

In developing your answers to Part III, be sure to keep this general definition in mind:

discuss means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”

Part III

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of the documents have been edited for the purposes of the question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

Historical Context:

From colonial times to the present, water has played an important role in the history of the nation. Water resources such as rivers, lakes, oceans, canals, natural harbors, and abundant ground water have influenced the political and economic development of the United States in a number of ways. These ways included exploration and settlement, expansion westward and into the Pacific, agricultural and industrial development, migration patterns, and environmental concerns.

Task: Using information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay, in which you will be asked to

- Discuss the influence of water on the development of the United States

Part A

Short-Answer Questions

Directions: Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document in the space provided.

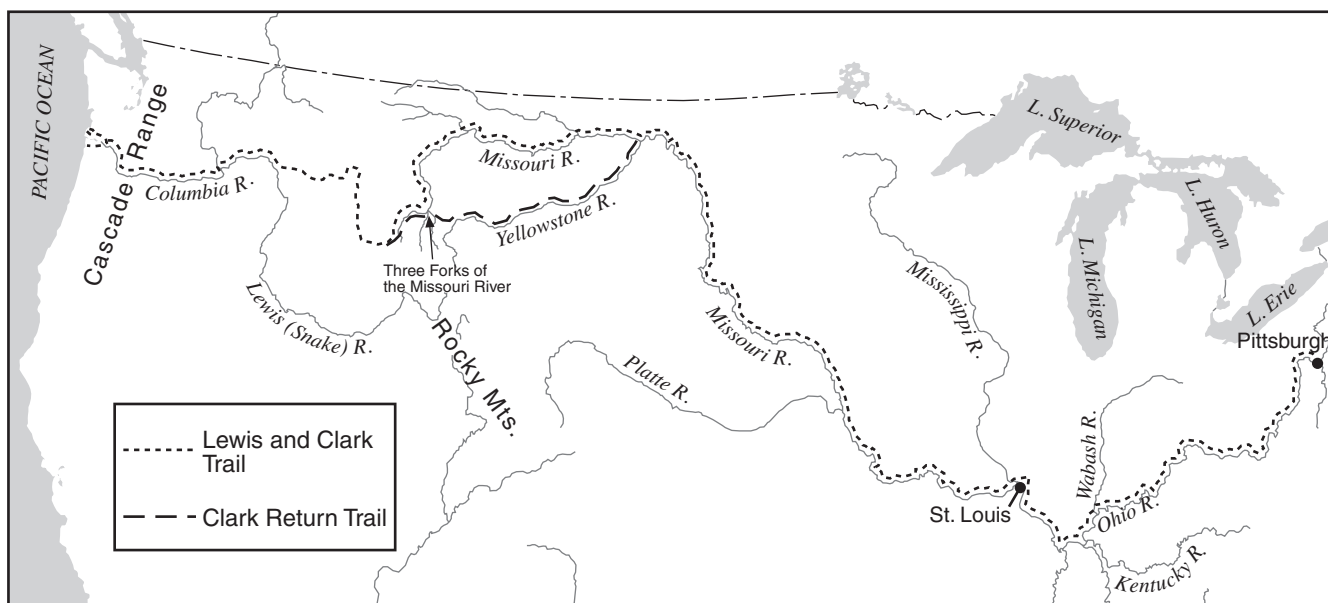
Document 1a

. . . Nearness to the ocean and to navigable streams as well as local factors of site governed the location of the nucleuses [settlements] at and about which the initial footholds on the Atlantic seaboard were made. How well these elements were recognized by the colonizing agencies early determined success or failure. The James, Potomac, Delaware, Hudson, and Connecticut Rivers became the principal lines of penetration. In most of the English colonies settlers crossed the Fall Line shortly before 1700, set up forts and trading posts along this break in navigation, and entered both the Piedmont in the southern and middle colonies and the hill lands of New England and New York. Always the rivers were the spearheads of penetration. Traders and explorers crossed the mountain barriers to the west and learned of the headwaters of the Ohio; the Dutch and later the English followed the Hudson to and above Albany; the New Englanders advanced rapidly into the Connecticut Valley. Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and smaller settlements approaching urban size became centers of growth and commerce. By 1700 the total population in Colonial America was about 275,000. . . .

Source: Herman R. Friis, "A Series of Population Maps of the Colonies and the United States, 1625–1790," *Geographical Review*, July 1940 (adapted)

Document 1b

The Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1803–1806



Source: Stephen E. Ambrose, *Undaunted Courage*, Simon and Schuster, 1996 (adapted)

1 Based on these documents, what is **one** way rivers influenced the settlement and exploration of the United States? [1]

Score

Document 2

According to historian Norman Graebner, expansionists in the 1840s increasingly viewed Oregon and California as “two halves of a single ambition” to stretch the nation’s boundary to the Pacific Coast.

. . . With the Oregon treaty of 1846 the United States had reached the Pacific. Its frontage along the sea from 42° to Fuca Strait and Puget Sound fulfilled half the expansionist dream. On those shores the onward progress of the American pioneer would stop, but commercial expansionists looked beyond to the impetus [momentum] that the possession of Oregon would give to American trade in the Pacific. “Commercially,” predicted Benton [United States Senator Thomas Hart Benton from Missouri], “the advantages of Oregon will be great—far greater than any equal portion of the Atlantic States.” This Missourian believed that Oriental [Asian] markets and export items would better complement the mercantile [trade] requirements of the United States than would those of Europe. . . .

Source: Norman Graebner, *Empire on the Pacific: A Study in American Continental Expansion*, Ronald Press Co., 1955 (adapted)

2 According to Norman Graebner, what was **one** major reason for the expansion of the United States to the Pacific Coast in the 1840s? [1]

Score

Document 3

. . . Mahan was not in the vanguard [forefront] of those imperialists in 1898 who, like Roosevelt, Lodge, Senator Albert J. Beveridge, of Indiana, and others, saw in a victorious war with Spain for Cuba Libre [independence] an opportunity also to annex the distant Philippines. Mahan had seen since 1896 both the need and the opportunity for American commercial expansion in the Pacific and into the markets of China. But there is no persuasive evidence that he linked the annexation of the entire Philippine archipelago with that particular goal. The acquisition of naval coaling stations at Manila, in Guam, and at the mouth of the Yangtze he deemed entirely adequate to sustain future American commercial ambitions in China.

To be sure, he had long advocated the annexation of Hawaii, his arguments invariably [always] centering on defense of the Pacific coast, control of Oriental immigration, and the strategic implications of Japanese expansion into the Central Pacific. He had again demanded Hawaiian annexation as recently as February 1898 when Senator James H. Kyle, of South Dakota, asked him for a statement on the strategic virtues and values of the islands. He cheered in July 1898 when the United States, almost as a national-defense reflex, blinked twice, gulped, and finally swallowed whole the Hawaiian group. As he wrote in mid-August, "In the opinion of the Board, possession of these islands, which happily we now own, is militarily essential, both to our transit to Asia, and to the defense of our Pacific coast." . . .

Source: Robert Seager II, *Alfred Thayer Mahan: The Man and His Letters*, Naval Institute Press, 1977

- 3 According to the author, what was **one** reason Alfred Thayer Mahan thought control of Pacific islands was important to the development of the United States? [1]

Score

Document 4a

. . . The Ogallala Aquifer* (also known as the High Plains Aquifer) is now [in 2000] facing declining water levels and deteriorating water quality. More than 90% of the water pumped from the Ogallala irrigates at least one fifth of all U.S. cropland. This water accounts for 30% of all groundwater used for irrigation in America. Crops that benefit from the aquifer are cotton, corn, alfalfa, soybeans, and wheat. These crops provide the Midwest cattle operations with enormous amounts of feed and account for 40% of the feedlot beef output here in the U.S. Since the advancement of agricultural irrigation in the earlier part of the 20th century, the Ogallala has made it possible so that states such as Nebraska and Kansas can produce large quantities of grain required to feed livestock. . . .

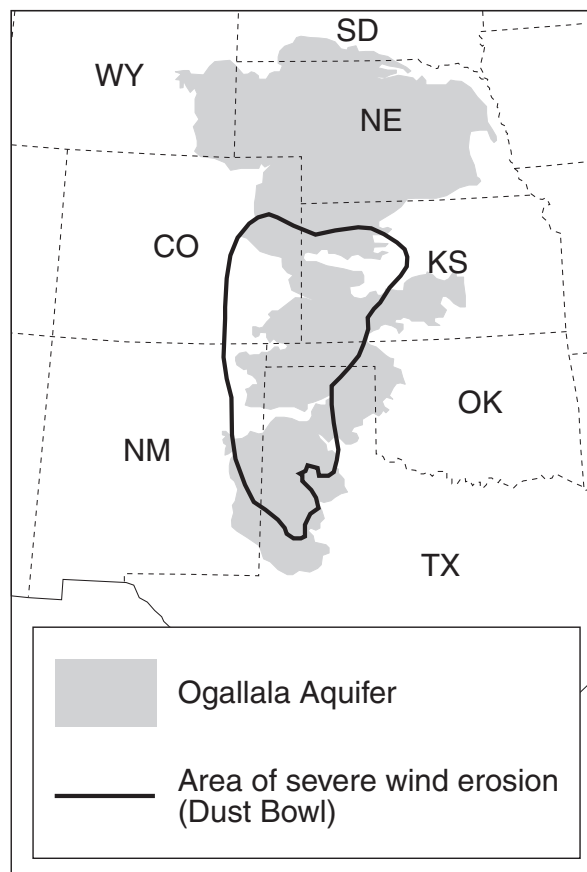
Without irrigation, the High Plains region would have remained a hostile and unproductive frontier environment. Even today dry-land farming remains high-risk farming about which the producers in the region have doubts. But while the Dust Bowl label is appropriate, the High Plains has become one of the most productive farming regions of the world. However, now as groundwater levels decline, workable alternatives for sustainable development have to be further explored. . . .

*An aquifer is an underground source of natural clean water. In the 1930s, farmers lacked the technology to reach the Ogallala Aquifer.

Source: Guru and Horne, *The Ogallala Aquifer*, The Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, 2000 (adapted)

Document 4b

Dust Bowl and Ogallala Aquifer



Source: <http://www.wadsworth.com> and The Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture (adapted)

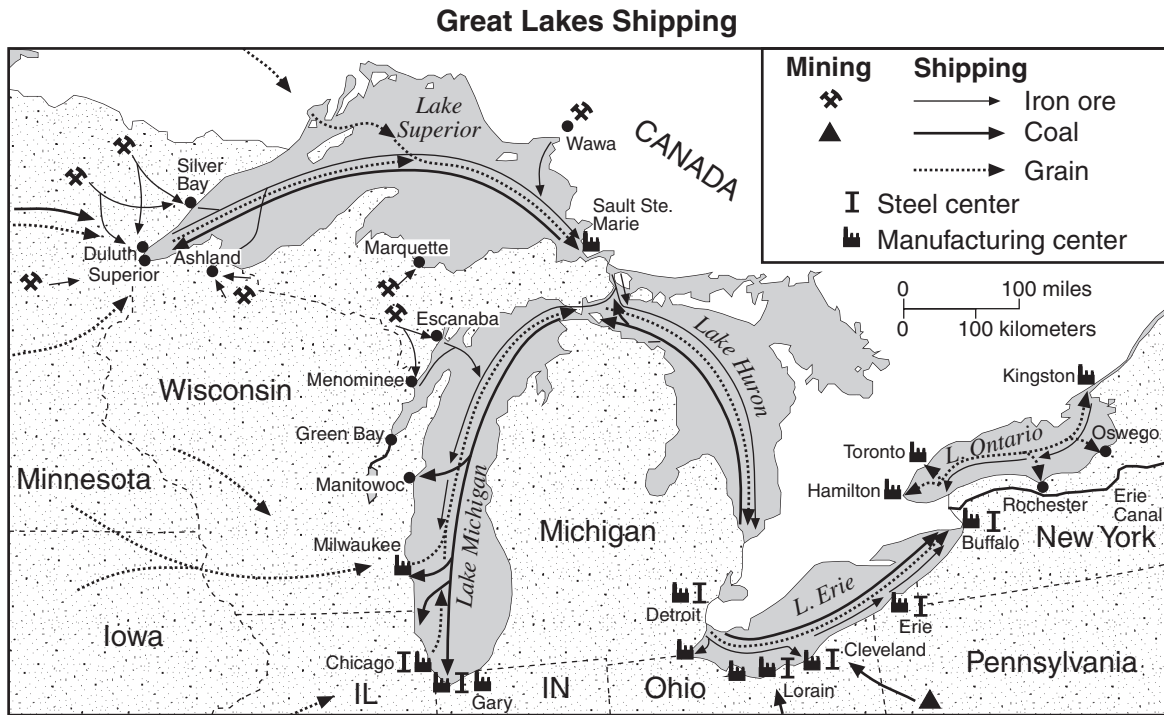
4a Based on these documents, what is **one** reason the Ogallala Aquifer is important to United States farm production in the High Plains region? [1]

Score

b Based on document 4b, how did the lack of water influence parts of the Great Plains in the 1930s? [1]

Score

Document 5a



Source: <http://www.geo.msu.edu> (adapted)

Document 5b

On May 29, 1890, the ship *W. R. Stafford* left Marquette, Michigan, on a routine voyage, carrying a load of iron ore to Ohio and returning with a load of coal.

. . . Thousands of times that year, hundreds of ships plying [sailing] the Great Lakes between the rich ore fields along the southern and western shores of Lake Superior and the industrial centers in Ohio and Michigan repeated her [the *W. R. Stafford*] schedule. The abundance and quality of the ore these ships transported helped fuel unprecedented industrial growth in the United States in the last decades of the 19th century. Great Lakes transportation played a critical role in that growth. Without this link, it is doubtful the growth of American industry could have occurred as rapidly as it did. . . .

Source: http://www.geo.msu.edu/geogmich/iron_ore__taconite.html

5 Based on these documents, what is **one** way the Great Lakes affected industrialization in the United States? [1]

Score

Document 6

This excerpt describes an impact of the Mississippi River flood of 1927.

. . . By early 1928 the exodus of blacks [African Americans] from Washington County [Mississippi], and likely the rest of the Delta, did reach 50 percent. Ever since the end of Reconstruction, blacks had been migrating north and west, out of the South. But it had been only a slow drain, with the South losing about 200,000 blacks between 1900 and 1910. During World War I “the Great Migration” began; the South lost 522,000 blacks between 1910 and 1920, mostly between 1916 and 1919. Now from the floodplain of the Mississippi River, from Arkansas, from Louisiana, from Mississippi, blacks were heading north in even larger numbers. In the 1920s, 872,000 more blacks left the South than returned to it. (In the 1930s the exodus fell off sharply; the number of blacks leaving Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi fell by nearly two-thirds, back to the levels of the early 1900s.)

The favorite destination for Delta blacks was Chicago. They brought the blues to that city, and there the black population exploded, from 44,103 in 1910 to 109,458 in 1920—and 233,903 in 1930. Certainly not all of this exodus came from the floodplain of the Mississippi River. And even within that alluvial empire, the great flood of 1927 was hardly the only reason for blacks to abandon their homes. But for tens of thousands of blacks in the Delta of the Mississippi River, the flood was the final reason. . . .

Source: John M. Barry, *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America*, Simon & Schuster, 1997

6 According to this document, what impact did the Mississippi River flood of 1927 have on many African Americans? [1]

Score

Document 7

. . . If you begin at the Pacific rim and move inland, you will find large cities, many towns, and prosperous-looking farms until you cross the Sierra Nevada and the Cascades, which block the seasonal weather fronts moving in from the Pacific and wring out their moisture in snows and drenching rains. On the east side of the Sierra-Cascade crest, moisture drops immediately—from as much as 150 inches of precipitation on the western slope to as little as four inches on the eastern—and it doesn't increase much, except at higher elevations, until you have crossed the hundredth meridian, which bisects the Dakotas and Nebraska and Kansas down to Abilene, Texas, and divides the country into its two most significant halves—the one receiving at least twenty inches of precipitation a year, the other generally receiving less. Any place with less than twenty inches of rainfall is hostile terrain to a farmer depending solely on the sky, and a place that receives seven inches or less—as Phoenix, El Paso, and Reno do—is arguably no place to inhabit at all. Everything depends on the manipulation of water—on capturing it behind dams, storing it, and rerouting it in concrete rivers [aqueducts] over distances of hundreds of miles. Were it not for a century and a half of messianic effort [an aggressive crusade] toward that end, the West as we know it would not exist. . . .

Source: Marc Reisner, *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water*, Penguin Books, 1993

- 7 According to this document, what impact has water had on settlement in the western part of the United States? [1]

Score

Document 8

A Brief History of the Clean Water Act

1968	According to a survey conducted in 1968, pollution in the Chesapeake Bay caused \$3 million annually in losses to the fishing industry. Meanwhile, the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries measured DDT [an insecticide] in 584 of 590 samples, with levels up to nine times the FDA [Food and Drug Administration] limit.
1969	In 1969, bacteria levels in the Hudson River were at 170 times the safe limit. Also, record numbers of fish kills were reported in 1969—over 41 million fish. This included the largest recorded fish kill ever—26 million killed in Lake Thonotosassa, Florida, due to discharges from four food processing plants.
1970	In July 1970, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare’s Bureau of Water Hygiene reported that 30 percent of drinking water samples had chemicals exceeding the recommended Public Health Service limits.
1971	The FDA reported in February 1971 that 87 percent of swordfish samples had mercury at levels that were unfit for human consumption.
1972	Passed in 1972, the Clean Water Act was a response to the nearly unchecked dumping of pollution into our waterways. At the time, two-thirds of the country’s lakes, rivers and coastal waters had become unsafe for fishing or swimming. Untreated sewage was being dumped into open water. The goal of the Clean Water Act was to reduce pollution in all U.S. waters to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of our nation’s waters.” The law called for “zero discharge of pollutants into navigable waters by 1985, and fishable and swimmable waters by 1983.”

Source: “Troubled Waters: A Brief History of the Clean Water Act,” www.pbs.org/now/science/cleanwater.html (adapted)

8 Based on this chart, state **two** environmental problems that led to the Clean Water Act. [2]

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____

Score

Document 9

The West is an oven. Much of the Midwest is as dry as tinder.

While much of the rest of the nation is contending with extreme heat and drought, it's time to revisit the issue of Great Lakes water and its diversion.

One of the most important issues that confronts the Central and Southwestern United States is the shortage of water. . . .

It is no secret that residents of many arid states look to Great Lakes water with covetous [jealous] eyes. And it won't be long before some of those envious, arid states start looking for ways to divert Great Lakes water in huge quantities. If they're successful in raiding large amounts of fresh water from the Great Lakes, expect economic and environmental damage to follow. . . .

Source: "Keep Great Lakes water in the Great Lakes," mlive.com (Everything Michigan), July 25, 2005

9 According to this document, what is **one** reason for concern over the water in the Great Lakes? [1]

Score

Part B

Essay

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from *at least five* documents in the body of the essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

Historical Context:

From colonial times to the present, water has played an important role in the history of the nation. Water resources such as rivers, lakes, oceans, canals, natural harbors, and abundant ground water have influenced the political and economic development of the United States in a number of ways. These ways included exploration and settlement, expansion westward and into the Pacific, agricultural and industrial development, migration patterns, and environmental concerns.

Task: Using information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, write an essay in which you

- | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the influence of water on the development of the United States |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from *at least five* documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme