Oxford Cambridge and RSA

# Thursday 15 June 2023 – Morning

## 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

**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.

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## Section A

## The Making of America, 1789–1900

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

**1** **(a)** Identify **one** impact of mining on the areas where gold was found. **[1]**

**(b)** Give **one** example of how African Americans were discriminated against in the Union Army during the Civil War. **[1]**

**(c)** Name **one** tribe involved in fighting wars with white settlers or the US government between 1861 and 1877. **[1]**

**2** Write a clear and organised summary that analyses migration to places west of the Plains between 1839 and 1860.

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

**3** Why were there tensions in America between 1789 and 1838?

Explain your answer. **[10]**

Answer Question 4 **or** Question 5.

**4*** 'From the 1860s onwards, the railroads were the most important reason for people settling on the Plains.'

How far do you agree?

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

**5*** 'The growth of big business had a positive impact on the USA and its people between 1877 and 1900.'

How far do you agree?

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

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## Section B

## Aztecs and the Spanish Conquest, 1519–1535

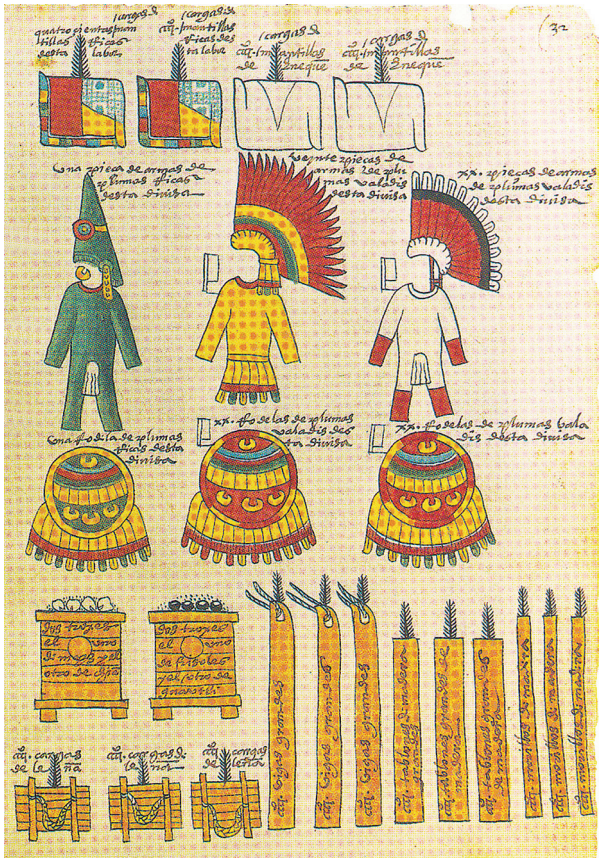
Answer Questions 6 **and** 7.

**6** What can **Source A** tell us about the Aztecs and their system of tribute?

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

**Source A**

**A list of the tribute that 13 towns had paid to the Aztecs. The list is from the 'Codex Mendoza' which was produced around 1541 in New Spain. The Codex was to be sent to the King of Spain. The tribute included cloaks, war-dresses, shields, bins of grain and beans, and planks of wood.**



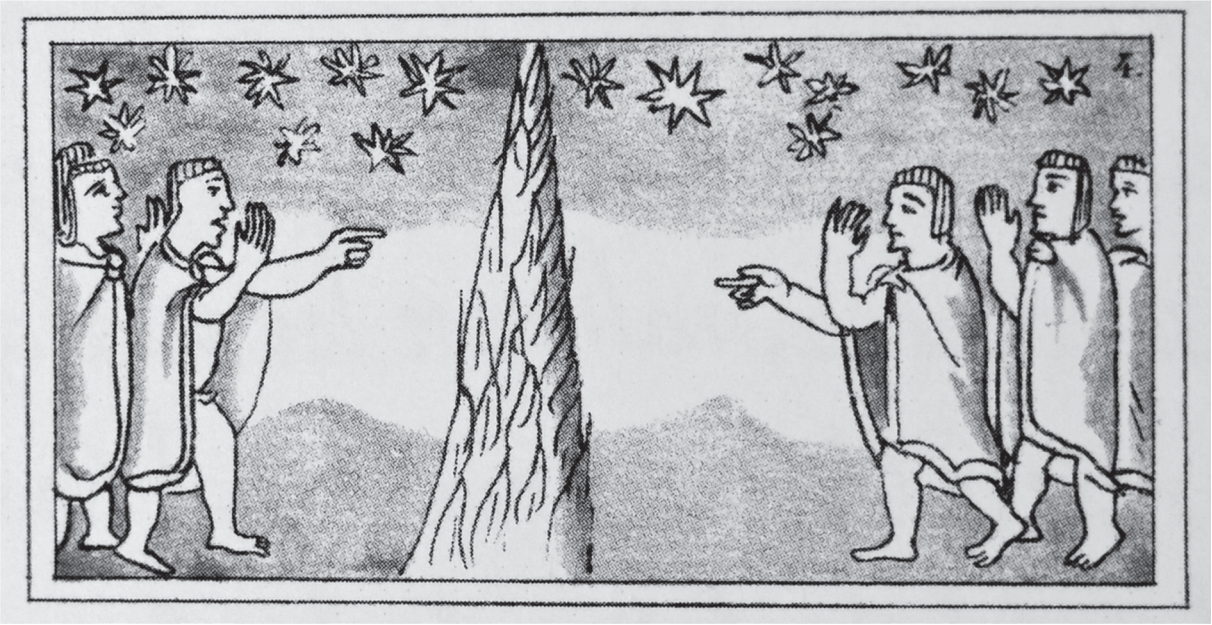
**7** How useful are **Sources B** and **C** and **Interpretation D** for a historian studying the arrival of the Spanish in the Aztec Empire?

In your answer, refer to the two sources and the interpretation as well as your own knowledge.

**[15]**

**Source B**

**A drawing of a great fire that came from the night sky – an omen which predicted the coming of the Spanish – from the 'Florentine Codex'. The 'Florentine Codex' was researched and written by a Spanish Franciscan friar between 1540 and 1585. The drawings were by native artists.**



**Source C**

**From 'The History of the Indies of New Spain' by Friar Diego Durán, completed around 1581. Durán was fluent in the Aztec language and learnt much from the native people about the Aztecs.**

Moctezuma told Cortés he was overjoyed to welcome him to his city. He added that he had been ruling in Cortés' place, governing the kingdom that Cortés' father, the god Quetzalcóatl, had abandoned. Upon his seat, Moctezuma had sat, reigning over the subjects of Quetzalcóatl. If Cortés had come to rule, Moctezuma was at his service and the kingdom was now his because the written prophecies and the accounts of his ancestors had predicted these events.

**Interpretation D**

**From 'The Conquistadors, A Very Short Introduction' by Matthew Restall and Felipe Fernández-Armesto. This book was published in 2012.**

It is simply not logical that the Aztecs could have mistaken the Spaniards for gods. There is no evidence for such a view in native sources. The omens that supposedly appeared before the fall of Tenochtitlán are a pure deception. Stories of the omens first appeared in the 1540s. Furthermore, there is no evidence that the Aztecs would be deceived by superstition. Aztec success in dealing with the natural world – in farming, in building, in organising war – does not suggest minds governed by magic.

Answer Question 8 **or** Question 9.

**8*** 'Craftworking was more important to the Aztecs than agriculture.'

How far do you agree? **[18]**

**9*** 'It was hopes of great wealth that led to Spanish expansion into the Caribbean and central America.'

How far do you agree? **[18]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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