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[https://www.100test.com/kao\\_ti2020/214/2021\\_2022\\_GMAT\\_E8\\_80\\_83\\_E8\\_AF\\_95\\_c89\\_214049.htm](https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/214/2021_2022_GMAT_E8_80_83_E8_AF_95_c89_214049.htm) Passage 28 The settlement of the

United States has occupied traditional historians since 1893 when Frederick Jackson Turner developed his Frontier Thesis, a thesis that explained American development in terms of westward(5) expansion. From the perspective of women ' s history, Turner ' s exclusively masculine assumptions constitute a major drawback: his defenders and critics alike have reconstructed men ' s, not women ' s, lives on the frontier. However, precisely because of this masculine orientation,(10) revising the Frontier Thesis by focusing on women ' s experience introduces new themes into women ' s history woman as lawmaker and entrepreneur and, consequently, new interpretations of women ' s relation-ship to capital, labor, and statute.(15) Turner claimed that the frontier produced the individualism that is the hallmark of American culture, and that this individualism in turn promoted democratic institutions and economic equality. He argued for the frontier as an agent of social change. Most novelists and(20) historians writing in the early to midtwentieth century who considered women in the West, when they considered women at all, fell under Turner ' s spell. In their works these authors tended to glorify women ' s contributions to frontier life. Western women, in Turnerian tradi-(25) tion, were a fiercely independent, capable, and durable lot, free from the constraints binding their eastern sisters. This interpretation implied

that the West provided a congenial environment where women could aspire to their own goals, free from constrictive stereotypes and(30) sexist attitudes. In Turnerian terminology, the frontier had furnished “ a gate of escape from the bondage of the past. ” By the middle of the twentieth century, the Frontier Thesis fell into disfavor among historians. Later, Reac-(35) tionist writers took the view that frontier women were lonely, displaced persons in a hostile milieu that intensified the worst aspects of gender relations. The renaissance of the feminist movement during the 1970 ’ s led to the Stasist school, which sidestepped the good bad(40) dichotomy and argued that frontier women lived lives similar to the live of women in the East. In one now-standard text, Faragher demonstrated the persistence of the “ cult of true womanhood ” and the illusionary quality of change on the westward journey. Recently the (45) Stasist position has been revised but not entirely discounted by new research.<sup>1</sup> The primary purpose of the passage is to (A) provide a framework within which the history of women in nineteenth-century America can be organized. (B) discuss divergent interpretations of women ’ s experience on the western frontier (C) introduce a new hypothesis about women ’ s experience in nineteenth-century America (D) advocate an empirical approach to women ’ s experience on the western frontier (E) resolve ambiguities in several theories about women ’ s experience on the western frontier<sup>2</sup>. Which of the following can be inferred about the novelists and historians mentioned in lines 19-20? (A) They misunderstood the powerful influence of constrictive stereotypes on women in the East. (B) They

assumed that the frontier had offered more opportunities to women than had the East. (C) They included accurate information about women's experiences on the frontier. (D) They underestimated the endurance and fortitude of frontier women. (E) They agreed with some of Turner's assumptions about frontier women, but disagreed with other assumptions that he made.

3. Which of the following, if true, would provide additional evidence for the Stasists' argument as it is described in the passage? (A) Frontier women relied on smaller support groups of relatives and friends in the West than they had in the East. (B) The urban frontier in the West offered more occupational opportunity than the agricultural frontier offered. (C) Women participated more fully in the economic decisions of the family group in the West than they had in the East. (D) Western women received financial compensation for labor that was comparable to what women received in the East. (E) Western women did not have an effect on divorce laws, but lawmakers in the West were more responsive to women's concerns than lawmakers in the East were.

4. According to the passage, Turner makes which of the following connections in his Frontier Thesis?

- . A connection between American individualism and economic equality
- . A connection between geographical expansion and social change
- . A connection between social change and financial prosperity

(A) I only (B) only (C) only (D) and only (E) , and

5. It can be inferred that which of the following statements is consistent with the Reactionist position as it is described in the passage? (A) Continuity, not change, marked women's lives as they moved from

East to West. (B) Women ' s experience on the North American frontier has not received enough attention from modern historians. (C) Despite its rigors, the frontier offered women opportunities that had not been available in the East. (D) Gender relations were more difficult for women in the West than they were in the East. (E) Women on the North American frontier adopted new roles while at the same time reaffirming traditional roles.

6. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage? (A) A current interpretation of a phenomenon is described and then ways in which it was developed are discussed. (B) Three theories are presented and then a new hypothesis that discounts those theories is described. (C) An important theory and its effects are discussed and then ways in which it has been revised are described. (D) A controversial theory is discussed and then viewpoints both for and against it are described. (E) A phenomenon is described and then theories concerning its correctness are discussed.

7. Which of the following is true of the Stasist school as it is described in the passage? (A) It provides new interpretations of women ' s relationship to work and the law. (B) It resolves some of the ambiguities inherent in Turnerian and Reactionist thought. (C) It has recently been discounted by new research gathered on women ' s experience. (D) It avoids extreme positions taken by other writers on women ' s history. (E) It was the first school of thought to suggest substantial revisions to the Frontier Thesis.

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