

6.2 Westward Expansion: Economic Development

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 13 marks**

KEY WORDS mechanization 机械化 • consolidation 合并
• consolidation in agricultural markets 农产品市场集中化
• western economic development 西部经济发展 • political machines 政治机器

Objective

Build the skills to explain **western economic development** 西部经济发展.

You must be able to:

- state what improvements in mechanization did
- state how farmers responded to consolidation
- state what government subsidies helped open
- name the three things that promoted economic growth in the West

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ **Mechanization**

Improvements in mechanization helped agricultural production increase substantially and contributed to declines in food prices. More output and lower prices — good for consumers and difficult for producers.

■ **Farmers’ response**

Many farmers responded to the increasing consolidation in agricultural markets and their dependence on the evolving railroad system by creating local and regional cooperative organizations. Collective action against market power.

■ **Government subsidies**

Following the Civil War, government subsidies for transportation and communication systems helped open new markets in North America. The market was opened by public money.

■ **Three promoters**

The building of transcontinental railroads, the discovery of mineral resources, and government policies promoted economic growth and created new communities and centers of commercial activity.

2 Practice

2.1 State the two effects of improvements in mechanization. [2]

2.2 State how farmers responded and why. [2]

2.3 Three things promoted western economic growth.

(a) Name them. [3]

(b) State what government subsidies helped open. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Improvements in mechanization contributed to [1]

- **A** declines in food prices
- **B** rising food prices
- **C** less production
- **D** fewer farms only

3.2 Farmers created

[1]

- **A** local and regional cooperative organizations
 - **B** trusts
 - **C** holding companies
 - **D** political machines
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3.3 A farmer produces more and earns less.

(a) State how this is possible.

[1]

(b) Explain why cooperation was the response.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 agricultural production increased substantially; food prices declined.

2.2 by creating local and regional cooperative organizations, in response to increasing consolidation in agricultural markets and dependence on the railroad system.

2.3 (a) transcontinental railroads; the discovery of mineral resources; government policies.
(b) new markets in North America.

3.1 A. declining food prices.

3.2 A. cooperatives.

3.3 (a) increased output lowers the price of what is produced. (b) an individual farmer faces consolidated buyers and a railroad he depends on, so only collective organisation gives him any bargaining position.