Reading Quiz for Donald Worster’s “Attitudes Toward Water”

Please write out your answers under timed conditions. This quiz should take you no more than ninety minutes with the text in front of you, and no more than an hour in a closed book format. The overall value of each question is related to its centrality to the author’s thesis and its overall importance in the essay. Correctly answering questions 2 and 5 will award you more points than the others because these questions address central ideas, are more complex, and are therefore more difficult to answer.

1. Why were rivers so important to early settlers of North America? (10 points)

2. Explain what the author of this article means by “instrumental attitudes about water” and “instrumentalism” as relating to nature generally. (20 points)

3. Who, according to the author, is John Wesley Powell and why was he important? (10 points)

4. What does the author mean by “the hydraulic society”? (10 points)

5. What does the author mean by “the intrinsic tradition”? Trace its development. (30 points)

6. Why is Henry David Thoreau so important to the intrinsic tradition? (10 points)

7. What does the author mean by “culture wars”? (10 points)