Waves of immigration to CA (large groups of people coming into the state).
1) Gold Rush – 1847 discovered gold. Between 1847 and 1860 large number of people came to CA to mine gold. Population grew from 15,000 to 380,000 people.
2) 20 years later in 1880s – CA land boom of 1880s. People were given free or cheap land if they would move to CA to farm. Called “homesteaders”.
3) Great Depression – There was a drought (no rain) in Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas. There was no rain and fields dried up and soil blew away up into the air. Called these areas the “Dust Bowl”. Farmers moved to CA to try to find jobs. But there were not enough jobs, so workers were exploited and abused. John Steinbeck wrote book “Grapes of Wrath” to describe what happened.
4) 1965 reforms to US Immigration Laws. Immigration Reform Act. McClaren-Walters Act. “Nativist”, racist laws that were in effect to keep people from immigrating into the US were repealed. Nativist means people who already lived in US thought they had become natives, and had more right to live here than new immigrants. In particular, Asians had been excluded: Chinese Exclusion Act. When laws were changed or repealed, many more people came to US, and many chose to live in CA. CA had good economic opportunities. Huge numbers of Asians moved to CA in late 60s and early 70s.

23. When were Africans most used in the labor force in California. Answer choices: Oil boom. Specialty crops of the 1920s (Think correct answer is after World War II based on Kaplan info below.).

During and after World War II, thousands of African Americans came to California seeking work, but encountered discrimination in housing and unions. In 1965, racial tension erupted in riots in the Watts section of Los Angeles. (from Kaplan book)
Correct! Response: D. (SMR Code: 3.2) The Immigration Reform Act of 1965 replaced the national-origins-based immigration policy of the 1920s with a system that emphasized education and special skills; it also permitted up to 170,000 persons to enter the United States from nations of the Eastern Hemisphere each year. These changes prompted a considerable increase in Asian immigration to the United States.

50. During the 1990s Latino political power in California grew at an unprecedented rate. Which of the following was the most important reason or reasons for this political renaissance?

A. the growing proportion of Latinos in the California population
B. the increased geographical mobility of Latinos within California
C. the growth of Spanish-language radio, television, and newspapers in the state
D. efforts by the national Republican and Democratic parties to court Latino voters

49. Which of the following acts established the basis for a substantial increase in the Asian population of California?

A. Displaced Persons Act of 1948
B. Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952
C. Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962
D. Immigration Reform Act of 1965

Correct Response: A. Displaced Persons Act of 1948

B. Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952

C. Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962

D. Immigration Reform Act of 1965
In the 1930s, approximately 300,000 people migrated from the southern plains region of the United States to California.

Using your knowledge of California history, prepare a response in which you:

- identify three effects (social, economic, political, cultural) of this migration on California;
- select one of the effects you have identified; and
- explain how the effect of the migration you have selected helped shape modern California society.

RESPONSE: During the Great Depression of the 1930's California was subjected to a mass immigration of poor farmers from the Southern Plains states. Although poor, these were proud people who valued their families, had a strong work ethic, found solace in a strong evangelistic Protestant faith, and who believed in the Democratic party.

The initial reception for these people was quite negative, and in some cases California police turned people back at the borders. Those who persevered and did take up residence within California made up two important groups. One group continued their work in agriculture but found themselves competing with other immigrants for poor-paying migrant jobs. The second group added to the state's growing urban population, especially in Los Angeles, where they competed for entry-level jobs. Eventually, as the economy strengthened during World War II and more jobs became available, the members of the "Okie subculture" found themselves helping to form a solid middle class.

Because of their physical features, assimilation was eventually easier for them than for other immigrants; however, their contributions to the development of the California defense industries, along with such cultural factors as food and music, added another dimension to the diversity of cultures that comprise California.

Photo of dust bowl in Oklahoma