

2 Write a clear and organised summary that analyses the American expansion from 1789 to 1838. Support your summary with examples. [9]

3 Why did Reconstruction do little to improve the lives of many African Americans? Support your answer with examples. [10]

9 mark model

This summary of American expansion between 1789 and 1838 will focus on the concept of causation.

An important factor that explains American expansion in this period was the acquisition and reorganisation of land. In 1789 America was initially 13 former British colonies, these formally became states the following year for example Virginia. Subsequently, land was dedicated for future incorporation into the union, such as the Northwest Territory shared between Britain and the USA. America formally purchased the territory of Louisiana off the French in 1803 which led to Americas total land doubling in size. Furthermore, more states were being created such as Alabama (1819) in the Southeast of the country encouraging migration Westwards.

Westwards migration further facilitated Americas expansion in this period. A lack of unity between Native American communities meant they were less able to resist the expansion of white settlers. In 1830 President Jackson passed the Indian Removal Act which authorised the government to forcibly resettle Indigenous people from native lands in the East to the Great Plains. When they resisted the US used force to drive the native populations westwards. For example, the Cherokee along the Trail of Tears in 1838. With this white Christian settlers were encouraged to settle on the vacated territories. The boundary between the Plains and the newly expanded settler communities was known as the Permanent Indian Frontier.

10 mark model

One reason that reconstruction did little to improve the lives of African Americans was that the political improvements were undermined by Supreme Court Rulings. For example, although the 14th Amendment stated that all people were citizens regardless of race, at a state level these protections were not enforced. In 1876 the Supreme Court ruled that only states could prosecute people for failing to grant African Americans civil rights, consequently, when civil rights abuses occurred in the south these went unpunished, emboldening groups such as the KKK. Therefore, Supreme Court rulings limited the improvements of Reconstruction.

Another reason that reconstruction did little to improve the lives of African Americans was resistance in the South. Following the 13th Amendment white supremacist groups such as the KKK (1866) and the White League (1874) were created in retaliation. These groups _____

_____.
This limited the impact of Reconstruction because _____

_____.

Therefore, _____
_____.