

# Edexcel 1-9 GCSE HISTORY

## Paper 2: The American West c.1835 – c.1895

### Unit 3: Lesson 30

# To examine the importance and consequences of the Dawes Act (1887)

All subject content included  
from the Edexcel specification

A variety of learning activities  
for all abilities

Exam skills & questions



### Recap

1. In pairs, pick a number.  
2. You will then be given a question.  
3. The letters on your number will help you answer the question you have been given.  
4. Each pair in the class will get to pick at least one question.

1. I.R.A	2. P.I.F.	3. M	4. I.A.A
5. O	6. C	7. F.L.T.	8. O.T.
9. H.A.	10. P.G.	11. E.P.	12. R.C.W
13. W.K.	14. G.C.	15. A.O.D	16. R

### Practice Exam Questions: Narrative Account (8)

Write a narrative account analysing the key events in the use of reservations for the Plains Indians in the years 1851 – 1887.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Indian Appropriations Act (1851)
- The Dawes Act (1887)

You must also use information of your own. (8)

**Useful phrases**

- As a result...
- Due to this...
- Consequently...
- The impact of this...
- Without this...
- This meant that...
- This resulted in...
- The caused...
- A turning point...
- This led to...
- No a result...
- This was key as...

The use of reservation land for the Plains Indians began with...

This led to...

This meant that...

This caused...

This was a turning point as...

As a result...

This finally ended the use of reservation lands for the Plains Indians as...

Make sure the events you pick are in the correct chronological order.

Show how one event led to the development of another.

### LESSON 30: Government policy: The Dawes General Allotment Act 1887

**Background information**

The Dawes General Allotment Act 1887 was a landmark piece of legislation that aimed to assimilate Native Americans into American society by breaking up tribal lands into individual plots of land for each family. This act was part of a larger policy of 'Americanization' that sought to erase Native culture and traditions.

**Key points of the Dawes Act 1887**

- The act gave the federal government the power to take land from Native tribes and divide it into individual plots of land for each family.
- Each family was given a specific amount of land, depending on the size of the family.
- After 25 years, if a family was farming the land, it would become their own property.
- If a family was not farming the land, the government could take it back.
- The act also gave the government the power to take land from Native tribes and use it for other purposes, such as for the military or for the construction of railroads.

**The impact of the Dawes Act 1887**

- The act led to the loss of millions of acres of Native land.
- It caused the destruction of Native culture and traditions.
- It led to the poverty and suffering of Native Americans.
- It was a key step in the process of 'Americanization'.

**President Arthur in 1881**

The president's speech will have a direct and powerful influence in determining the direction of the nation, which has been so profoundly affected by the war.