quickly, cheaply and easily than ever before.

- ② Annotate this answer by:

- a highlighting  where a consequence has been identified
- b circling  where good supporting detail has been used
- c crossing out  any material that is not needed.

Remember: Your response should only include material that provides evidence to support your chosen consequence.

3 How do I structure my answer to include my own knowledge?

Supporting detail is a great way to reinforce the points you make and develop your answers. However, it needs to be included in such a way that it does not just tell a story.

When answering a consequence question, try to use the following structure: decide on a Point; give Evidence for the point and write an Explanation. Asking yourself the following questions for each point you make will help you to check that you have included your own knowledge within this structure.

1	Point	What was a consequence of X?
2	Evidence	What detail supports this as a consequence?
3	Explanation	How did the event in the question lead to the consequence?

Read the statements below that make up a paragraph answering part of the following exam-style question.

Exam-style question

Explain **two** consequences of the Timber Culture Act.

- 1 Order the following statements into the Point, Evidence and Explanation structure described above. Write  them in order from 1 to 3.

Statement	Position
The 160 acres the Homestead Act gave people had not been enough to establish a successful farm on the Great Plains, but the Timber Culture Act gave them an additional 160 acres, of which they had to plant one-quarter with trees.	
One consequence of the Timber Culture Act was that it gave people a greater chance of successfully becoming homesteaders.	
As a result of the Timber Culture Act, an extra 16 million acres were claimed by 1878, with successful tree coverage in Minnesota, where the trees acted as a windbreak to shelter crops from damage.	

- 2 Write  a plan for another consequence of the Timber Culture Act.

Use the questions listed above to check your structure.

Point:

.....

.....

Evidence:

.....

.....

.....

Explanation:

.....

.....

.....

Sample response

It is important to know what a good answer looks like, so that you know whether what you have written effectively answers the question.

Read the following exam-style question and then look at the sample answer below.

Exam-style question

Explain **two** consequences of the Homestead Act.

(8 marks)

Consequence 1:

One consequence of the Homestead Act was that it made the settlement of the West easier. A lot of land became homesteads.

Another consequence of the Homestead Act was increased immigration from Europe. The promise of 160 acres of land for \$10 was very attractive to those who had no prospect of the same offer in their native country, so many migrated to America. By 1875, more than half of Nebraska's population was made up of recent immigrants and their families. The Homestead Act would help bring about Manifest Destiny for white Americans, as more land was being settled and taken away from the Plains Indians.

1 Tick if the student has:

- a identified relevant points
- b included relevant supporting detail throughout
- c used an effective structure throughout.

2 Cross out where irrelevant supporting detail has been included.

In the sample answer above, the first consequence has poor supporting evidence, whereas the second consequence has good supporting evidence.

Remember: The response should only include material that provides evidence to support the consequence.

3 Rewrite the first consequence to include good supporting evidence and explanation.

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4 Now annotate your answer:

- a Highlight where you have made a point.
- b Circle where you have given evidence.
- c Underline where you have included explanation.

Your turn!

Using the skills you have developed over the course of this unit, answer the following exam-style question.

Exam-style question

Explain **two** consequences of the Pacific Railroad Act.

(8 marks)

1 Cross out ~~eat~~ the consequences you would **not** discuss in your answer:

The Battle of the Little Bighorn

Declining buffalo numbers

Increased trade between the USA and Asia

Achieving Manifest Destiny

The OK Corral

The first transcontinental electric telegraph

2 Write ~~eat~~ your answer to the exam-style question above, using the tips in brackets to help structure your answer.

Consequence 1:

(Point).....

.....

(Evidence).....

.....

(Explanation).....

.....

Consequence 2:

(Point).....

.....

(Evidence).....

.....

(Explanation).....

.....

Review your skills

Check up

Review your response to the exam-style question on page 9. Tick  the column to show how well you think you have done each of the following.

	Had a go 	Nearly there 	Got it! 
selected evidence from my own knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
included the right amount of supporting evidence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
structured my answer effectively	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Look over all of your work in this unit. Note down  the three most important things to remember about selecting your own knowledge to include in your answer.

- 1
- 2
- 3

Need more practice?

You will need to practise what has been covered in this unit to answer all the other exam-style questions in this workbook. If you want to practise another question, try  the exam-style question below.

Exam-style question

Explain **two** consequences of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty.

(8 marks)

Consequence 1:

.....

Consequence 2:

.....

How confident do you feel about each of these **skills**? Colour in  the bars.

<p>1 How do I choose what to use from my own knowledge?</p> 	<p>2 How do I know how much detail to include?</p> 	<p>3 How do I structure my answer to include my own knowledge?</p> 
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