

Exercise walk-through

Native American Societies Before European Contact ■ 1.2

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what maize cultivation supported
- match each region to the way of life the CED gives
- explain why environment does not simply determine society
- avoid describing pre-contact America as one society

Method — Maize

The spread of maize cultivation from present-day Mexico northward into the present-day American Southwest and beyond supported economic development, settlement, advanced irrigation, and social diversification. Four consequences from one crop.

Method — Four regions

Great Basin and western Great Plains: aridity and grassland → largely mobile lifestyles. **Northeast, Mississippi River Valley, Atlantic seaboard:** mixed agricultural and hunter-gatherer economies favouring permanent villages. **Northwest and present-day California:** hunting and gathering, with settled communities in some areas supported by ocean resources.

Method — Not determinism

The CED says societies **responded** and **developed**. Two societies in similar environments could respond differently, so environment sets the problem and does not dictate the answer.

Method — Not one society

Four regions, four ways of life, in one CED subtopic. Writing about “Native Americans” as a single society contradicts the source before the answer begins.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the four consequences maize cultivation supported.

Solution 2.1

Method: Maize

Worked steps

economic development; settlement; advanced irrigation; social diversification **B2**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Match two regions to their ways of life.

Solution 2.2

Method: Not one society

Worked steps

any two matched correctly, e.g. Great Basin — mobile lifestyles; Northeast — mixed economies with permanent villages **B2**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Environment is not destiny.

(a) State the CED's verbs.

(b) Explain why writing about "Native Americans" as one society fails.

Solution 2.3

Method: Not one society

Worked steps

(a) responded and developed **B1**. (b) the CED gives four distinct regional ways of life **B1**, so a single description contradicts the source **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Mobile lifestyles developed in response to

- A** the aridity of the Great Basin and the grasslands of the Great Plains
- B** ocean resources
- C** maize irrigation
- D** permanent villages

Solution 3.1

Method: Four regions

A the aridity of the Great Basin and the grasslands of the Great Plains



B ocean resources

C maize irrigation

D permanent villages

Worked steps

A. aridity and grassland.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Settled communities supported by ocean resources developed in

A the Northwest and present-day California

B the Great Basin

C the Southwest only

D the Mississippi Valley

Solution 3.2

Method: Four regions

A the Northwest and present-day California



B the Great Basin

C the Southwest only

D the Mississippi Valley

Worked steps

A. the Northwest and California.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

Two societies in similar environments organise themselves differently.

- (a) State what this shows.
- (b) Explain the CED's position on environment.

Solution 3.3

Method: Not determinism

Worked steps

(a) that environment does not determine social organisation **B1**. (b) the CED says societies responded to and developed within their environments **B1**, so the environment sets the problem without dictating the answer **B1**.