

A-level HISTORY

Component 1K The making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975

Tuesday 19 May 2020 Afternoon Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/1K.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

The United States emerged from the Civil War with the resources to become a major world power. With 900 000 battle-hardened men ready to fight, the United States could put at least as many trained soldiers in the field as any European nation. In addition, the Union Navy was the most powerful afloat. Yet for the next quarter of a century the United States did not assert itself overseas or play a part on the world stage equal with its strength and size. Foreign markets were not yet essential: industrial output could still be absorbed by internal demand. Distance, moreover, protected the United States from what Jefferson had called 'the quarrels of Europe'. It encouraged an inward-looking habit, created by the Monroe Doctrine, of thinking only of themselves and their nearest neighbours. The United States was powerful alone; no neighbour threatened her security. Isolationism remained the keynote and, until 1890, American foreign policy was without purpose or plan.

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Adapted from M Jones, *The Limits of Liberty*, 1983**Extract B**

After the Civil War, men like William Seward developed an expansive policy and began to show an interest in areas such as Alaska and Hawaii. With regard to American foreign policy, the most important influence was westward expansion. American western history provides valuable insights into the formation of foreign policy after Seward. The American West held the great open frontier of opportunities for both individual farmers and for eastern and midwestern industrialists searching for markets and raw materials. At the beginning of the Reconstruction period, Americans saw the area west of the Mississippi as a vast land of limitless opportunities. Americans settled more land during the thirty years after 1870 than they had during the entire 300 years before it. When, in the 1880s, many Americans feared that this frontier was closing, they reacted by searching further west for new frontiers. This swept them into the Pacific and Asiatic area and hence into the turbulence of world power politics.

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Adapted from W LaFeber, *The New Empire*, 1963

Extract C

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to influences shaping US international relations in the years 1865 to 1890.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 To what extent did the growth of the US economy, in the years 1890 to 1920, benefit the American people?
[25 marks]

0 3 'There was very little improvement in the lives of African-Americans in the years 1920 to 1941.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

0 4 'Throughout the years 1945 to 1968, all US Presidents were committed to reform in domestic politics.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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