Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Tuesday 10 June 2025 – Afternoon

GCSE (9–1) History B (Schools History Project)

J411/38 The Making of America, 1789–1900
with Aztecs and the Spanish Conquest, 1519–1535

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

You must have:
- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

* 1 4 4 0 1 4 0 1 9 1 *

INSTRUCTIONS
- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Section A – The Making of America, 1789–1900: Answer Questions 1 (a–c), 2, 3 and **either** Question 4 **or** Question 5.
- Section B – Aztecs and the Spanish Conquest, 1519–1535: Answer Questions 6 and 7, and **either** Question 8 **or** Question 9.

INFORMATION
- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets **[ ]**.
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **8** pages.

ADVICE
- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

© OCR 2025 [601/8408/5]
DC (CE) 359219
OCR is an exempt Charity

Section A

The Making of America, 1789–1900

Answer Questions 1 (a–c), 2 **and** 3.

1

(a) Name **one** Native American tribe of the East who were affected by the Indian Removal Act of 1830. **[1]**

(b) Give **one** reason why the early Mormon settlers journeyed to Utah in 1847. **[1]**

(c) Identify **one** law passed to improve the lives of African Americans during the period of Reconstruction (1865–1877). **[1]**

2 Write a clear and organised summary that analyses American settlement on the Plains between 1861 and 1877.

Support your summary with examples. **[9]**

3 How did the Civil War affect the lives of African Americans between 1861 and 1865?

Explain your answer. **[10]**

Answer Question 4 **or** Question 5.

4* 'Plantation owners were the main group who benefited from slavery's expansion between 1793 and 1838.'

How far do you agree?

Give reasons for your answer. **[18]**

5* 'The most important development that took place in the USA between 1877 and 1900 was the changes to the lives of the Native Americans of the Plains.'

How far do you agree?

Give reasons for your answer. **[18]**

© OCR 2025

Section B

Aztecs and the Spanish Conquest, 1519–1535

Answer Questions 6 **and** 7.

6 What can **Source A** tell us about the Aztecs and/or the Spanish Conquest?

Use the source and your own knowledge to support your answer. **[7]**

Source A

An extract from 'The True History of the Conquest of New Spain', a book written by Bernal Díaz. Bernal Díaz was a soldier who travelled with Cortés to Mexico. He wrote his account many years later, after returning to Spain. It was completed in c.1568.

© Bernal Diaz Del Castillo, The Conquest of New Spain, Penguin Classics, 1973. From first line " I am now an old man, over eighty-four years of age," to last line " Nothing is left standing" Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

7 How useful are **Interpretation B**, **Source C** and **Interpretation D** for a historian studying the Spanish flight from Tenochtitlán?

In your answer, refer to the two interpretations and the source as well as your own knowledge.

[15]

Interpretation B

An image depicting the situation in Tenochtitlán just before the Spanish flight from the city in July 1520.

It is from a collection of 80 images called 'El Lienzo de Tlaxcala'. These images were created by native artists in the middle of the 1500s for the town council of Tlaxcala. The images show the actions of the Tlaxcalans at different times during the conquest of Mexico.

The people in the centre of this image are the Spanish and the Tlaxcalans. Cortés is in the centre with hat and beard. Doña Marina is just behind him. The other people are the Aztecs.

© Alfredo Chavero, El lienzo de Tlaxcala, p37, Cosmos, 1979. Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

Source C

An extract from a letter sent from Cortés to the King of Spain soon after the Spanish flight from Tenochtitlán in July 1520.

© Hernan Cortes; Anthony Pagden, Letters from Mexico, p138, Yale University Press, 1986. From first line "An infinite number of the enemy were attacking us from all sides," to last line "clothing and all the large guns." Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

Interpretation D

An extract about the Spanish flight from Tenochtitlán in July 1520. It is from the book ‘Conquistadors’ by historian Michael Wood. This book was published in 2000.

© Michael Wood, Conquistadors, pg 76-77, BBC Books, 2000. From first line " At one point, the Spanish seem to have killed their own Tlaxcalan allies by pushing them into the water and crossing on their bodies." to last line "The great gambler had lost." Item removed due to third party co

Answer Question 8 **or** Question 9.

8* ‘Religion was the most important aspect of Aztec society.’

How far do you agree?

Give reasons for your answer. **[18]**

9* ‘The fall of the Aztec Empire changed everything for the people of Mexico’.

How far do you agree with this view of **the impact of Spanish rule between 1521 and 1535**?

Give reasons for your answer. **[18]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

© OCR 2025

BLANK PAGE

OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Copyright Information

OCR is committed to seeking permission to reproduce all third-party content that it uses in its assessment materials. OCR has attempted to identify and contact all copyright holders whose work is used in this paper. To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced in the OCR Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download from our public website (www.ocr.org.uk) after the live examination series.

If OCR has unwittingly failed to correctly acknowledge or clear any third-party content in this assessment material, OCR will be happy to correct its mistake at the earliest possible opportunity.

For queries or further information please contact The OCR Copyright Team, The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA.

OCR is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.

© OCR 2025